

November 9, 2017 Volume 47, No. 45 75 cents

PonteVedraRecorder.com

VALUING VETERANS



Michael Nye (Navy, E5/YN2, 2009-present), Bret Turpin (Army-retired, May 1985-June 2015) and John Tucker (Navy, E9 CMDCM, 1999-present) gather at the Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach's 15th annual Navy Appreciation Day, which included a breakfast, golf outing and awards luncheon in recognition of military personnel. See more photos from the event on page 10 in our Tribute to Veterans section.

Who's Who in Law Featuring Business Weekly Pages 17-40



48th Anniversary of the Recorder Pages 43-45



Letters to Santa and tips for writing them Pages 46-47



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Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening.

E-mail submissions to **pvrecorder@opcfla.com** or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**

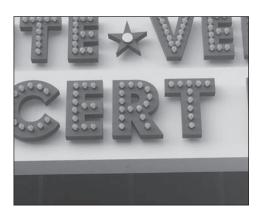


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WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer to jonb@opcfla.com by Monday at 5 p.m.

All correct entries will be entered into a random drawing to win tickets for two adults and two children to the Jacksonville Zoo. In order to allow as many families as possible to win, participants are only eligible to win a ticket prize pack once every four months.

16 readers correctly identified last week's photo as the Pusser's Caribbean Grille sign. Good job, everyone! The winner of the random drawing was **Caleb Laughlin**. Congratulations, Caleb – you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



ADOPT A PET



CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Anna, and I am a 6-year-old female cat who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center by my owners because they could no longer care for me. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #40143



My name is Odie, and I am a 7-year-old

DOG OF THE WEEK

female lab/hound mix who is looking for a new home after my family gave me up to the pet center. I am heartworm positive, so the adoption fee is waived. The friends of the pet center are willing

to sponsor up to \$250 toward the treatment of the heart worms. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #40356

Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to its new environment. Please reinforce house training and behavioral training, and be mindful of interacting with other pets.

St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions at the St. Johns County Pet Center are \$30 for males and \$40 for females. Dog adoptions are \$45 for males and \$60 for females. Adoption fees include microchipping, neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The pet center is located at 130 N. Stratton Road off U.S. 1 between County Road 210 and International Golf Parkway. Business hours are Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is closed to the public on Sunday. On Monday, the office is open by appointment only to claim a lost pet. For more information, please call the **St. Johns County Pet Center at (904) 209-6190**.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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Valid only Nov. 1 – Nov. 30, 2017. Up to 5 children (ages 3-12) get in FREE with a general admission paying adult. Does not include value tickets nor can it be used for special events or combined with any other discounts/offers. No coupon necessary.This offer is not intended for schools, groups, organizations or associations.











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PONTE VEDRA BEACH \$1,365,000

Fully-furnished oceanfront condo in Ponte Vedra Beach. This first floor unit is walking distance to the Cabana Club & The Lodge, with a spacious open floor plan, 3 BR, 3 BA, eat-in kitchen, huge Florida Room, 2 garage spaces, plus storage room. MLS 907047

Barbara Maple | 904.280.2829 BarbaraMaple@WatsonRealtyCorp.com

THE PROMENADE \$749,000

End condo unit with panoramic golf course views overlooking the 9th hole Features include 3 oversized bedrooms, an expansive wraparound lanai & a bright kitchen with granite, full desk tech area, island & GE Monogram appliances. MLS 906289

Cammy Ray | 904.806.3489 CammyRay@WatsonRealtyCorp.com Richard Ray | 904.806.3488 RichardJRay@WatsonRealtyCorp.com

SEASCAPE \$625,000

Enjoy panoramic ocean views from every room & your 54 ft. long balcony in this 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with 1-car garage in Jacksonville Beach's Seascape. This unit has been exquisitely remodeled throughout, featuring Italian porcelain flooring, accent lighting & high impact doors. MLS 906210

Carol Gorey | 904.699.5643 CarolGorey@WatsonRealtyCorp.com

BEAUCLERC \$674,900

Classic brick beauty on almost half an acre in riverfront Beauclerc neighborhood. This pool home offers timeless design with tall ceilings, lovely millwork, gleaming hardwood, fresh paint, abundant natural light & a lush backyard. MLS 906873

Kay Kennedy | 904.631.4184 KayKennedy@WatsonRealtyCorp.com George Lewis | 904.910.1766 GeorgeLewis@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



JOIN US FOR A BLOOD DRIVE!

When: Friday, November 10, 1:00PM-4:00PM Where: Ponte Vedra Office, 615 Florida A1A, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082



St. Johns County Commission candidate Williams hosts Nocatee meet and greet

Economic development, financial accountability and maintaining overall quality of life were among the issues St. Johns County Commission District 4 candidate Dick Williams highlighted at a Nocatee meet and greet last week.

A retired Ponte Vedra Beach resident with decades of experience in managing radio stations across the country, Williams outlined his platform before a crowd of supporters at Crosswater Hall.

"I'll take the business approach that I've learned over 30 years of managing large budgets and large staffs and bring that to government," the Republican said at the Nov. 2 event. "I think it's necessary for us to maintain the quality of life that we enjoy, but also to protect the hard-earned taxpayers' money."

Williams, who suggested a zero-based budget as one way to ensure taxes are spent wisely and efficiently, also stressed the importance of boosting economic growth.

"With growth in our economy, we build a foundation that our business community can actually track and create high-paying



hoto by Samantha Logue

St. Johns County Commission District 4 candidate Dick Williams outlines his platform before a crowd of supporters in Nocatee Nov. 2

jobs, which will allow our teachers, service workers and other employees to afford to live here," he said.

Another topic of concern for St. Johns County residents – especially in the

wake of Hurricane Irma – has been the preservation of environmental resources. Williams said he would be committed to furthering that goal.

"As we grow our economy, we have to

find that balance to make sure we're protecting our environment," he said. "This is one of the qualities of life to people who live here. Our waterways, our wetlands, the ocean, the beaches, the Intracoastal—we have to make sure that we're taking care of those for future generations."

According to Williams, the commitment that comes with the position of county commissioner amounts to that of a full-time job. Selecting a candidate who is alternatively employed, he contended, would create a conflict in which the taxpayers, ultimately, would lose.

"If you're going to be involved in all of the issues with staff, administration, the county attorney, our stakeholders – who are the citizens, taxpayers, residents, businesses – you need to be here, and you need to be here every day," Williams said. "I can do that as a retired person. I think it's important to work for you full-time."

Current District 4 Commissioner Jay Morris, who has decided not to seek reelection, agreed.

CANDIDATE continues on **Page 13**

Red Coats visit Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach with \$13,000 check

The PLAYERS Championship recently presented a \$13,000 check to the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach for its arts, education and outreach programs that serve 8,000 participants at the center. Past tournament chairmen known as the Red Coats were responsible for delivering the donation.

Founded in 1994, the Cultural Center is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) arts organization located in Ponte Vedra Beach. The center brings over 167 multi-disciplinary art classes, summer camps, and workshops for adults and children by regional and national artists.

Outreach programs include Sound Connections, a music therapy program for children with special learning needs that takes place at Cunningham Creek, Ocean Palms, Valley Ridge Academy and PVPV-Rawlings elementary schools.

Ponte Vedra teenager dies after being struck by car while skateboarding on U.S. 1

By Jon Blauvelt

A Ponte Vedra Beach teenager died on Tuesday, Oct. 31 after being hit by a car while skateboarding on U.S. Route 1.

Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) Sgt. Dylan Bryan said Hunter Dudley, a 17-year-old Ponte Vedra High School student, was skateboarding southbound on the highway in the left shoulder near Palencia in St. Augustine when he veered to the right and was hit by a van. The driver of the van administered CPR before authorities transported the teen to UF Health Jacksonville, where he

died later in the afternoon from his injuries. Bryan said the investigation is ongoing.

St. Johns County School District spokeswoman Christina Langston said members of its crisis team subsequently visited Ponte Vedra High School to provide support to students and staff.

CTTF Board to release survey on widening A1A, Mickler and Palm Valley roads

The Ponte Vedra/Palm Valley Citizens
Traffic Task Force Board (CTTF) will
circulate the second of its online traffic
surveys on Monday, Nov. 13 through
the emailing lists of the Ponte Vedra
Beaches Coalition, the Ponte Vedra
Community Association, the Palm Valley
Community Association, the Ponte Vedra
Municipal Service District, the North
Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition and the
Sawgrass, Marsh Landing, Plantation
and Player's Club homeowners associa-

The new survey is asking for community input on the proposed widening

of specific sections of State Road A1A, Mickler Road and Palm Valley Road. This survey — like its predecessor that was circulated on Oct. 9 and focused on intersection improvements — was developed by the CTTF Board to solicit feedback from area residents and businesses on the recommendations proposed in a recent traffic study commissioned by St. Johns County and the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization.

Area residents and businesses who do not belong to one of the communities represented on the CTTF Board are encouraged to participate by using the link: www.surveymonkey.com/r/Wideningsurveygeneral. The survey will close on Nov. 30.

This is the second and last of the traffic surveys to be released by the CTTF Board.

Once all the responses have been received and tabulated, a complete recap of the results will be shared with the public.

All area residents are encouraged to participate and complete this survey. By doing so, they will assist the CTTF Board in prioritizing the individual projects and help determine which improvements, if any, should be made.

World Golf Village resident flying high after poker win

Paul Petraglia beat out 322 competitors for top prize at WPT main event

By Paris Moulden

Flying a plane and playing poker are both activities that require special skill and perfect timing, but there are big differences too.

One is a full of tension, apprehension and nerve-wracking pressure. The other requires a pilot's license.

Paul Petraglia knows the demanding nature of each, and has been successful at both. The Jacksonville-based corporate pilot recently won \$315,723 as the champion of the WPT bestbet Bounty Scramble Main Event, hosted by bestbet Jacksonville. It was the biggest win of Petraglia's poker career.

"It's much more nerve-wracking playing poker," the pilot said of comparing the high-stakes game to flying planes. "Flying is very structured, and we go to great lengths to make sure there is absolutely no gambling involved. We always choose the safest way out when flying.

"In poker, you can't take the safe way out because you'll never end up winning," he added. "In poker, you have to take chances, you have to gamble, and sometimes you



Photo courtesy of bestbet of Jacksonville

Paul Petraglia won \$315,723 in the WPT bestbet Bounty Scramble Main Event last month.

just have to go with your gut and hope that the cards cooperate."

Petraglia, who lives in World Golf Village, beat out 322 other competitors from across the country in the bestbet event. He defeated two-time defending champion Sam Panzica in a head-to-head battle for the biggest win of his poker career.

Petraglia is originally from Rhinebeck, New York, and first came to the First Coast in 1990 to attend Jacksonville University for aviation training. After college, he worked as a commercial airline pilot before returning to the Jacksonville area to work as corporate pilot. Petraglia said being able to win the WPT event in Jacksonville held significant meaning.

"It was a dream come true," Petraglia said of the victory. "First of all, it was a huge victory as far as my poker game itself is concerned. Just to know I bested a field of 323 players and to come out on top was a huge sense of accomplishment. But it meant more to me that it was my hometown casino, in front of the players and friends that I play with every day and just be recognized for that and keep the trophy in Jacksonville."

Petraglia said he started playing poker about 14 years ago when the Texas Hold 'Em craze hit, and poker tournaments became nationally televised events full of drama and colorful personalities.

Petraglia said poker, particularly hold 'em, appealed to his strategic mindset.

"It's the competition," he said. "It's a lot of fun to be able to assess the situation. It's like putting a puzzle together in your head. Also, I'm a total math nerd, so there's a lot of math involved, and I like that aspect as well. And I'm not gonna lie, the money is a nice byproduct of it all, so there's that."

Petraglia said early on he was a fan of poker star Daniel Negreanu, who plays the

"old-school" style of poker, but is currently an admirer of pro Byron Kaverman.

Petraglia has played poker mostly around the Jacksonville area, but has also participated in the World Series of Poker main event in Las Vegas, although he said he didn't have any luck there as far as the results went. Winning the WSOP main event may be a poker player's biggest accomplishment, but Petraglia also wants to remain grounded.

"I don't think there's a single poker player on the planet who would say he doesn't want to win the main event," Petraglia said. "But for me, I'm more than a recreational player, but I'm definitely not a professional, so I just have tremendous love for the game. I just try to keep my goals practical. I like the small victories, but this one certainly was an eye-opening experience and made me realize I can compete on the level of a lot of professionals and have success with it."

Despite the obvious appeal of Las Vegas for poker players, Petraglia has nothing but praise for his hometown poker rooms.

"Hands down, bestbet in Jacksonville and bestbet Orange Park are two of the finest poker rooms in the country as far as I'm concerned," Petraglia said. "I'm their No. 1 fan."

Petraglia's victory also includes the \$15,000 buy-in for the season-ending WPT Tournament of Champions.

Ponte Vedra Beach author wins Royal Palm Literary Award

Ponte Vedra Beach author Krista Keating-Joseph won the top Royal Palm Literary Award in the Children's Picture Book category for her book, "Big-Hearted Charlie Runs The Mile," at the recent Florida Writers Association's annual conference.

The book is based on a true story about a little boy (Keating-Joseph's son Charles Keating IV) who joins a track team and works hard to overcome his small size as he runs against boys who are much bigger. At first, he never wins a race. But Charlie doesn't give up, and his hard work pays off. He becomes a champion on the track and later a true hero in real life as a U.S. Navy SEAL.

Charlie's grandmother Phyllis Holmes illustrated the book.

"Big-Hearted Charlie Runs The Mile" is book No. 1 in the Big-Hearted Charlie Series. It was published April 12, 2017. Book No. 2, "Big-Hearted Charlie Never Gives Up: Fun Adventures," is scheduled to be published this month.

Both books are published by Legacies & Memories in St. Augustine.

They can be purchased online at amazon. com, barnesandnoble.com, booksamillion. com and other online retailers.

Council on Aging to to host Christmas on the River Nov. 19

The Council on Aging (COA) will host Christmas on the River from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 19.

This year's theme is "A World-wide Journey of Wine Tasting & Gift Giving from the Heart." The event includes a festival of wreaths and other decorations, wine tastings and fair-trade items from Amistad, delicious food and seasonal music.

All proceeds from the event benefit Care Connection, a crisis mitigation for seniors with emergency needs for which there is no other funding source. This year, because of Hurricane Irma, COA anticipates a greater need to help displaced elders who are trying to return to their homes after flooding.

"It is absolutely crucial that we are able to provide these essential in-home services to our seniors," said COA Executive Director Becky Yanni. "I can't think of a better way to bring the community together around the holiday season to support such a worthy cause."

Sponsorships are available. Sponsorship levels include: \$60 to be an auction sponsor; \$250 to be a Ruby Sponsor (which includes two event tickets); \$500 to be an Emerald Sponsor (which includes four event tickets); and \$1,000 to be a Diamond Sponsor (which includes eight event tickets). Sponsorships include numerous recognition opportunities.

Tickets are available for \$45 each. For more information, contact Cindy Walker, development and communication associate, at (904) 209-3687 or at cjwalker@stjohnscoa.com.





Felicia Cox is the vice president and group manager at IBERIABANK in Ponte Vedra Beach. A Jacksonville native, Cox is also an active member of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and a big fan of the Jaguars.

By Jon Blauvelt

Can you please briefly tell us about your background?

I'm a native of Jacksonville who started my banking career at age 17 with Barnett Bank (now Bank of America) while attending high school. Barnett Bank gave me the opportunity to develop the skills I needed to begin a career in banking. I attended college locally and earned my degree while working full time. I've been in banking all my working life, and I've worked in the Ponte Vedra market for 21 years. After leaving Bank of America, I was offered a position at SunTrust Bank in Ponte Vedra and worked there for seven years before coming to IBERIABANK. I'm also active in the St. Johns Chamber of Commerce, where I have served as past president of the Ponte Vedra Chamber and past chairman of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division.

What are your primary roles and responsibilities as vice president and group manager at IBERIABANK?

IBERIABANK offers a full range of banking services, both consumer and commercial. We have people dedicated to commercial banking, mortgage banking and wealth management.

My primary responsibilities are, with the excellent help of my team, to man-

retail operations of IBERIABANK's three branches in Jacksonville: Downtown, Ortega and Ponte Vedra.

What's the most rewarding part of vour iob?

Working with our clients and employees is the most rewarding part of my job.

I enjoy helping my customers receive the right banking solutions for their needs. Banking has become such a commodity today that it's important to differentiate yourself from everyone else. I believe this is a relationship proposition, so my team does whatever it can to make and keep our customers happy. A satisfied client will come back for more services and refer you to others.

As for our employees, my team is committed to client satisfaction, and that makes us all successful. I like to make sure my team is fired up and trained up to exceed the needs of our clients.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

What are some of the challenges facing the banking industry today?

The challenges for us are the normal challenges facing any business in today's environment: customer satisfaction, employee satisfaction and increased competition. Customers have a lot of choices as to whom they bank with. My goal is to keep my customers happy, so they'll continue

to do business with IBERIABANK. My team and I are focused on providing the best in banking and financial services to our customers.

What do you enjoy most about living on the First Coast?

I love seeing Jacksonville grow and continue to prosper. I love being near the beach, the Jaguars and the new things coming to Jacksonville. I also love the great weather, exciting new restaurants, shopping and the casual lifestyle.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I enjoy travelling with my husband, dining out and attending Jaguars games.

Annual holiday Tour of Homes in St. Augustine to highlight Flagler Era

The Garden Club of St. Augustine will hold its annual Tour of Homes from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3.

The theme of this year's tour is "Christmas in the Flagler Era," a tribute to Henry Morrison Flagler. A man of culture and vision, Flagler transformed a sleepy coastal town into the winter resort of America's wealthy. His buildings, roadways and fountains still grace much of St. Augustine.

The 10 garden circles, which comprise the St. Augustine Garden Club, are decorating six homes in the historic downtown district, dating from the Flagler period. The homes consist of two on Marine Street and one each on St. George Street, Saragossa Street, Bridge Street and Riberia Street, decoated with floral arrangements and holiday greenery that reflect Flagler's style and elegance.

Tickets are still available (but running out) at the following locations (cash or checks only):

- Carter's Jewelry, Anastasia Publix Plaza
- Flowers by Shirley, U.S. 1 N.
- Leonardi's Nursery, Anastasia Boulevard
- Tre Sebastian, Anastasia Boulevard
- Whetstone Chocolates, Anastasia Boulevard



Photo courtesy of the Garden Club of St. Augu:

The theme of this year's Tour of Homes is "Christmas in the Flagler Era."

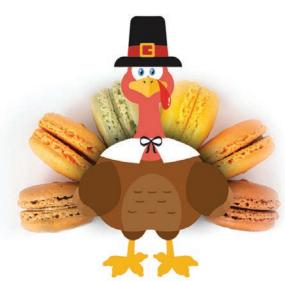
■ Southern Horticulture, A1A

Tickets are \$30 and include transportation provided by Old Town Trolley, which starts from the City Parking Garage at noon. Some walking will be required in the historic district, and trolley service will not be available after 4 p.m. An afternoon tea and holiday boutique will be held at the River House on Marine Street, featuring handmade crafts and homebaked cookies by the Garden Club of St. Augustine.

le macaron

french pastries

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Seaside at Ponte Vedra Beach \$395,000

Live the beach life in this wonderful 3BR/2BA single level home with water views at end of quiet cul de sac. Open floor plan full of architectural detail. Master suite opens to screened lanai to enjoy the water views. Seaside offers lakeside pool and tennis courts and is within walking distance to beach. New roof and HVAC. MLS 904698



Kensington - St Augustine \$445,000

Great BUY! This beautiful 5BR/3.5BA freshly painted home with 2 story foyer, hardwood floors and crown moldings is built for a crowd. Large eat-in kitchen with new stainless steel appliances, granite and breakfast bar opens to wonderful family room with fireplace. Downstairs master suite enjoys water and preserve views. MLS 901980



Costa Del Sol - Jacksonville Beach \$495,000

Just a block from the ocean in the heart of Jax Beach, this freshly painted 3 story 3BR/3.5BA town home is a find! 1st floor bedrm/office opens to charming, private backyard. Upstairs is huge kitchen overlooking spacious dining & living rooms w/balcony. 3rd level offers 2 suites with a balcony off master to catch ocean views. MLS 904627



Sawgrass Country Club \$550,000

Gorgeous, light filled 3BR/2.5BA lakefront home, recently remodeled with wood floors on main level, vaulted ceilings and Plantation shutters. New crisp white kitchen with granite opens to dining and great rooms. Lovely den overlooks deck with wonderful lake views. Spacious master suite with fabulous bath and huge closet. MLS 903789



Old Ponte Vedra \$2,175,000

Spectacular coastal home just steps to the ocean. Custom designed, it's open and spacious- prefect for entertaining indoors & out. Inviting foyer flanked by living & dining rooms leads to family room & chefs kitchen w/butler's pantry & center island overlooking a private oasis offering pool, covered lanai, summer kitchen & fireplace. MLS 906861

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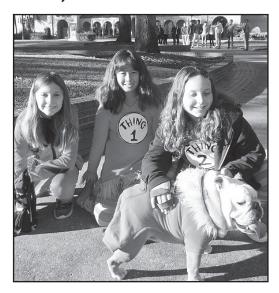
8 COMMUNITY NEWS Ponte Vedra Recorder · November 9, 2017

BOLLES SCHOOLS HOST COSTUME PARADES, EVENTS FOR HALLOWEEN



Photos courtesy of The Bolles School

Students at the Bolles Lower School in Ponte Vedra Beach, Lower School Whitehurst and Middle School Bartram campuses celebrated Halloween at school Oct. 31. Both lower school campuses hosted colorful costume parades, while the middle school Bartram campus event featured a scavenger hunt and costume contest. Several Bolles administrators and faculty dressed as each other to commemorate the occasion.





Progress underway on Bolles PVB Gym, multipurpose building

The groundwork and partial foundation is being laid for the new gym and multipurpose building on the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus.

This week, crews applied concrete to the site, which workers have been prepping for vertical construction.

Bolles officially broke ground on the new 10,800-square-foot facility Aug. 23. The building will be one of the largest on the Bolles campus, which opened as Bolles' second Northeast Florida lower school in 1999. The facility will include a basketball court, bleachers, an outdoor amphitheater, a music and drama classroom, a stage for school performances, a coaching staff office and bathrooms.



Photo courtesy of FAST Aerial for Sauer Inc.

How to handle a 'poor' report card

Tips for helping your children when they're struggling to get good grades

By Paige Howell

Special to the Recorder

It's that time of the school year again – report card time. While many students come home with good grades, others would rather stuff their report cards deep into their backpacks. As a parent, you want your child to do well in school. So, what do you do when your child's report card doesn't reflect his or her academic potential?

Children get frustrated and upset when their report cards show that they're not reaching their potential. Understanding your child's personal ability and determining if your expectations are too high will allow both you and your child to set appropriate goals for each class before report cards are distributed again. It will also help establish an environment in which your child is not apprehensive about sharing his or her report card with you.

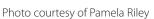
Consider the following tips on how to deal with a "poor" report card:

- 1. Set expectations. Not every child will earn all As, but that doesn't mean your child should strive for less. Talk with your child before the school year starts and explain that you won't be upset if he/she doesn't bring home all As, but that you will be upset if he doesn't try his hardest and doesn't ask for help.
- **2.** Communicate with your child. Don't wait until report cards are issued to talk with your child about school and grades. Talk with him/her every night and every week about homework. Ask how he/she is doing in school and what subjects he/she finds challenging.
- 3. Discuss your child's performance with his/her teacher and/or guidance counselor. Your child's teacher and/or guidance counselor are the best sources for information about your child's scholastic performance. Your child's teacher can recommend ways to help your child or point out difficulties he/she is having. His guidance counselor can provide progress reports between report cards or help set up additional parent-teacher conferences when necessary.
- **4. Set goals for improvement with your child.** If your child is currently a C student, then setting a goal of getting all As may not be reasonable. However, creating an improvement goal for each subject will help him/her work toward an attainable level for each class.
- **5. Establish a personalized study plan with your child.** Your child should keep a schedule of all classes, assignments and key dates (e.g., project deadlines, big exams, etc). As part of that schedule, he/she should include specific time for studying, projects and extracurricular activities. The more comprehensive the schedule, the more efficient your child will be in completing his/her homework and the better he/she will do in school.
- **6. Seek outside help.** Some children may need additional attention that can't be provided in school. Speak with your child's teacher about tutoring or supplemental education providers to help your child work toward better grades in school
- **7. Praise your child's successes.** Praise your child for what he/she is doing well, whether it's a specific academic subject or an extracurricular activity. If your child is not doing well in English, but loves to read the latest "Twilight" book, show him/her the connection between the two.

Paige Howell is the owner of the Sylvan Learning franchise in Ponte Vedra Beach.

OPE LITERACY PARADE A HUGE HIT

turnout for its Literacy Parade on Friday, Oct. 27. Students channeled their creativity by slipping into the persona of their favorite book character. Ocean Palms also collected unopened candy to benefit Treats for Troops on Nov. 1-2. Donations were sent to the Mayport SSO for further distribution.







Exemplary Oceanfront Living on Ponte Vedra Blvd

Hacienda style home nestled on 1.47 acres of pristine oceanfront. Spanning 4,527 SF this bright airy, 4bd/5ba, home offers a resort like atmosphere with large oceanfront pool/spa and private beach walkover. \$3,990,000



Exemplary Oceanfront Living on Ponte Vedra Blvd

This oceanfront estate is built like a fortress with 2-story masonry construction. Set on 1.45 acres this home is designed with to capture expansive ocean views from almost every room. Luxury accommodations are provided with two owner's suites, one upstairs and one downstairs, 4 additional bedrooms each with ensuite baths, a separate study and a bonus/game room or 7th bedroom. This is an exceptional opportunity for your most discerning buyer. \$6,300,000



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TRIBUTE TO VETERANS



Photos by Kelly Valentine

First-place winners Michael Nye (Navy, E5/YN2, 2009-present), Steve Cropper and Captain Robert Wirth display their awards.

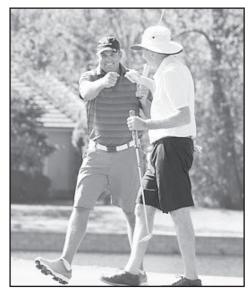
The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach honors veterans with 15th Annual Navy Appreciation Day

By Jon Blauvelt

About 90 current and retired military personnel attended and participated in the Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach's 15th Annual Navy Appreciation Day on Nov. 6.

Founded to honor and express thanks to the area's veterans, especially local Navy personnel, the activity-packed day featured a breakfast, a golf outing and a steak luncheon for all participants that included an awards presentation. The local color guard performed, and a Navy veteran sang the national anthem prior to the outing, which was played in a scramble format. Activities throughout the day were organized by Plantation residents.

Former Plantation resident and WWII Navy veteran Jim Gaff founded the event following 9/11. He passed away Jan. 15, 2015.



Ion Revak and Carl Kraus celebrate a good shot.

Ponte Vedra Valley to host 19th Annual Veterans Day Celebration

Ponte Vedra Valley, a family owned and operated funeral home with onsite cremation center and cemetery, will host its 19th Annual Veterans Day Celebration on Saturday, Nov. 11, at 10:30 a.m., honoring all service men and women who have served and preserved the United States since its founding.

The featured speaker will be Master Chief Boatswain's Mate Malone Jones, Retired. The Southern Cruisers Riding Club will lead the entrance procession followed by the Riderless Horse.

Also participating will be the Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, Mayport Honor Guard, Nease High School's JROTC cadets, American Legion Post 233 and local Boy Scout Troop 288.

Dual taps, as played at Arlington National Cemetery, will be performed, and bagpipes will also be played.

The community is invited to attend the event. Seating is provided but is limited. Please feel free to bring your lawn chairs or blankets for additional seating. Golf carts will be available for those who need assistance.

Ponte Vedra Valley is located at 4750 Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra Beach. Visit www.pontevedravalley.com or call (904) 285-1130 for more information.

MORE VETERANS DAY EVENTS

'No Greater Love' documentary to be aired in Jacksonville

"No Greater Love," a documentary on the "No Slack" Battalion in Afghanistan filmed entirely by a military chaplain, will premier in Jacksonville at the AMC Regency Theater Friday, Nov. 10, as one of a few select markets in the country. "No Greater Love" is the first theatrical documentary filmed and directed by an active-duty soldier, and brings to vivid life the battles of the "No Slack" Battalion (of the famed 101st Airborne Division) in Afghanistan — and back home. Most Americans are unaware that U.S. military chaplains carry no weapon, even in battle; and while deployed in Afghanistan, Army Chaplain Justin Roberts initially had no thoughts of making a film. But seeing the valor in battle of "No Slack," he asked, "What drives men to commit acts of courage and sacrifice?" While winning decisive, strategic victories in intense battles, "No Slack" suffered multiple fatalities, and its members returned home with some 200 Purple Hearts. Visit nogreaterlovemovie.com for more information.

Guy Harvey Resorts to host Pups N Sups Surfing Contest

The Guy Harvey Outpost Resort, nearing completion in St. Augustine Beach, is hosting its inaugural Pups N Sups Surfing Contest Saturday, Nov. 11 to benefit K9s for Warriors. The event kicks off at 8 am at the resort, located oceanside at 860 AIA Beach Blvd Kevin DeNell, executive vice-president of Guy Harvey Outpost Resorts, said they're proud to support such a worthy cause. "We have three weight divisions, and each 'PAW-ticipant' will be judged on surfing style and skill under the watchful eyes of staff from our event's other partners, local businesses Surf Station and Faux Paws," he said.

More events, Pages 24-25

Chamber of Commerce event to focus on veterans in business

A St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach (PVB) Division event on Nov. 15 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Ponte Vedra Beach will feature Joe Padlo, a veteran of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) and multiple combat tours, as its keynote speaker.

Padlo was named a Veteran of Influence by the Jacksonville Business Journal in 2016. He founded U.S. Military Maintenance, a cleaning and maintenance services company with a mission to employ veterans at a living wage. In 2016, Padlo's team won Web.com's Business Breakthrough competition, and today the newly renamed organization, Veterans Elite Services, employs 18 former military service men and women. Padlo also founded Tidy Text, a technology platform currently in BETA that provides communication and accountability for janitorial and maintenance services. Tidy Text was recently honored at the BizTech Awards.

The 10-year Marine is also a volunteer leader with the local chapter of Team Red, White and Blue, a national nonprofit seeking to bring veterans and civilians together through physical fitness and social activities.

The Chamber event will also feature Justine Justice, executive director of Operation New Uniform; USMC Lt. Gen. Richard Tryon (RET), who is the senior fellow in international leadership at Hicks Honors College at the University of North Florida; a board member of the Wounded Warrior Project and representatives from K9s For Warriors.

"Veterans are very important to the business community," said Chamber President and CEO Isabelle Rodriguez. "It should not be of any surprise that the men and women who have served our country not only have the characteristics and work ethic to make great employees, but they make ideal entrepreneurs as well."

The Chamber president and CEO cited a 2017 small business study stating that small business firms owned by veterans employed 5.03 million people, had an annual payroll of \$195 billion and receipts of \$1.14 trillion. Veteran-Owned Businesses and Their Owners also stated that

veteran-owned firms represented 9.1 percent of all U.S. businesses.

A Salute to Veterans will be the theme of this regularly scheduled Chamber at Noon event. Beginning at 11:30 am and ending at 1 pm, admission for non-members is \$35 and \$30 for Chamber members. Lunch is included. According to PVB Division Director Toni Boudreaux, the aim of the event is to salute veterans and to acknowledge the important impact they are making on our business community.

To register for the event or to find out more about the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce or the Chamber's Ponte Vedra Beach Division, please visit www. sjcchamber.com or call (904) 285-2004.

TRIBUTE TO VETERANS

Wounded Warrior Project holds Executive Night at Montoya & Associates, encourages support for vets

By Samantha Logue

With Veterans Day fast approaching, Wounded Warrior Project leadership urged local business leaders to remember and support those service members who have been wounded in combat at a Nov. 1 Executive Night dinner held at Montoya & Associates in Jacksonville.

"More than 3 million men and women have served our country since the attacks in New York, Pittsburgh and the Pentagon, where I was, on 9/11," Wounded Warrior Project CEO Mike Linnington said. "Those 3 million come back in need of integration into communities just like ours, and in many cases, those that are injured – especially with the invisible wounds of war – need help integrating. And that's what we do, with lots of help from others in the community."

Founded in 2003, Wounded Warrior Project's stated goal is to "honor and empower" wounded service members through its various veteran programs.

"Our mission is very simple: to foster the most successful, well-adjusted generation of wounded service members in our nation's history," Linnington explained. "And that's a very tall order—especially if you look at the generation before us that grew this country and the world into the democracy we all enjoy."

Though no easy feat, with support from donors, Linnington said the organization's programs are effective in helping wounded veterans to overcome their injuries.

"We connect warriors with each other.



Photo by Samantha Logue

Wounded Warrior Project CEO Mike Linnington (center right) and Staff Sgt. Dan Nevins (right) present Montoya & Associates Principal Owner and Founder Will Montoya (left) and Principal and Senior Advisor Chriss Spires with a commemorative plaque.

with the programs we offer and with the communities in which they live," he said. "We serve them through a variety of free programs focused on mental and physical health and well-being, engagement with fellow warriors and economic empowerment, and we empower them to live life on their own terms."

One warrior who considers his own story a testimony to the effectiveness of Wounded Warrior Project's programs is Staff Sgt. Dan Nevins, a retired U.S. Army veteran who served in Irag.

"I'll never forget that day," Nevins said. "It's Nov. 10, 2004, and we're bouncing carefully down this dirt road, and it's pitch black outside, eerily quiet. I remember my head was bowed in prayer, as it was before

every mission, and then the silence was destroyed by the deafening blast that sent my 18,000-pound vehicle about 6 feet in the air in a ball of fire."

Nevins described opening his eyes to find himself ejected from the vehicle, but with his legs still caught and twisted in burning metal. By the light of the flames, he saw that one of his good friends had been killed by the explosion, and when he looked down, he realized he might not make it either.

"When I reached for my legs, that's when I felt it," Nevins said. "I felt the unmistakable arterial blood spurt with every beat of my heart, and I knew that I was going to die. I was making my peace with God, I was saying goodbye to my wife and

my then 10-year-old daughter. I was giving up."

With the help of his team, Nevins managed to survive the accident, though his legs, ultimately, did not. Suddenly brought face-to-face with a reality he was unprepared for, he began to sink into depression.

"I didn't feel like a human being anymore," he said, describing his worries about what his family would think of him, and whether he could be the same person without his legs.

When Wounded Warrior Project approached him, however, Nevins' world was rocked once more by the realization that he could still do the things he loved.

"I was snowboarding, wakeboarding, rock climbing, outrigger canoeing—you name it, Wounded Warrior Project was at my bedside, making me take opportunities to prove that my disability didn't define me," he said. "I got to define what the rest of my life was going to be like. I got to write the next chapter in the book."

Now, Nevins gives his testimony as evidence that Wounded Warrior Project can and does help veterans overcome injuries of all kinds.

"I'm so grateful for this organization, because not only did they fulfill that promise that whatever I or my family needed, they'd be there for me, but they've honored that same promise for over 108,000 warriors and their families," he said. "And that couldn't happen without the people who support the organization—who are a mouthpiece that will tell people what an amazing organization it is."

Local warriors still answer call of duty after hanging up the uniform

Three Florida Army veterans, once debilitated by the invisible wounds of war, now spend their days teaching other veterans how to heal through the use of service dogs.

Greg Wells, James Rutland and Bill Stump are warrior trainers at K9s For Warriors, a Ponte Vedra-based nonprofit that rescues shelter dogs and trains them to serve post-9/11 veterans afflicted by military trauma. All three trainers have their own service dogs and graduated from K9s For Warriors.

"We know how it feels to hear phrases like 'just get over it, PTSD is not a real thing," Stump said. "It really helps to have one of your veteran brothers or sisters tell you it will be ok."

Wells, Rutland and Stump train PTSD veterans on how to utilize service dogs in real-life scenarios. Each trainer is assigned

a group of warriors for three weeks and takes their groups out in public to face fears and accomplish goals. Veterans are taught to depend on their service dogs for symptom mitigation.

"Most of the men and women who come here to get a service dog have tried so many other things to recover from PTSD," Wells said. "We understand because we've been in their shoes."

K9s For Warriors is based on the philosophy that veterans should be involved in their own recovery, and purposely removes veterans from their comfort zones. The three warrior trainers lead lectures, demonstrations and training sessions to help prepare their students for public-access training, a test that must be passed to become a certified service dog handler.

Wells, Rutland and Stump teach how to give service dogs specific commands that

will encourage peer interaction, reduce hyper-vigilance and increase confidence for warriors. An example of a command taught in the program is "cover." When the dog hears this command word, it will turn around, facing the opposite direction of the warrior, to watch his/her handler's back. This command gives veterans relief from a constant state of hyper-vigilance or the fear that someone could attack at any time — a feeling hard for most to shake after leaving the battlefield.

"These service dogs save lives ... My dog saved mine," Rutland said. "Once the veteran establishes a bond with their dog, something just clicks, and recovery can happen."

Twenty-nine percent of post-9/11 veterans suffer from PTSD. Shari Duval founded K9s For Warriors in 2011 to combat the PTSD crisis and to aid veterans

in their recovery from trauma because of post-9/11 military service. Duval learned first-hand about the struggles U.S. military veterans face after her son returned home with PTSD following two tours in Iraq as a contractor. As of October 2017, the total number of warriors that have graduated from the program is 367.

K9s For Warriors also provides a new beginning for the service dogs that are trained and paired. Ninety percent of the dogs within the program are rescues from animal shelters or are owner-surrendered directly to K9s For Warriors. Many of these dogs were scheduled for euthanasia before being acquired by the K9s program.

For more information on K9s for Warriors, visit www.k9sforwarriors.org, follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/K9sforWarriors or follow them on Twitter at twitter.com/k9sforwarriors.

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Daniel Kids raises \$40,000 for local kids in crisis at Fall Fest

More than 1,000 local families celebrated the fall season while raising more than \$40,000 for local children in crisis at Daniel Kids' inaugural Fall Fest presented by David Weekley Homes on Oct. 15 at Nocatee Town Center Field. Proceeds from the event will support the nonprofit's programs that aid more than 2,000 abused, neglected and emotionally troubled children every day.

The event featured a chili cook-off for amateur and youth teams in which entrants competed for the title of Best Chili in Northeast Florida. Hansel and Kettle's Witches Brew won the amateur title; the Culinary and Garden Club from Palencia Elementary School won the youth division and the Spice Girls was the winner of the People's Choice award.

The fest included chili samples, food trucks and large screens featuring live football games. Kids also had a fun zone where they could play in bounce houses, participate in fall-themed games, enter a costume contest and explore "big toys" like a fire engine and police car.

"We are thrilled that the community came together to support kids in need during our first Fall Fest," said Jim Clark, CEO of Daniel Kids. "With their participation and the generous support from our corporate sponsors, we can help more local kids and families in crisis."

David Weekley Homes was the event's presenting sponsor with Availity, Citi, Red Hat, Regency Centers, Pivot CPAs and Florida Blue also playing large roles in the event's success.

Visit DanielKids.org for more information about Daniel Kids.

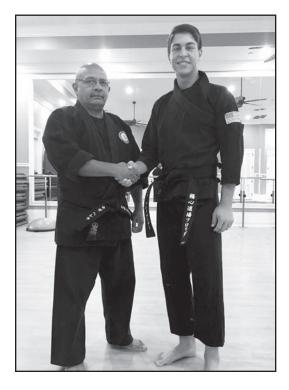


A team of local kids participates in the chili cook-off during the annual Fall Festival to raise money for Daniel Kids.

PONTE VEDRA TEEN EARNS FIRST DEGREE **BLACK BELT** IN JUJUTSU

Michael Alexander, 16, receives a promotion to first degree black belt in Japanese jujutsu from Sensei Jose Herrera of Yoshin Dojo-Florida, a Nocatee resident club. Sensei Alexander is the first student promoted to shodan sensei in the resident club's 5-vear-old history.

> Photo courtesy of Sensei Jose Herrera/Yoshin Doio-Florida



Candidate

"In my opinion, you cannot have a fulltime job and be a county commissioner," Morris said. "The only reason I ran is because I was retired. Dick is retired."

According to Morris, that fact is just one of several reasons he has chosen to support Williams in the 2018 election, the others being Williams' business experience, financial background and overall knowledge of the county.

Others who turned out to support Williams included St. Johns County District 4 School Board Representative Kelly Barrera and St. Johns County Undersheriff Matthew Cline, who was there representing Sheriff David Shoar.

"I'm a lawyer by trade," Cline said. "One of the standing jokes about lawyers is you hate us until you need us, and when you need us, you want the best and the brightest that money can buy. I think it would probably be fair to say that county commissioners fall in that same category. And county commissioner is a very thankless job \dots So I applaud the men like Jay Morris and Dick Williams that are willing to make the sacrifice that they're going to make."

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OBITUARIES

Marian Ledebuhr White

Born May 28, 1927, on the family farm in Capac, Michigan, Marian died Oct. 29, 2017, joining her husband, Laurence H. White, and daughter Jill White, who preceded her in death.

A graduate of Michigan State University in 1949 with a degree in textile retailing, Marian became a buyer for J. L. Hudson's in Detroit. She married Larry in 1951, and they celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary just prior to his death in 2014.

Marian and Larry raised their family in Lake Park, Florida, and moved to Jacksonville in 2008. Marian is survived by her daughter, Susan Klauk (Glen); her son, Jeffrey White (Anne); four grandchildren (Lisa Klauk Ellington, Kevin Klauk, Sara and Jennifer White) and two great-grandchildren.

Marian's love for animals, and her gentle spirit are her legacy. The family would like to thank the staff at The Palms of Ponte Vedra for their loving care for the past two years. Go in peace, Mom, you were truly loved.

No services are planned at her request. The family asks that any remembrances be made to Community Hospice and Palliative Care in Marian's name at 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, FL

Edward Allen

Edward Grant Allen, 85, died Nov. 1, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery - (904) 285-1130 - www.pontevedravalley.com.

Thomas Clay

Thomas F. Clay, 74, of Jacksonville, died Nov. 2, 2017. Services are under the direction and care of Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation

Clarence Covert

Clarence Leland Covert, 62, of Atlantic Beach, died Nov. 2, 2017. Services are under the direction and care of Quinn-Shalz, a Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

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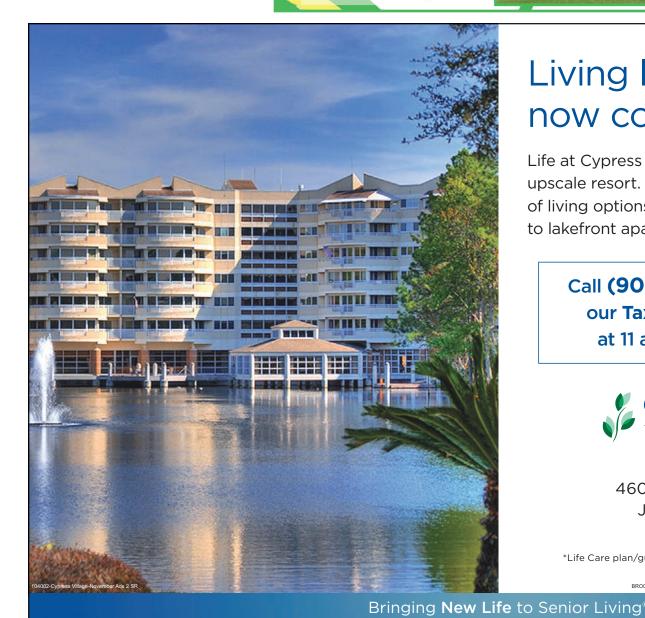


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Hurricane survivors warned to beware of frauds and scams

urged Floridians to watch for and report any suspicious activity or potential fraud.

As government agencies and charitable groups continue to provide disaster assistance, con artists, identity thieves and other criminals may attempt to prey on vulnerable survivors. The most common post-disaster fraud practices include phony housing inspectors, fraudulent building contractors, bogus pleas for disaster donations, fake offers of state or federal aid and charging for free services.

Scam attempts can be made over the phone, by mail, by email, through the internet or in person. Con artists are creative and resourceful. It is important to remain alert, ask questions and request identification when someone claims to represent a government agency. If an offer sounds too good to be true, it should be questioned.

Here are some tips from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to safeguard against fraud:

- Ask to see ID badges. All FEMA representatives always carry an identification badge with a photograph. A FEMA shirt or jacket is not proof of identity. Anyone feeling unsure or uncomfortable during an encounter should contact local law enforcement.
- Keep your FEMA registration number safe. It is your key to application information. Do not share it with others.
- Safeguard personal information. No state or federal government disaster assistance agency will ask for financial account information. Unless you call an agency yourself, do not provide personal information over the phone. It can lead

State and federal recovery officials have to identity theft. In general, be cautious when giving personal information such as social security or bank account numbers to anyone. FEMA will only request an applicant's bank account number during the initial registration process. FEMA inspectors will require verification of identity but will already have your registration number.

- Beware of people going door to door. People knocking on doors at damaged homes or phoning homeowners claiming to be building contractors could be con artists, especially if they ask for personal information or solicit money.
- Know that federal workers do not solicit or accept money. FEMA and Small Business Administration (SBA) staff never charge applicants for disaster assistance, inspections, or to help fill out applications. FEMA inspectors verify damages, but do not involve themselves in any aspect of the repair nor recommend any contractor.

Those who suspect fraud may call the FEMA Disaster Fraud Hotline at (866) 720-5721 (toll free). Complaints may also be made to local law enforcement

The quickest way to apply for federal assistance is online at www.disasterassistance.gov. Survivors may also apply by phone at (800) 621-3362 (Voice, 711 or VS) or (800) 462-7585 (TTY). The helpline numbers are open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week until further

For recovery information, visit www. FEMA.gov/IrmaFL or follow @FemaRegion4 on Twitter and on FEMA's Facebook page.

Officials say primary source of disaster recovery money for Floridians is through SBA

State and federal officials say the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) plays a major role in helping disaster survivors recover.

Next to insurance, they say the SBA is the survivor's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disasterdamaged private property.

If you are a survivor of Hurricane Irma, live in one of the 48 Individual Assistancedesignated counties in Florida and have applied for help with FEMA, you may be referred to SBA for additional assistance.

Officials emphasize that it's important to complete and submit a low-interest disaster loan application as soon as possible, if you receive one. This will ensure that the disaster recovery process continues, and options are kept open. Even if you do not believe you need a loan, you should complete and submit the application. If SBA determines you are eligible for a loan, you are under no obligation to accept it.

Homeowners and renters who submit a SBA application and are not approved for a loan may be referred to FEMA and considered for other FEMA grants and programs that could include assistance for disaster-related car repairs, household items and other expenses.

SBA offers low-interest disaster loans to businesses of all sizes, most private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters. State and federal officials say SBA can help businesses and private nonprofit organizations with up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged real estate and other business assets. Eligible small businesses and nonprofits may apply for economic injury disaster loans to help meet working capital needs such as business losses caused by the disaster.

In addition, officials say a homeowner

may be eligible for a disaster loan up to \$200,000 to repair or replace disasterdamaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners or renters may be eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed personal property.

SBA may also be able to help homeowners and renters replace important personal items such as personal property - including automobiles - damaged or destroyed in the disaster.

To apply for a SBA low-interest disaster loan, you can visit a FEMA disaster recovery center and meet with a SBA representative in person. SBA has staff at all recovery centers to help with applications. To locate the nearest center, call the FEMA helpline at (800) 621-3362, use the FEMA app for smart phones or go online to www.fema.gov/DRC.

You can also apply online using the Electronic Loan Application via SBA's secure website at https://disasterloan.sba. gov/ela. The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Nov. 24. The deadline to return economic injury applications is June 11, 2018.

For additional details on the locations of recovery centers and the loan application process, you can call the SBA Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 (or 800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-ofhearing) or send an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

Lastly, officials recommend that you don't wait for an insurance settlement before submitting an SBA loan application. You can begin your recovery immediately with a low-interest SBA disaster loan. The loan balance will be reduced by any insurance settlement. SBA loans may be available for losses not covered by insurance or

Visit Jacksonville offers Kids Free November to area attractions

Visit Jacksonville has once again partnered with the city's top family attractions for Kids Free November, a special monthlong promotion that offers free admission and other discounted activities for children at local museums and attractions.

During Kids Free November, family attractions will offer free admission for up to five children under the age of 12 with each general adult admission purchased. Participating attractions include:

- Adventure Landing
- Adventure Kayak Florida
- Catty Shack Rach Wildlife Sanctuary
- Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens
- Durkeeville Historical Society
- Jacksonville Ice & Sportsplex
- Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens

- Jacksonville Symphony
- Jax Helicopter Tours
- Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville (MOCA)
- Kayak Ame-
- King Pins **Bowling Center**
- Museum of

Science and History (MOSH)

- Ritz Theatre and Museum
- Sweet Pete's
- Space Base

Several of the participating attrac-



tions have other unique promotions available, including offers like a free game of miniature golf for each child at Adventure Landing when an adult game is purchased. and a free canoe or kayak rental

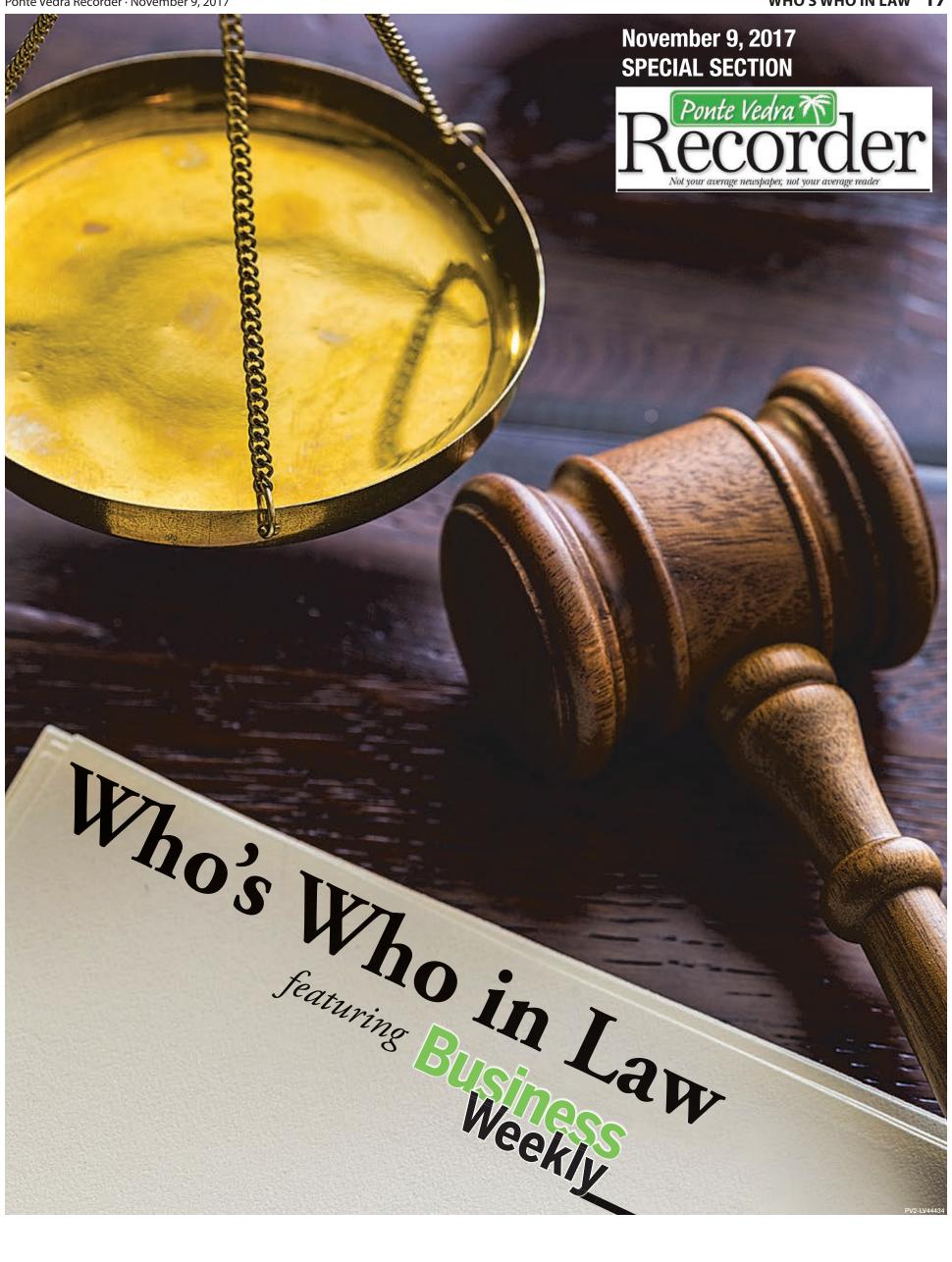
for each adult kayak rental purchased at Adventure Kayak Florida.

Jacksonville is also home to many free family attractions that are participating in Kids Free November. Families are

encouraged to experience the Beaches Museum and History Park, the Riverside Arts Market, Downtown Art Walk, the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens, Fort Caroline National Memorial, JaxParks and the Jacksonville Public Library during the month of November.

Visit Jacksonville will continue its partnership with Jax Moms Blogs and Fun4FirstCoastKids bloggers to provide visitors ongoing detailed information on all the fun, family-friendly activities, events and places to enjoy throughout Kids Free November.

For more information on Kids Free November, to explore all the offers and deals and to read the fine print on this promotion, visit www.KidsFreeNovember.com.



Are trusts still useful if estate tax is repealed?



Dan ArmstrongGuest columnist

By Dan ArmstrongSpecial to the Recorder

With Republicans in control of Congress and the presidency, there is talk of eliminating the federal estate tax. In 2017, the tax affects only estates over \$5.49 million,

meaning that for more than 99 percent of Americans, it's already been repealed. With no estate tax, do you still need a trust? While trusts can be used to shelter assets from the estate tax, trusts have many other valuable estate planning uses.

A trust is a legal arrangement through which one person (or an institution, such as a bank or law firm), called a "trustee," holds legal title to property for another person, called a "beneficiary." The following are some of the benefits of trusts.

■ Avoiding probate. One of the biggest benefits of a trust is avoiding the probate process, which is the process of administering and settling an estate after someone dies. It can be a costly and time-consuming process. Even with small estates, beneficiaries may not have access to estate funds until a will is filed and an executor



Photo courtesy of metrocreativeconnection.com

is appointed. A trust gives beneficiaries immediate access to trust funds. If you have property in multiple jurisdictions, a trust can be especially beneficial in avoiding more than one probate proceeding. Also, probate is a public process—anyone can access court records—while assets distributed in a trust are private.

■ **Protection for disability.** Another benefit of a trust is to provide protection

if you become disabled. If you become incapacitated, the trustee can manage your finances without the need to go to court and get a conservatorship or guardianship.

■ Control. A trust allows you to specifically detail how you want to distribute your assets. For example, you can choose to dole out benefits in small amounts if you don't want your beneficiaries to receive all your assets at one time. You

can also direct how funds in the trust can be spent on a beneficiary. If you have property, the trust can specify who has the right to use the property, whether it can be sold and how proceeds should be distributed.

■ Protection from creditors. Certain types of trusts can be set up to protect beneficiaries from creditors. A properly-structured trust can ensure that creditors cannot reach trust funds. This can be helpful if, for example, your intended beneficiary divorces or is the target of a lawsuit.

■ Providing for a child with special needs. If you have a child with special needs, a trust is particularly important. A special needs trust allows a beneficiary with special needs to receive inheritances, gifts, lawsuit settlements or other funds without losing his or eligibility for government programs.

Trusts are just one possible part of an estate plan. To know if a trust is right for you, consult with your attorney.

Dan Armstrong, of the Law Offices of Dan W. Armstrong, P.A., is an elder law attorney serving Ponte Vedra Beach who specializes in elder law, estate planning and corporate law. Contact him at (904) 280-0058 and visit https://www.danarmstrong.com for more information.

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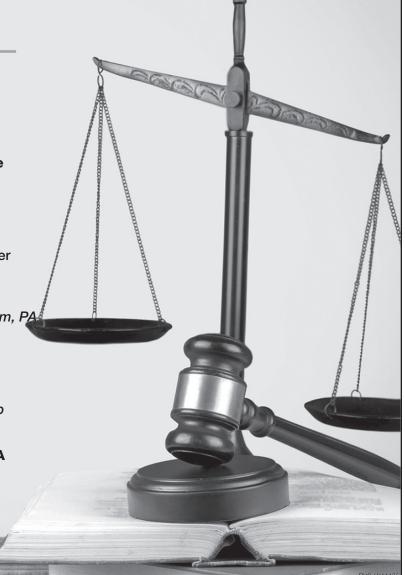
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To be included in our next issue, please contact The Ponte Vedra Recorder at (904) 285-8831.

Reflect on the courage it takes to say'Me too'



Janet Johnson Guest columnist

By Janet JohnsonSpecial to the Recorder

"Me too." Women all over the internet are finding their voices in telling their stories of sexual harassment and outright sexual assaults. Why is it happening sud-

denly? What took so long?

Sexual harassment is defined by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) as a form of sex discrimination in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VII applies to employers with 15 or more employees, and sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. The conduct has to explicitly or implicitly affect an employee's employment, unreasonably interfere with an individual's work performance or create an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.

When you read that, do you start to see why employees often don't report harassment? What's "unreasonable" interference? Who will believe an employee over his or her boss? And yes, the victim as well as the harasser may be a man or a woman. The victim does not have to be of the opposite sex.

The EEOC says that it is helpful for the victim to inform the harasser directly that the conduct is unwelcome and must stop. Think about that for a minute. Have you ever had to ask your boss for a raise? Time off? You know how stressful that can be? Now imagine your boss has been sexually inappropriate with you. Given a choice, wouldn't you consider not saying anything and hope that it ends? Well, that's what many, many employees do (and apparently even famous actors and actresses). If they don't think they'll be believed, what would an employee who desperately needs his/her paycheck feel?



Photo courtesy of pixabay.com

You start to understand why people don't say "me too" until there are others accusing as well.

The question gets asked: At what point does it get bad enough that I risk reporting it? Of course, if someone is making unwanted sexual comments or advances, it is never acceptable. To be legally actionable harassment — meaning when an employee can sue under EEOC guidelines — the behavior must fit into two categories. The first, a hostile environment claim, includes unwelcome behavior that would offend a reasonable person and impact the terms or conditions of employment. The second is "quid pro quo" sexual harassment, which is when a person "asks" for sexual favors in exchange for something else, like a promotion.

What happens after a claim is made? Here's another reason employees don't report. People's lives are hectic; being involved in a sexual harassment investigation is an added burden. A claim must first be filed with the EEOC, which serves as notice of charge to the employer. The employer conducts its own investigation. The EEOC can try to reach a settlement between the parties. If there is no settlement, the EEOC can issue a "right to sue" letter. It can take that letter to a lawyer who will file a suit, or the EEOC can file a suit themselves in district court. The EEOC filing suit rarely happens. A very small percentage of cases are filed directly by the EEOC in federal court.

At the end of the day, while different states have different laws, victims of sexual harassment who prevail in court can recover economic damages, if they were fired or demoted; they can get compensatory damages for physical and emotional distress, punitive damages and attorney's fees. So, while the process is stressful and arduous, there is a process designed to punish the behavior and make

the offended employee whole.

So, when you see "me too," read it.

And put yourself in the author's shoes.

And when you see a rich, powerful person smear a victim as a defense, consider how hard it is to stand up to power, whether it be your boss and that raise or any other authority figure. And perhaps reflect on the courage it takes to actually say "me too," let alone be the first person to just say "me"

Janet Johnson is a criminal defense attorney in Jacksonville who practices in state and federal courts. White collar crimes, including fraud, embezzlement and tax evasion, are among her areas of expertise. She is rated AV Preeminent on attorney rating website Martindale-Hubbell and has been named to the American Institute of Criminal Law Attorneys' Top 10 Best Attorneys list. Johnson is also a legal analyst for CNN and HLN. Contact her at (904) 634-8991 and visit http://janetejohnsonlaw.com/ for more information.



CEO Heather Quick

Quick Law Group named Law Firm 500 List honoree

The Quick Law Group recently announced that it has been ranked No. 45 on the Law Firm 500 Honorees List of the top 100 fastest growing law firms in America, which recognizes law firms that have achieved significant growth in revenue

Each nominee was verified by outside accounting firm Kahuna Accounting.

"Being recognized as an honoree at the Law Firm 500 Awards for the second year in a row is a great accomplishment for The Quick Law Group," said Heather Quick, founder and CEO of The Quick Law Group. "I am thankful for my highly qualified team that works diligently to provide exceptional service to our clients enabling the firm to grow."

Each ranking on the 2017 Law Firm 500 Award Honorees list includes the percentage of growth ranging over three years. The Quick Law Group was ranked 45 for achieving 246.98 percentage of growth.

The Law Firm 500 Conference & Awards Gala was held at the Boca Raton Resort & Club. The Award Ceremony began with a powerful keynote presentation by pioneer entrepreneur, New York Times Best-Selling author and investor on ABC's Shark Tank, Daymond John. John translated his \$6 billion business success into success for law firms.

The Quick Law Group is the only divorce and family law firm for women in Florida. The practice empowers women to take control of their lives, families and financials by offering family and marital law services specifically targeted for them. Visit www.thequicklawgroup.com for more information or to contact the firm

Marks Gray's Robert C. Gobelman, others retire

Marks Gray, P.A. recently announced the retirement of attorney Robert C. Gobelman from the Florida Bar. Mr. Gobelman joined Marks Gray, P.A. in 2011, along with other members of the firm, Gobelman, Love, Wasilenko, and Kendall.

Gobelman officially retired from practicing law Oct. 27. A longtime resident of Jacksonville, Gobelman has had a distinguished career defending complex litigation in state and federal courts in the areas of business and corporate law, insurance law, and product and professional liability.

Throughout his career, he served on many local, regional and national law committees, including serving as president of Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Jacksonville Association of Defense Counsel and Florida Defense Lawyers Association. He also chaired the first Zoning Board instituted after consolidation of Jacksonville and Duval County and was a founding member of the Jacksonville Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA).

He is a U.S. Navy veteran of WWII and a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War. Gobelman is a graduate of



Robert C. Gobelman

Wittenburg University with honors (1955) and achieved his Doctor of Law at the University of Chicago as a National Honor Scholar (1958). After graduating, he joined Osborne, Copp, Markham and Ehrlich, which merged to form Matthews, Osborne, Ehrlich, McNatt, Gobelman & Cobb. He went on to start his own firm. Gobelman and Love.

"After a long and distinguished 59-year legal career, Bob Gobelman officially retires today from the practice of law," said Marks Gray President Frederick H. Kent. "Bob has been a stalwart in the Jacksonville legal community and a renowned member of the defense bar in Florida. All of us at Marks Gray want to congratulate Bob on a great career and thank him for his contributions to this firm over the past years. He will certainly be missed by all of us."

Rogers Towers elects Meux and Worman to board of directors

Rogers Towers, P.A. has announced the election of shareholders Joseph Clay Meux Jr. and Cheryl L. Worman to the firm's board of directors.

Meux, who has been with Rogers Towers since 2011, earned his Juris Doctor from Stetson University College of Law ('94) and his Bachelor of Arts from Jacksonville University ('91). He focuses his practice on representing clients throughout Florida in elder law, estate planning, wills and trusts, probate litigation and administration, guardianship litigation and administration and real estate and commercial matters. He has been listed on the Florida Super Lawyers list for elder law since 2014.

Worman has been with the firm since 1993 and has more than 20 years of experience helping clients

ROGERS TOWERS continues on **Page 21**

For nearly 20 years...

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A. Sam Jubran, P.A. Jacksonville Divorce Attorney





Sam Jubran specializes in litigating complex family law matters, personal injury cases and criminal justice.

Family Law is a legal practice area encompassing many separate specialties, including annulments, divorce or dissolution of marriage, child custody and support, paternity, and domestic violence, among others. Each matter is unique and is evaluated upon the facts and circumstances particular to each client's situation. For experienced legal guidance, look no further than the Law Offices of A. Sam Jubran. In 2011 Sam was honored as the recipient of the Florida Bar's Board of Legal Specialization and Education achievement of Board Certification in Marital and Family Law.

Our firm specializes in litigation but always explores the possibility of alternate dispute resolution, or mediation, which is commonly required in Florida divorce cases.

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Joseph Clay Meux Jr.

Rogers Towers

Continued from 20

resolve disputes in Florida's construction industry. She earned her Juris Doctor (magna cum laude) from Stetson University College of Law ('93) and her Bachelor of Arts from University of West Florida ('87).

Worman is board-certified in construction law from The Florida Bar and has received an "AV Preeminent" rating from Martindale-Hubble. She has received a variety of honors, including being listed in: Florida Super Lawyers (construction



Photos courtesy of Rogers Towers, P.A.

Chervl L. Worman

litigation), 2009-2017; Florida Super Lawyers, Top 50 Women, 2016; Florida Trend Magazine, "Legal Elite" (construction), 2012-2014, 2016; and The Best Lawyers in America (construction law), 2018.

Meux and Worman are replacing shareholders G. Kenneth Norrie and Michael A. Wodrich, who both served for many dedicated years on the firm's board of directors. Meux and Worman will join Fred D. Franklin Jr., current chairman of the board, managing director and shareholder, along with other board members and shareholders Christine T. Adams and Wyman R. Duggan.





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At Zisser Law, our legal team is dedicated to your specific case. Elliot Zisser is a Florida Board Certified Marital and Family Law attorney dealing in complex financial business and custodial issues. Barry Zisser is our senior partner and holds many awards in family law. Jonathan Zisser practices significantly in criminal defense as well as family law, and where those areas intersect. Katherine Johnson focuses her practice exclusively on family law matters. Joseph Alvarez, our newest associate, is eager and enthusiastic to deliver his experience and strong work ethic to Zisser Law. Please visit www.zisser.net or give us a call at (904) 353-3222 to see how we can help you.

UM Insurance: What is it and what's the big deal?



Jason D. Holbrook Guest columnist

By Jason D. Holbrook Special to the Recorder

You've just left a nice restaurant after dinner with your family. You leave the parking lot and turn the family truckster onto the boulevard. A fourth of a mile

down the road, a speeding car cuts you off, causing both vehicles to crash. Your resulting injuries require surgery, and you'll be out of work for several months. Your spouse does not work. and you are the breadwinner. The other driver had the mandatory "full coverage" required by the state of Florida. Surely, his insurance will cover your losses.

Surprisingly, Florida DOES NOT require drivers to carry bodily injury coverage to protect you and your family if another driver injures you and/or your family! In fact, the only insurance required in Florida is \$10,000 of Personal Injury Protection (PIP – which protects the other driver and occupants of the vehicle) and \$10,000 of property damage insurance to cover damage to your car.

It's 100 percent legal for others to drive around with zero bodily injury insurance



to protect you if another car injures you or your family. Your health insurance will cover some of your past medical bills, but you're responsible for deductibles and copays. Unless you have disability insurance, you won't recover the wages you lost while you were out of work for several months. What about the pain, suffering and stress created by the situation?

So how do you recover for all of the money you've lost that was not covered by your health insurance (the vast medical bills, deductibles, co-pays, potential future medical bills and co-pays, lost wages and potential loss of ability to earn wages in the future)? This is an unfortunate and wrenching scenario which plays out over and over. Someone is seriously injured by a reckless

driver with no or insufficient insurance, and if the injured person did not buy uninsured motorist insurance, he/she is often completely unprotected.

If you do not have uninsured/underinsured motorist (UM) coverage, there is a good chance you will never directly recover those losses. UM is the flip side of the coin to bodily injury insurance. You buy bodily injury insurance to protect yourself by compensating other people if you injure them. You buy UM insurance to protect yourself by compensating you if you are injured by someone without any or enough insurance to cover your losses.

UM insurance steps in when you are injured by another driver who either has no bodily injury insurance (uninsured) or who

does not have enough bodily injury insurance (underinsured) to fully compensate you for your losses (i.e., if the other driver in the example only carried \$10,000 of bodily injury insurance, which would likely be exhausted during the initial ER visit).

If you have UM coverage in the aforementioned example, you would simply seek reimbursement from your own insurer for the losses you have suffered because of the other driver's carelessness. Your UM insurance should then reimburse you for the deductibles paid, for the months of wages you lost and for all of the pain and suffering you experienced during your injury and recovery.

If you're not sure if you have UM, call your agent and find out. If you do not have UM, buy as much as you can reasonably afford. It is invaluable if you are ever placed in the type of situation described here, through no fault of your own.

Jason D. Holbrook is the founder of Holbrook Law in Nocatee, which specializes in wronaful death, serious injury and estate planning. Holbrook founded the firm after spending nearly a decade practicing exclusively insurance defense and defendina hiah value wronaful death, truckina and personal injury lawsuits for insurance companies, trucking companies and many other corporate entities. Contact Holbrook Law at (904) 900-5533 and visit www.holbrooklawpa.com for more information.



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The Law Offices of Patricia L. Parker opens in Jacksonville

New family firm offers more than 25 years of legal experience

The lawyers at The Law Offices of Patricia L. Parker have announced the opening of their new firm located in Jacksonville's Southside. With more than 25 years of experience specializing in family law, the firm is dedicated to serving families in the Jacksonville area.

Patricia L. Parker has focused on family law for most of her career, and has routinely been appointed as an expert in complex custody cases. As a child of divorce, she chose to practice in this area of law to be an advocate for families going through difficult times. Parker began her career working for the Department of Children and Families. She then went into private practice, and has spent more than two decades representing her clients with skill and compassion.

"My clients have always appreciated the personal care I inject into every aspect of their case," Parker said. "I truly care about the problems and challenges they and their children face in one of the most



Patricia L. Parker

difficult and life changing events they will ever encounter."

The Law Offices of Patricia L. Parker can assist in family law areas including divorce, child custody, alimony, division of assets, paternity, child support and adoption. The office is located at 8833 Perimeter Park Blvd. in Jacksonville. For more information, visit plparkerlaw.com or call (904) 479-5455.

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Friday, Nov. 10

Saturday, Nov. 11 Sunday, Nov. 12

Yoga for Survivors

The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a "Yoga for Survivors" class Nov. 9 at 11:30 a.m. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations are invited to join in this gentle and safe yoga practice, which is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www. baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum

Adventures in the Arts

Ellen Diamond will present videos and comments about Henri Matisse, featuring Rosamund Bernier from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, Nov. 9 at 2 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Library. This event is free and open to the public. It is part of the "Adventures in the Arts" series sponsored by Cummer Beaches and Friends of the Library. The Ponte Vedra Beach Library is located at 101 Library Blvd. Contact Marianne Stein at (904) 280-2976 for more information.

'Ever Evolving Menace of Mosquitoes' lecture

Evenings at Whitney presented by Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience returns Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. with a lecture entitled "Ever-Evolving Menace of Mosquitoes: Emerging Pathogens and New Technological Control Strategies." The presentation will reveal the current threat mosquitoes pose to Floridians. To be held at 9505 Ocean Shore Blvd. in St. Augustine, this lecture is free and open to the public. Registrations/reservations are not necessary.

St Augustine Jacksonville Newcomers Club Of Northeast Florida

The St Augustine Jacksonville Newcomers Club of Northeast Florida will meet throughout the month of November at various locations in the Ponte Vedra/St. Augustine area. Join the group Nov. 9 for dinner at 5 p.m. and trivia from 6 to 8 p.m. in St. Augustine Beach. Contact Lea and Mark at (904) 829-0643 to RSVP. Limited to 10.

Coastal Wine Market wine tasting

Coastal Wine Market hosts Friday wine tastings from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B in Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.

Cannon Firing Demonstration at Castillo de San Marcos

National Parks Service volunteers and personnel demonstrate a cannon firing at the Castillo de San Marcos museum/monument every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rangers and volunteers demonstrate the weapons and relate the experiences of the colonial Spanish soldier of 1740s St. Augustine. Firing times are subject to change depending on weather conditions and staff availability. Castillo de San Marcos is located at 1 S. Castillo Drive in St. Augustine.

Free exercise program

THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center in Ponte Vedra is partnering with the Arthritis Foundation to provide a free exercise program on Wednesdays and Fridays through Dec. 1 from 2 to 3 p.m. The class will feature a low-impact workout proven to reduce pain and decrease stiffness, and gentle range-of-motion exercises suitable for all fitness levels and abilities. Call (904) 280-3233 to reserve a spot. The PLAYERS Community Senior Center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra.

Holiday Shoppes

Holiday Shoppes Boutiques return to Ponte Vedra Beach Nov. 9-11 with over 22 hand-picked boutiques from all over the country. Bring your friends to kick start the holidays shopping tradition. You'll find something to fit your budget for everyone on your list! The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. A \$5 donation is encouraged at the door. Holiday Shoppes is organized by the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach.

First Coast Card Club

The First Coast Card Club will meet throughout the month of November at various locations in the Ponte Vedra / St. Augustine area. Join the group Nov. 11 for lunch at 12:30 p.m. and cards at 1:30 p.m. at a Ponte Vedra Beach restaurant (RSVP for details). Contact Lea and Mark at (904) 829-0643 to RSVP and for more information and verification of events.

Benefit concert for Hurricane Irma relief

Fields Auto Group and St. Michael's Soldiers will be raising money for Hurricane Irma relief efforts with a concert Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Thrasher Horne Center at St. Johns River State College in Orange Park. The event will feature special guests Donnie and Johnny Van Zant of Lynyrd Skynyrd and .38 Special as well as performances by Bobby Ingram of Molly Hatchet and the Curt Towne Band, Heavy Petty and Pinto Graham. Visit THCenter.org to purchase tickets or donate.

Beaches Museum & History Park volunteer interest meeting

The Beaches Museum & History Park will hold a volunteer interest meeting Nov. 11 at 10:30 a.m. Interested participants will receive a tour of the museum and learn about the many volunteer opportunities available. For more information or to RSVP, contact operations manager Brittany Cohill at info@beachesmuseum.org or call (904) 241-5657.

Veterans Day American flag waving

Everyone is invited to come and wave an American flag at 1 p.m. on Marsh Landing Parkway in front of World Market/Petco to honor and support the United States and its military. There will be plenty of parking spaces and extra flags.

Pups and Sups surfing competition

Guy Harvey Outpost Resort wil host a dog surfing contest Nov. 11 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in St. Augustine Beach. Registration costs \$40 per dog. For reservation info, search for "Pups and Sups" on Facebook.

Life Enrichment Group

The Life Enrichment Group is designed for those with memory changes who want to remain mentally, physically and socially active, while giving caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. The program is offered daily, serving the Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra area. For more information, call (904) 417-7354 or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com.

Sandals, Shorts and Steel Drum Service

Every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to noon, St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church invites guests to put on sandals and shorts for a more casual worship service featuring the tropical sound of steel drum music. The church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.

Taste of the Beach

The 12th annual Taste of the Beach event will take place Nov. 12 from noon to 5 p.m. in the Pavilion at the St. Johns County Pier Park. The event will feature food from more than a dozen of the beaches' best restaurants, including Sunset Grille, The Purple Olive, Amici Italian Restaurant, Salt Life Food Shack and more. Admission is free, but food and beverages require a cash-only payment. The festival will be hosted by the St. Augustine Beach Civic Association to benefit Betty Griffin Center, a nonprofit agency that provides shelter, counseling and other programs in St. Johns County to help victims of domestic violence and their children.

Cemetery tour: H. Warren Smith

Local historian Johnny Woodhouse will lead a 90-minute walking tour of the H. Warren Smith Cemetary Nov. 12 at 2 p.m. at 1538 2nd Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach. The tour will take place along a paved path with stops at pre-selected grave sites. Woodhouse will talk about veterans from the Civil War through Vietnam, as well as victims of the attack on the USS Stark, and participants will have an opportunity to ask questions during and after the event. Parking is available at the neighboring Lee Kirkland Cemetery. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (904) 241-5657 or visiting www.beachesmuseum.org.

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Monday, Nov. 13

Tuesday, Nov. 14

Thursday, Nov. 16

Flagler College Art and Design Department faculty exhibition

This exhibition at the Crisp-Ellert Art Museum, located at 48 Sevilla St. in St. Augustine, features works by the faculty of Flagler College's Art and Design Department. The artists' bodies of work vary in method and material and encompass painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, video, photography, print and digital design and animation. The Museum's hours are Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.

Adventuring in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest

Sierra Club outings leader and outings chair Bill Armstrong will present a program at 6 p.m. on his recent travel experiences in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. All Sierra Club members and non-members are welcome to attend. This event will take place in the main meeting room of the Ponte Vedra Beach Public Library at 101 Library Blvd. For more information, email Brian Paradise at bgparadise@comcast.net.

'Thor: Ragnarok' IMAX film

Imprisoned, the mighty Thor finds himself in a lethal gladiatorial contest against the Hulk, his former ally. Thor must fight for survival and race against time to prevent the all-powerful Hela from destroying his home and the Asgardian civilization. This film is playing at the World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX theater at 1:15, 4:15, 7:15 and 10:15 p.m. The World Golf Hall of Fame is located at 1 World Golf Place in St. Augustine.

Sweet Pete's candy cane class

Sweet Pete's will host a seasonal class Nov. 13 at 2 p.m. that will offer guests the chance to shape their own candy canes to take home. Children under the age of 15 must be accompanied by a paid adult. Sweet Pete's is located at 400 N. Hogan St. in Jacksonville. Sign-up for this event by calling 1-855-SWT-PETE.

Prenatal Yoga

Prenatal Yoga, taking place from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Y Healthy Living Center at 170 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach, is a class for women to empower themselves through yoga, meditation and guided visualization. This approach is gentle and safe for women in all stages of pregnancy. Interested participants should bring a yoga mat, tower and water to class. There is a \$13 entrance fee per attendee. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit baptistjax.com/hlc to register.

Free Admission at Cummer Museum

Every Tuesday, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens offers visitors free admission to its galleries and gardens through its "Florida Blue Free Tuesday" promotion. The Cummer Museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.

Educational fall maze at the St. Augustine Aquarium

Enjoy a fall maze at the St. Augustine Aquarium with paid admission. To get through the maze, participants will be asked marine-related questions. The aquarium is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for youth ages 3 to 12 and free for youth ages 2 and under. The St. Augustine Acquarium is located at 2045 SR 16.

Kids Free November at World Golf Hall of Fame & Museum

Throughout the month of November, the World Golf Hall of Fame & Museum is offering free admission to children age 12 and under. No coupon is necessary. The World Golf Hall of Fame & Museum is open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

Tapas Tuesday

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Cafe every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. View the sunset on the Cummer Cafe patio while listening to local musicians and enjoying beer, wine or artfully inspired tapas for sale at the Cafe. Reserve your table by calling (904) 899-6022. For more information, visit www.cummermuseum.org. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave.

Toastmasters Club

Toastmasters Club #5199 of Ponte Vedra Beach meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center. These meetings help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Email Lucy Reep at lucyreep@gmail.com for additional information.

Wednesday, Nov. 15

Yoga at church

Join St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal for Yoga every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring a mat to this yoga class, which is suitable for all skill levels and ages. St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.

Wednesday Market

Each Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., approximately 60 to 80 vendors participate in the Wednesday Market in St. Augustine Beach. Vendors and artists display produce, prepared foods, local seafood, art, crafts and more, placing an emphasis on home-grown and homemade items. The Market is held at the St. Johns County Pier Park at 350 A1A Beach Blvd, St Augustine Beach.

'Loving Vincent' at the Corazon Cinema and Cafe

In a story depicted in an oil painted animation, a young man comes to the last hometown of painter Vincent van Gogh to deliver the troubled artist's final letter and ends up investigating his final days there. This film is showing at the Corazon Cinema and Cafe at 3 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. Nov. 15. Admission ranges from \$8-\$6. The Corazon Cinema and Cafe is located at 36 Grabada St. in St. Augustine.

Art creations at Jacksonville Public Library

The Jacksonville Public Library will host an "Art Creations" program offering youth a chance to make sculptures, collages, mobiles and more. Children ages 5 to 12 are welcome to attend, meet new friends, gain confidence and have fun. This event will take place Nov. 15 from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at 303 N. Laura St. in Jacksonville.

Save Guana Now fundraiser in artist's studio

Artist Eugene Quinn is opening his studio for one evening and will be featuring oil paintings of the Guana Preserve, with 20 percent of all proceeds going to Save Guana Now. This event will take place Nov. 16 from 5 to 9 p.m. at 416 3rd St., Ste. 201 (second floor) in Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (917) 626-4007.

Grief support group

A Grief Support Group meets on the third Thursday of every month at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Room 102 of the Family Life Center, located at 578 1st Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach. The group can help men and women who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. The next meeting will be Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. For more information, call Kathy at (904) 553-8933 or Catherine at (904) 247-0665.

Leaders Informational Luncheon

This free educational session, scheduled for Nov. 16 at noon at the St. Johns Center for Clinical Research, will offer guests an opportunity to learn more about hot flashes and how postmenopausal women can better deal with them. This event will take place at 145 Hilden Road in suite 120. Call (904) 209-0043 for more information.

Workshop presentation by Artie Lynnworth

Join Artie Lynnworth Nov. 16 from 9 a.m. to noon for a workshop presentation on effective interview techniques, salary negotiation strategies and more. RSVP by contacting Pam Ottesen at pottesen66@gmail.com to reserve a seat. This event will take place at Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to recorderintern@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-

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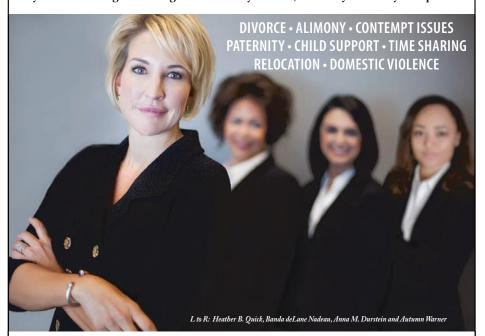
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J anet Johnson is committed to aggressively defending people accused in all criminal matters in state and federal court. In practice since 1994, she is a member of the Florida Bar, The Federal Bar, Colorado Bar, as well as the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She has been on the faculty of FACDL "Blood, Breath & Tears" annual DUI seminar. Ms. Johnson appears as a legal commentator on CNN, HLN, GMA, and Fox News. She has been awarded the very highest possible rating, the AV preeminent ratingTM, from Martindale- Hubbell® and was named a fellow to the prestigious Litigation Counsel of AmericaTM, as well as one of the ten best criminal defense attorneys nationally for client satisfaction by the American Institute of Criminal Law Attorneys.

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Busk eekly

Celebrity jewelry designer visits Underwood's

Page 28

IKEA opens with a lot of fanfare – and freebies

Jacksonville becomes the 46th U.S. location for furniture giant

By Paris Moulden

Jacksonville has joined an exclusive club, becoming just the 46th city in the U.S. to boast an IKEA store.

The Swedish-based company held the grand opening of its newest U.S.-based store on Wednesday, Nov. 8. The store, located at 7801 Gate Parkway, has 290,000 square feet of space and is situated on 25 acres.

The number of households in the First Coast area and the land space available made the location a good fit for IKEA, said store manager Leontyne Sykes.

While the store may be primarily known for inexpensive, do-ityourself furniture, the company wants customers to know it has a lot more to offer.

IKEA has a supervised children's play area where parents can leave their children while they shop. There are no more than six kids per supervisor.

The Jacksonville store also boasts a 275-seat restaurant,





which serves breakfast for \$2, and, of course, its famous Swedish meatballs, which are also available for purchase to make at

"We know many (Jackson-

ville residents) are familiar with IKEA, and we have heard from many who have travelled to Orlando to shop at IKEA," Sykes said during last week's media preview. "We're excited

ABOVE: IKEA employees Mandy Michelle (from left), Val Martinez, store manager Leontyne Sykes and kitchen sales manager Eric Madison stand in front of a kitchen design display at the new Jacksonville store.

LEFT: A restaurant employee serves IKEA's famous Swedish meatballs during a media preview event last week.

Photos by Paris Moulden

to say you don't have to do that anymore."

One of the unique aspects of an IKEA store is its specially designed room displays, which show customers a completely designed room from top-to-bottom and gives them an exact dollar amount for the cost to design the

"We want people to come in and have a great time and a great shopping experience," Sykes said.

IKEA has hired 325 employees for the Jacksonville store, which includes extra help for the busy holiday season, Sykes noted.

During its grand-opening week, people lined up as early as Monday to be among the first through the doors, lured in by big prizes. The store gave away sofas, armchairs and gift cards on Wednesday, and is giving away queensized mattresses, sleep sets and dog toys today. On Friday, the store will give away a cookware set and vouchers for free meatballs for a year. And on Saturday, veterans and service members can get a free meal at the restaurant (with military ID).

IKEA, which was founded by Ingvar Kamprad of Sweden in 1943, has more than 400 stores in 49 countries.

The Jacksonville store will be open from Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The store will be closed for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Valley Smoke restaurant opens for business in Ponte Vedra

By Benjamin Naim

Valley Smoke, a barbecue restaurant owned by Southern Table Hospitality Group's Ben and Liza Groshell, opened last month in Ponte Vedra Beach after five years of planning.

The Groshells, who also own and operate Fish Camps, Marker 32 and Safe Harbor Seafood Restaurant, opened the new Ponte Vedra restaurant at 11 South Roscoe Blvd.

According to Valley Smoke general manager Fawn Turner, the restaurant offers rib eyes, filets, New York strips and

pork chops in addition to its barbecue

"We have seafood offerings as well: We have salmon and we have a roasted golf snapper that comes with a delicious salad," she said. "We also have vegan and vegetarian offerings."

A unique aspect of Valley Smoke, Turner said, is that the restaurant does everything in house from scratch.

"All of our barbecue sauces and dressings are made in house from scratch," she said. "We do everything with love by hand. So, lots of love goes into every

restaurant in Ponte Vedra because of the beautiful view of the Intracoastal Waterway.

"And, we just like to be snuggled in this community," she added.

Turner noted that the Ponte Vedra community has been "extremely opening and welcoming" during the restaurant's soft opening phrase, which will last until December. She also said they haven't heard anything but "delightful things" about their cuisine and service.

Valley Smoke will be closed for lunch until the soft opening phase concludes.

Turner said ownership chose to open the For now, the restaurant is open for business every day from 4 to 10 p.m. Guests can expect a comfortable yet classy atmosphere, Turner said.

> "You don't have to walk in there and feel like it's stuffy," she explained. "You can come in flip flops and shorts, you can come for a date night in a nice dress, however you're feeling. What we want is that you make sure you know this is a home away from home and when you walk in here you feel comfortable and welcome."

Valley Smoke is taking reservations at (904) 285-3235. Interested patrons should call ahead to check for available seating.



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

Underwood's Jewelers employees show trunk show attendees various pieces of Erica Courtney's jewelry.



Reggie Thompson, Sarah Merkling and Stephanie Ebers



Erica Courtney and Ponte Vedra Beach Underwood's Jewelers General Manager John Rutkowski

Celebrity jewelry designer Erica Courtney visits Underwood's

By Jon Blauvelt

Erica Courtney, a Los Angeles-based jewelry designer who caters to celebrities such as Jessica Alba, Julia Roberts and Sandra Bullock, visited Underwood's Jewelers in Ponte Vedra Beach last week to present her jewelry line.

Courtney met with clients Nov. 2 through Nov. 4, including at a VIP event the evening of Nov. 2 that featured a presenation about her travels to places like Sri Lanka to find the world's best gemstones. The theme of the event was "Indiana Jones in 6 Inch Heels." In addition to visiting Ponte Vedra, Courtney stopped by the Underwood's location in San Marco Nov. 1.

"They appreciate fine gem stones here and so do their clients," said Courtney about Underwood's. "They [the clients] understand quality. They're sophisticated. They're world travelers.'

Underwood's Certified Gemologist Appraiser Denise Richards said what distinguishes Courtney's jewelry is its rarity, noting that her gems are the finest you can find in

To learn more about Courtney's jewelry, visit her website at www.ericacourtney.com.

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Jason Holbrook

Brightmove makes recruiting tools affordable for small businesses with its 'Essential' plan

By Benjamin Naim

Brightmove, a St. Augustine-based applicant tracking software developer, launched a new platform/plan Oct. 23 that allows employers of small businesses to find talent and gain exposure to hire the best candidates available in their market at an affordable rate.

"It takes all the features of a powerful recruiting suite that lots of big companies already use to do their hiring and it makes it affordable for a budget-conscious business," Brightmove CEO David Webb said. "Whether it's a restaurant or a small hotel, a gift shop or a start-up staffing company."

While other plans typically require a longer commitment, which could be between one to three years, Essential is a day-to-day plan that allows small businesses to scale their costs and tailor their hiring needs. The plan offers scalability and customization options designed to benefit small-budget businesses.

"There's a lot of analytics that went into the pricing system," Webb added. "The things that cost us more cost the customer more, as the usage of the essential customers scales, so do our

Webb invented and wrote Brightmove 12 years ago after realizing he could emulate the Amazon web services pricing model to create applicant tracking software (ATS) that small businesses can use. In doing so, he realized companies wouldn't have to fill open positions the old-fashioned way and that various types of businesses can reap the benefits.

"The hiring model is essentially the same for everyone: You have a job, people apply and then you fill it," Webb asserted. "So, the software is very customizable in that whatever your company's internal workflow is or your way of doing business, you can customize that in Brightmove and configure it."

Configuring Brightmove allows recruiters to be effective out the gate because they won't have to learn a new hiring method, Webb noted. The platform allows companies to configure the process to fit their current hiring procedure.

Webb also asserted that it's harder than it looks for businesses to find suitable clients and fill open job positions.

"A good example for the restaurant industry is the 'help wanted' sign on the door," he said. "That's dependent upon the right person walking in at the right time, looking for a job, visiting your establishment and then taking the time to apply for the job when maybe they weren't even showing up to do that."

Another difficulty faced by businesses looking to fill certain roles, Webb added,



CEO, Brightmove



CEO, Talentyeti

is the fact that paper applications aren't searchable — and many small businesses still use them today. Brightmove's Essential plan mitigates these problems

by allowing employers to quantify skills and sort and filter out applicants so the best ones rise to the top. Additionally, Brightmove's branded self-service career portal for job applicants makes it easier for recruiters to keep track of good candi-

"[Brightmove] allows us to get very targeted and specific with our recruiting efforts, with the qualifying questions, the workflow and the application process," said TalentYeti CEO John Perton, whose staffing and HR operations startup is based in Ponte Vedra Beach. "We can configure and customize for our skillsets

and our specialty. It allows us to directly target the demographic and skill set we're trying to get."

Perton said the Essential plan has been useful for his company because it offers recruiting tools that are often unaffordable for small businesses.

"For a small company like mine, we are able to bring enterprise-level features to our clients and our candidates through Brightmove," said Perton. "To do that as a start-up with very little operating capital is powerful."

BRIGHTMOVE continues on **Page 30**



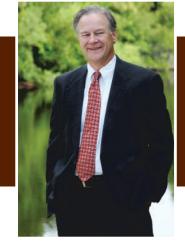
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The importance of 'ouch moments'



Harry Pappas

By Harry Pappas

Special to the Recorder

Life has a way of dealing us cards that never appear to add up to much. Furthermore, when the bad cards continue for some time, they regrettably discourage people so much that these disheartened folks throw in the towel and essentially give up. Unlike a child, who has no trouble believing the unbelievable, nor does the genius or the lunatic. It is only you and I, with our arguably large brains and tiny hearts,

who doubt, overthink, hesitate and often wave the white flag. Yep ... surrender our dreams and aspirations!

When difficulties strike, the easiest and most logical thing to do is to quit, but not if you are former Marine Lt. and motivational speaker Clede McClary, who says that we must FIDO (Forget It, Drive On!). Of course, none of us is a stranger to the pain of struggle. However, isn't part of the excitement of reaching our goals to look back at the obstacles that we overcame and the pain we endured? Said differently, our struggles often make our victory that much more satisfying and rewarding.

I do not profess any special wisdom in dealing with adversity, and I am certainly not qualified by trials I have endured. Like most people, I have had my fair share of difficulties. However, I know that pain, suffering, stress and other worries are the admission tickets to the

In the end, for many of us, we realize that adversity is a valuable part of life, as it is through our pain and suffering that we develop the mental capacity to endure the toughest battles. When the messenger of misery pays me a visit, I simply refer to this as an "ouch moment." Of course, the ouch hurts. It is frustrating. It is discouraging, but it is just an ouch that will most likely prove to be a valuable life lesson. Struggles are a beautiful thing, and we must believe that trials and hardships have a purpose. Let's carry our "black-and-blues" proudly!

Perhaps like you, I have more flaws, weaknesses, and vulnerabilities than I do care to admit and a list of failures as long as my arm. My private experience with pain was horrible, but in the end, all of it was necessary for my personal growth. I have had so many ouches that I consider myself a consummate "ouchmaster!"

I suggest that if we become "ouchmasters," we would view our setbacks and adversities in a significantly different light that would ultimately illuminate the path to our success. As "ouchmasters," we do not give up, because we know that the more ouches we receive, the more likely we are to reach our dream. This is not about being tough; it is about having passion and belief in ourselves. Speaking of tough, I have been labeled a tough person. However, this "accolade" could not be further from the truth. Frankly, I have only been in two fights in my life, and my younger sister won both!

Harry Pappas Jr. CFP® **Managing Director-Investments** Master of Science Degree Personal Financial Planning Certified Estate & Trust Specialist ™ Certified Divorce Financial Analyst $^{\mathsf{TM}}$ Pappas Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors 818 North Highway A1A, Ste 200 Ponte Vedra, Florida 32082 904-273-7955

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ABOVE: Radio Phillips performs at the Palm Valley Outdoors reception.



Palm Valley Outdoors Bar & Grill holds hospitality reception

Palm Valley Outdoors Bar & Grill hosted guests last Thursday, Nov. 2 for a hospitality reception that included food, cocktails and live music from Radio Phillips.

Located at 377 South Roscoe Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach, Palm Valley Outdoors Bar & Grill features the conveniences of takeout food, fishing rentals, kayaking, paddle boarding and shopping in one place.



CENTER LEFT: Palm Valley Outdoors event coordinator Angela Phillips and owner Toni

LEFT: Guests arrive at the **Palm Valley Outdoors** reception via boat.

Photos by Ed Johnson

Brightmove

Thanks to Brightmove's Essential plan, Perton has provided a transparent experience for applicants (a goal that led to the founding of TalentYeti) because it gives candidates the ability to monitor their status during the hiring process. The platform also allows job seekers to get real-time feedback.

Businesses can better utilize social media

through the ATS. The software includes SMS texting integration (both inbound and outbound) and the capability to share job URLs with just one click. For long-distance recruits, Brightmove uses a third-party company called Spark Hire for video interviews.

TalentYeti's CEO said Brigtmove's features resemble Hootsuite's social media platform in that they allow recruiters to hit several social media outlets with the push of one button.

For more information on Brightmove, call (904) 861-2396 or visit www.brightmove.com. If you or your business is in financial trouble, I can help. Seriously, it's what we do.



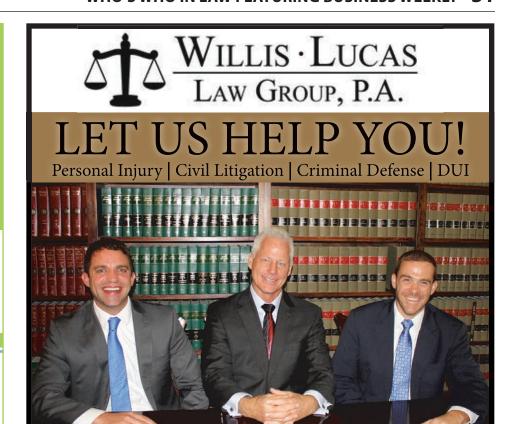
Rob Wilcox Attorney & Founder

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R. Scott Costantino Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer

The Costantino Law Firm, P.A. 6 East Bay Street, Suite 304 Jacksonville, FL 32202 Telephone: (904) 355-3023 Facsimile: (904) 355-3026 www.costantinolawfirm.com scott@costantinolawfirm.com



Scott Costantino is Board Certified by the Florida Bar in Civil Trial Law. He is also Board Certified in Civil Trial Advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. He has received an AV rating from the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory and has over 28 years' experience in civil trial practice.

Mr. Costantino has been elected as a Fellow of the International Society of Barristers. He is also a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and was selected as the ABOTA~Jacksonville Chapter's Lawyer of the Year for 2012. He was President of the ABOTA~Jacksonville Chapter for 2015.

Mr. Costantino has been selected by his peers for inclusion in the publication The Best Lawyers in America. The Costantino Law Firm, P.A. has also been named a Tier 1 firm in Jacksonville by U.S. News - Best Lawyers® "Best Law Firms" for 2018. Mr. Costantino has also been selected for inclusion in Super Lawyers magazine.

The Chester Bedell Inn of Court has designated Mr. Costantino as a Master of the Bench. He has also been named a Life Member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum.

Mr. Costantino represents clients in complex personal injury matters, including wrongful death, professional liability as well as car, trucking, and bicycle accident cases. Mr. Costantino received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Florida. He is the managing shareholder of The Costantino Law Firm, P.A.



Diane Brann and Ellen Taylor

Hilton Garden Inn hosts 'Chamber After Hours' in Ponte Vedra Beach

Local business and community leaders networked and enjoyed refreshments by the pool at the "Chamber After Hours" reception hosted by Ponte Vedra's Hilton Garden Inn Oct. 25. The event, held for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, was catered by Sawgrass Events, and was also sponsored by Mosquito Squad of Greater Jacksonville and Ponte Vedra.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Lois Remolde and Tina Biron



Gloria Dongara and Dr. Rob Karol



Carol Maurer, Nikol DeWoody and Ted Hayes



Ricki Taylor and Ponte Vedra Beach Division **Director Toni Boudreaux**



Cecile Browning Nusbaum









Chamber of Commerce gives out 2017 Business Leadership Awards

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce has recognized several members of St. Johns County's business elite for their participation in strengthening the local business community.

■ Cecile Browning Nusbaum, of Old City Web Services, was named the Chamber Member of the Year. Browning Nusbaum was recognized for her efforts in the wake of hurricanes Matthew and Irma and for her leadership of the Chamber's Historic St. Augustine Area Council, which serves downtown businesses.

"Immediately after Hurricane Matthew (Browning Nusbaum) went door-to-door to help us assess the damage, and to talk with business owners about what they need," said Isabelle Rodriguez, Chamber president and CEO.

In response to what people needed, she and her staff created the Shop St. Augustine Campaign to help get customers back into downtown businesses. In addition, Rodriguez said the Chamber council she leads consistently educates the downtown businesses about the issues that are relevant in their area.

"Any recognition she receives — including this one — is wellearned," said Rodriguez.

■ Jason Barrett, of Flagler Hospital, was named the Fred

Schroeder Economic Development Council (EDC) Member of the Year. He received the award for his role on the EDC Council and for his leadership of the Public Policy Committee. Victor Raymos, who chaired the EDC during the last fiscal year, said Barrett's focus on long-term success and his ability to collaborate have been integral for the Chamber's EDC at an important time.

"Flagler Hospital is a great community partner," said Raymos. "After working with (Barrett) for the past year, I suspect that is a reflection of their leadership and staff, and there is no better example of that

than (Barrett)."

■ Michael Scine, of Scine & Scine CPAs, received the President's Award in honor of his service to the Chamber's businessfocused mission. Scine's work with staff and his service to several committees earned him his place in the awards ceremony, according to Rodriguez. Scine, a former Chamber chair whose first leadership position in the Chamber was as a ribbon cutting coordinator in the Ambassador Program, has served in many different capacities.

■ Marty Lewis, of Money Pages, was given the Gene Morse Ambassador of the Year

Award for the sixth time in his more than 15 years serving as an ambassador. Lewis has twice served as the ribbon cutting ceremony coordinator and is currently the ambassador chair while serving on the Chamber's board of directors.

■ Matt Price, of Regions Bank, received the Grace Hayes Ambassador of the Year Award. (Haves was the PVR editor who passed away in January of 2009.) Cathy Johnston, the Chamber board of directors immediate past chair during Branded 2017, said Price exemplifies professionalism and is a great example of a team player.

Watson Realty brokers graduate from leadership program

Three Watson Realty Corp. brokers have graduated from Leading Real Estate Companies of the World's (LeadingRE) MAESTRO Leadership Certification program.

Dianne Pittman, vice president/managing broker of the St. Augustine office; Mary Ann Bongiorno, vice president/managing broker of the Ponte Vedra office; and Mark Rosener, vice president/managing broker of the St. Johns office, were among nearly 30 real estate branch sales managers from top brokerages around the country participating in the program.

The program was created to address the critical industry need to develop talented and highly effective real estate leaders for the future, and only select applicants from LeadingRE member companies are accepted into the program.

Based on proprietary and validated research conducted by LeadingRE with 300 sales managers, the MAESTRO program encompasses three pillars of great office leadership, as determined by the research. It is the first program of its kind in the industry, with the goal of using science and art to establish and practice leadership mastery.

"The three leadership pillars of culture, people development and business growth from the Maestro



Jana Coleman, vice president of business solutions for LeadingRE; Mary Ann Bongiorno, vice president/managing broker of Watson Realty Corp. Ponte Vedra; Mark Rosener, vice president/managing broker of Watson Realty Corp. St Johns; and Dianne Pittman, vice president/managing broker of Watson Realty Corp. St. Augustine, gather at the LeadingRE Maestro Leadership Certification program.

program have strengthened my leadership skills tremendously," said Rosener. "This program is iust one more example of the value of Leading Real Estate Companies of the World. I brought back so many concepts, skills and insights that will benefit not only my leadership productivity but the productivity of my entire team."

LeadingRE's Chief Learning Officer Mike Staver is the lead instructor, with additional faculty including Dean of Innovation Matthew Ferrara, REAL Trends President Steve Murray, Long Realty CEO Rosey Koberlein, and other brokers and colleagues from various industries.

Participants attended three

live sessions held at LeadingRE's Chicago headquarters that included lectures and interactive workshops incorporating "real life" exercises, case studies and group activities. Ongoing support from staff and fellow participants ensures continued engagement and measurable results from the program.

"We are delighted to have such an accomplished group of professionals graduate from our MAE-STRO Leadership program," said LeadingRE President/CEO Pam O'Connor. "Their commitment to enhancing their leadership and coaching skills so they can take their agents and offices to even higher performance levels is commendable, and we congratulate them on this achievement."

Pittman, Bongiorno and Rosener were among a prestigious group of participants from 14 states across the U.S. Graduation took place on the last day of the program with each participant being recognized individually for his/her commitment and accomplishment of the program.

Watson Realty Corp. is the Northeast Florida representative of LeadingRE (www.LeadingRE. com). With a global membership that spans six continents, LeadingRE connects more than 565 firms and 130,000 sales associates who produce over 1.1 million real estate transactions each year.

Mattamy Homes announces opening of sales in Riverside

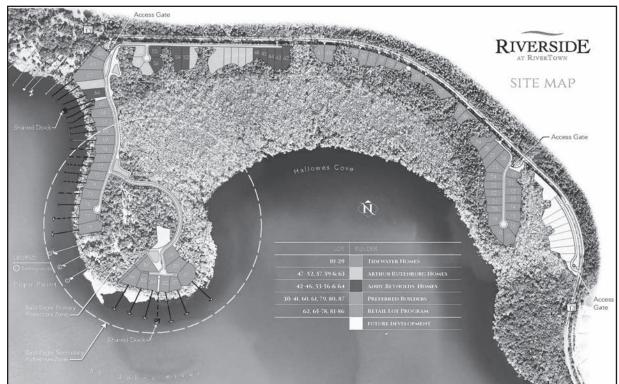


Photo courtesy of Mattamy Homes

Mattamy Homes recently announced the opening of sales in Riverside, an exclusive gated community situated on the banks of the St. Johns River within RiverTown, a Mattamy Homes community.

"We are proud that Mattamy has experienced tremendous success in RiverTown and grateful that our community has been so well received," said Jason Sessions, vice president of land acquisition and development for Mattamy Homes, the developer of Riverside. "With the early response to Riverside as a clear sign of strong customer interest, we look forward to working with custom home buyers in this special luxury neighborhood.'

Riverside features 78 homesites with river or preserve views. The community also offers riverfront sites with dock permits and homesites framed by mature oak canopies. Riverfront homesites start from \$440,000.

The Riverside builder team includes Andy Reynolds Homes, Arthur Rutenberg Homes and Tidewater Homes. Buyers may also contract with their own builder to bring their vision to realty.

Riverside residents will enjoy the nearby scenic Riverfront Park, which features walking and cycling trails that wind along the riverfront. There are piers and lookouts for fishing or relaxing by the water and a kayak launch, making it easy

Legacy Trust Family Wealth Offices promote Natalie Johns, James Tronti

Kristin McLauchlan, chairman and chief executive officer of Legacy Trust Family Wealth Offices, recently announced the promotions of Natalie Johns to associate director and relationship manager, and James Tronti to portfolio management associate.

Promoted from her previous position of relationship manager coordinator, Johns has been with Legacy Trust for three years. In her new role, she will work closely with the company's investment and operations staff to guarantee clients' financial, tax and estate planning needs are met in a holistic way. She will also work closely with Legacy Trust's "second generation" clients, helping to craft budget and savings goals post-college and pre-retirement. A Florida native, Johns received her bachelor's degree from the University of North Florida in political science, and in November will obtain her MBA with a concentration in finance through American Military University.

As portfolio management associate, Tronti will assist in various areas of managing clients' investment accounts. He is largely responsible for ensuring the



Natalie Johns

portfolios are in line with target allocations, executing the trades necessary to raise cash for distributions and bringing the different funds back in line with goal weightings. Tronti is also involved in maintaining the data for performance reports and making sure transactions match up and the reports are displaying accurate figures to present during client meetings. A Ponte Vedra Beach native, Tronti received his bachelor's degree in psychol-



Photos courtesy of Legacy Trust

James Tronti

ogy from Florida State University.

'We are deeply committed to our staff and want to ensure that when they bring their talents to Legacy Trust, they are rewarded with a work environment that supports their growth and their future goals," McLauchlan said. "Natalie and James represent our brand and our clients in such a positive way, and the board and our management team are grateful to have them as part of Legacy Trust."

Riverside

to get out on the river.

While Riverside residents are not part of the RiverTown community development district, the unique opportunity to purchase into the RiverTown CDD and gain access to the community's amenities, including the RiverHouse Amenity Center and RiverClub, is available.

The RiverHouse Amenity Center includes a kid-friendly zero-entry recreational pool with a corkscrew slide, a junior-sized Olympic lap pool, lighted tennis courts, a stateof-the-art fitness center and much more. RiverTown has a full-time social programming director who plans fun events and activities for residents of all ages.

The RiverClub, the community's new riverfront amenity center, will open in early 2018. Located directly on the St. Johns River, The River-Club will feature an expansive clubhouse, zero-entry resort-style pool, playground, boardwalk with breathtaking river views, additional kayak launch, amphitheater and more. RiverTown is located within the St. Johns County School District.

For more information, visit, www. RiverTownFlorida.com.

SUZANNE W. GREEN, P.A.

ATTORNEY AT LAW CERTIFIED FAMILY LAW MEDIATOR



Suzanne W. Green has been practicing law since 1987 and is a former prosecutor with the Duval County State Attorney's Office. Suzanne W. Green has been in private practice since 1990 and has managed her own firm since 1997. Suzanne also attained higher level degrees in business related fields prior to attending law school. Suzanne is also active in the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and was recently elected as Chairman of our St. Augustine - St. Johns County Airport Authority.

We welcome a new attorney to our firm, Ms. Erin Bowden, graduate of Florida State University and University of Akron School of Law.

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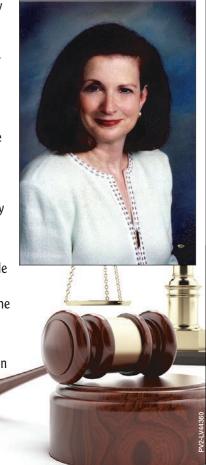
Carolyn S. Zisser, P.A. CAROLYN S. ZISSER limits her practice to family

law, providing solutions to the most complex family law problems and focuses exclusively on matters involving divorce, child custody, military family issues, modification of judgments and division of retirement plans and other assets.

Carolyn has been representing family law clients for more than 35 years. She continues to receive numerous accolades -- including an AV rating with Martindale- Hubbell, an AVVO rating of 10 (out of 10), inclusion in Super Lawyers and an appointment as Master of the Jacksonville Family Law Inn of Court.

Carolyn offers her clients an unequalled commitment to obtaining the best results possible and has been certified in Collaborative Law to enable her to offer her clients an alternative to the traditional approach to divorce.

The firm works with a network of professionals, including forensic accountants, business valuation experts, occupational evaluation experts, Certified Divorce Planners and other consultants, as needed. Carolyn is strongly dedicated to providing the finest representation to every client.



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TrailMark draws record attendance to fall festival celebration and community open house

More than 2,000 visitors recently attended the Fall Festival and Community Open House at TrailMark, the area's naturefirst community located just 20 minutes from Jacksonville in northern St. Johns County.

"We were overjoyed to welcome a record number of guests to our spectacular family-friendly celebration at TrailMark, and we look forward to welcoming many back again in the future," said GreenPointe Communities Marketing Director Gaynelle James. "The enthusiastic response we received made our Fall Festival and Community Open House an extremely rewarding experience for our team at TrailMark."

With a pumpkin patch, farmer's market with fresh fruits and veggies, the area's most popular food trucks and more, residents and guests celebrated the season and fall traditions. Kids enjoyed face painting, a slide and rock climbing wall, while others enjoyed live music from the popular band, Love Monkey. Many also visited TrailMark's amenities and toured the community's model homes.

"We are thrilled by the overwhelming positive response we received to our model homes and nature-inspired neighborhood as a whole," said James. "Trail-





Mark is a neighborhood where you can live life connected with nature and your community. If you didn't make it out to the Fall Festival and Community Open

House, we would love for you to visit TrailMark and experience our community's natural setting and unique charm."

With oak tree hammocks.

ABOVE: TrailMark hosts a recent Fall Festival and Community Open House.

LEFT: With a pumpkin patch, farmers market with fresh fruits and veggies, food trucks and more, residents and guests celebrate the season and fall traditions.

Photos courtesy of TrailMark

lakes, winding waterways and trails, TrailMark has been carefully planned around its natural environment and offers a recreation-rich lifestyle with

trails that connect residents with their neighborhood and a planned kayak launch to Six Mile Creek.

TrailMark is located within the St. Johns County School District and zoned for Nease High School, Pacetti Bay Middle School and Picolata Crossing Elementary School, which is adjacent to TrailMark.

TrailMark's builder team, which includes David Weekley Homes, D.R. Horton, Landon Homes, Providence Homes and MasterCraft Builder Group, offers a variety of single-family home designs to meet the needs of today's homebuyers. Homes range in size from approximately 1,500 square feet to more than 4,000 square feet. Four designerdecorated model homes are open daily, several move-in ready showcase homes are available and many more are under construction. Homes are priced from the \$200,000s to the \$500,000s.

TrailMark is located at 805 TrailMark Drive in St. Augustine. The community's proximity to Interstate 95, Jacksonville and St. Augustine offers residents access to entertainment, shopping, dining, employment centers and more.

For more information, visit www.TrailMarkLiving.com.

Beacon Lake announces opening of pre-construction sales

BBX Capital Real Estate, a division of BBX Capital Corporation, recently announced that pre-construction sales are underway at Beacon Lake, BBX Capital Real Estate's master-planned community in northern St. Johns County.

Dream Finders Homes and Mattamy Homes, Beacon Lake's exclusive phase one builders, are offering innovative home designs in the community's coastal vernacular architectural style.

"We are honored to share the charm of Beacon Lake with our esteemed builders, Dream Finders and Mattamy Homes," said Bruce J. Parker, managing director for BBX Capital Real Estate. "Beacon Lake is soon to be the most sought after community in Northeast Florida. Our signature architectural style, lake amenities and multi-purpose paths with 'stop-a-whiles,' will create a neighborhood lifestyle every homebuyer will appreciate."

At Beacon Lake, Dream Finders and Mattamy Homes are offering home de-



Rendering courtesy of BBX Capital Real Estate

Beacon Lake is located on the south side of County Road 210 between U.S. Route 1 and I-95.

signs ranging in size from 1,600 square feet to more than 4,000 square feet. Both builders are currently scheduled to open model homes in early 2018. Homes at Beacon Lake will be priced from the high \$200,000's to the \$500,000's.

Beacon Lake offers proximity to top-rated schools and many amenities, among other features. Anchored by a paddle friendly 43-acre lake, Beacon Lake will offer opportunities for outdoor and indoor recreation and fun. Residents will enjoy an expansive community clubhouse overlooking Beacon Lake with a half-mile view to the southern shoreline.

Plans for the clubhouse include spacious entertainment and dining areas inside as well as covered porches and a fire pit outside for relaxing and socializing. The Crew House will provide kayak, canoe and paddleboard storage and a launch area making it easy to enjoy Beacon Lake. In addition to a junior Olympic lap pool, kids of all ages will enjoy a splash park and fun pool, tennis courts and play fields. The fitness center is planned to offer cardio and strength training areas including aerobics, spinning, free weights and a yoga studio.

Located on the south side of County Road 210 between U.S. Route 1 and Interstate 95, Beacon Lake is near shopping, dining, employment centers and area beaches. The community is currently within St. Johns County Public School District. For more information on Beacon Lake, visit www.BeaconLake.com.



Princeton Review names UNF's Coggin College a top business school for 11th consecutive year

The Coggin College of Business at the University of North Florida is featured in The Princeton Review's 2018 edition of its annual guidebook, "Best 267 Business Schools," for the 11th consecutive year.

"This recognition is a testament to the outstanding faculty and staff in Coggin, the quality of our students, the relevance of our undergraduate and graduate programs and support from employers and corporate partners," said Dr. Mark Hawkins, dean of the Coggin College at UNF.

UNF has recently received several other national designations, including 2018 "Best in the Southeast" by Princeton Review, 2018 "Best Regional" University by U.S. News & World Report, 2018 "Best Colleges" by College Factual and the 2017 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award and Diversity Champion, both from Insight into Diversity magazine.

The Princeton Review tallied its list based on surveys of 23,000 students. The 80-question survey asked students to rate report on their experiences.

"We recommend UNF as one of the best to earn an MBA," said Robert Franck, Princeton Review senior vice presidentpublisher. "We chose the 267 schools in this book based on our high regard for their academics and our assessment of institutional data we collect from the schools."

Additionally, the Princeton Review described UNF as "the best school in Jacksonville" in its "Best 267 Business Schools" feature. In May 2006, Coggin College had two of its programs—Transportation and Logistics and International Business-selected as UNF flagship programs, due to the potential for them to draw talented students from around the world, tackle cutting-edge research projects and help solve problems facing today's businesses.

With more than 3,800 students, Coggin College's mission is to educate and develop business professionals through rigorous, accredited degree programs.



Brazilian steakhouse Fogo de Chão to open in Jacksonville Nov. 13

Southern Brazilian steakhouse Fogo de Chão recently announced that its newest location will be open for lunch and dinner Nov. 13 at the Strand at Town Center, located at 4784 Town Center Parkway. The Jacksonville restaurant will be the third Fogo de Chão location in Florida.

"We're thrilled to introduce our authentic Southern Brazilian culture and cuisine to the vibrant and exciting city of Jacksonville," said Larry Johnson, chief executive officer of Fogo de Chão. "Our guests in Jacksonville can expect the same exceptional experience that they would enjoy at our locations in Brazil."

The Fogo de Chão menu features a variety of fire-roasted meats expertly prepared and carved tableside by gaucho chefs. Favorites include ribeye, double-cut lamb chops, and house-specialty picanha, the most prized Brazilian steak.

Fogo Jacksonville will debut a new dinner menu offering three options.

■ Select Cut – One cut of fire-roasted meat, plus access to the market table and fejioada bar starting at \$29

- Brazilian Cuts Continual service of Fogo's most popular cuts, plus access to the market table, fejioada bar and Brazilian sides for \$42
- Full Fogo Experience Traditional prix fixe menu of all premium and classic cuts, plus access to the market table, fejioada bar and Brazilian sides for \$48.95

Fogo de Chão will also feature a wine list, an extensive craft cocktail menu and a dessert menu. The Jacksonville culinary team is led by head gaucho chef and general manager Marcio Welter, who grew up on a family farm in Santa Helena — a small town in the state of Santa Catarina, Brazil. His team of Brazilian-trained gaucho chefs butcher the meats in-house, roast them over an open fire and carve them tableside.

The new Fogo de Chão location will offer a dining experience for all ages. Children 6 and under can enjoy complimentary dining and ages 7 to 12 dine at half price. The restaurant will be open for lunch and dinner during the week, with brunch hours on Saturday and Sunday.

"I boldly challenge the government assault on your freedom and your future when it accuses you of a crime"

Malcolm Anthony, the Ponte Vedra Beach Criminal Defense Lawyer



Malcolm understands that each person he represents must enter an arena which expresses hostility to the accused and to his lawyer. Malcolm revels in challenging the status quo and standing with and for his client and the Constitution every time he passes through the swinging doors of the courtroom as advocate.

When you or someone you know has the unfortunate experience of being arrested or charged with a crime, and you want a lawyer who will not only be there for you to explain everything but who will not shy away from your cause but will forcefully enter the fray to challenge

the government and to advance your defense using his best professional skill honed from 34 years of courtroom advocacy, then call Malcolm Anthony.

Malcolm is your neighbor, living in Ponte Vedra Beach since 1988 and the beaches since 1964. He has been the local "go to" lawyer for Ponte Vedra Beach for over 23 years, since 1994 when he was the first lawyer to establish a Criminal Defense law firm in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Malcolm has served as a prosecutor in both Duval and St. Johns counties. He is a 34 year member of the Florida Bar.



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VISA DISCOVER

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty supports Pink Up the Pace

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently supported Pink Up the Pace, the largest 5K in St. Augustine. More than 2,300 runners and hundreds of volunteers, supporters and survivors took part in the ninth annual event, raising more than \$42,000.

'Our team enjoys the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to our community, especially if we can assist those in need or support a cause that is near to our hearts," said Ann King, broker/manager of the company's St. Augustine Beach and Murabella offices.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty's St. Augustine Beach office team members participated in the 5K as runners, walkers and volunteers. Broker Associate Shellev Trela also served as volunteer coordinator of the musicians who perform along the race route during the event.

"We appreciate the talented singers and bands who performed, as well as all of the supporters who came out to encourage the runners during the event," King said. "It is very rewarding to be involved with an event like Pink Up the Pace."

The Pink Up the Pace organization serves both women and men in an effort to raise money to help fund imaging services to detect breast cancer.

"Our team cares deeply about the community and is committed to com-



Photos courtesy of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

Rev. Art Williams and the St. Paul's AME church choir, one of the performers along the Pink Up the Pace race route

munity service," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Broker/Executive Vice President Christy Budnick. "Giving back to the community in which we live and work is an important component of our company culture."

The mission of Pink up the Pace is to have a positive impact on the lives of those affected by breast cancer in St. Augustine and St. Johns County. More information is available at www. pinkupthepace.com.

For more information about Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, visit www.FloridaNetworkRealty.com.



Emma Daisy, Shelley Trela and Heidi Pidcock

301 Capital **Partners** acquires new property in Duval, Nassau counties for \$27.5 million

301 Capital Partners paid \$27.5 million for 11,366 acres in Duval and Nassau counties, one of the largest residential land transactions in North Florida since the recession.

The property was formerly known as ICI Villages. The project is entitled for more than 11,000 residential units, 3,750 multi-family units, 750,000 square feet of commercial space and 300,000 square feet of office space. Site engineering will begin immediately, and construction is scheduled to commence in early 2020.

The acquisition is the result of two years of negotiations between 301 Capital Partners and the California-based owners of the ICI Villages.

301 Capital Partners is a partnership between North Florida developers BHK Capital and Roberts Land & Timber Investments.

For more information about this project, contact Jim Hissam at (904) 309-9977 or Austen Roberts at (386) 496-3509. BHK Capital's other projects can be viewed on their website bhkcap.com.

Ponte Vedra Rotary clubs gather for World Polio Day

Local business leaders and professionals in the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach and Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset gathered at Whiskey Jax Oct. 24 in Jacksonville Beach for World Polio Day.

Event guests celebrated Rotary International's efforts toward eradicating polio, as well as fellowship and networking. Guests watched a live stream of Rotary International's World Polio event co-hosted by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. They also participated in a raffle for prizes including YETI coolers and more. All proceeds from the event went toward ending Polio.



Irene Farwell, Cathy Stursburg, Sam Hall, Billy Wagner, Toni Boudreaux, Chris Hoffman and Wayne Gordon





ABOVE: Carol Maurer, Pat **Moffat and** Karen Adams

LEFT: Rob Langley stands next to the YETI cooler he won in the event's raffle.

Photos by

Ocean Course at Hammock Beach Resort reopens after 13-month restoration project

The Ocean Course at Hammock Beach Resort, a Jack Nicklaus Signature Design, re-opened last week after a 13-month restoration project.

The ceremonial event, attended by golf, tourism and elected officials, featured a first tee foursome consisting of Lee Elder, the barrier-breaking, four-time PGA TOUR winner; Tennis Hall of Famer Ivan Lendl; Brad Hauer, the resort's director of golf; and Paul Propis, vice president of the resort's board of governors and golf committee chairman.

The Palm Coast resort is managed by Salamander Hotels & Resorts — the luxury hotel company founded by Sheila Johnson — and is part of the Salamander Golf Collection.

Renowned for its six Atlantic Oceanhugging holes and closing stretch named "The Bear Claw," the Ocean Course has been closed since October 2016 after high winds and storm surge from Hurricane Matthew caused damage across the majority of its holes. The resort's owners and Salamander took a long-term view regarding conditioning and opted to conduct a complete course restoration in conjunction with Nicklaus Design.

Staying true to Nicklaus' design, the Ocean Course restoration has included the re-grassing of all fairways, greens and rough with the salt-tolerant Platinum Paspalum, as well as the reconstruction of each tee box, bunker and green complex.

High winds and storm surge caused by Hurricane Irma tested the new salt-tolerant grass, but resort spokespeople said the turf stood up well and the restoration project completion was only pushed back a few weeks.

"Today, the Ocean Course reclaims its position as one of the finest golf courses in the country," said Salamander Founder & CEO Sheila Johnson, who also serves as an executive committee member of the United States Golf Association. "The location is unique, the views are exquisite and the conditioning now matches the spectacular locale. We thank Lubert-Adler, the resort's owners, for its commitment to the game of golf, and are honored that the Ocean Course rejoins the rotation within our Salamander Golf Collection."

In addition to the Ocean Course, Salamander also re-opened its north course at Innisbrook Resort near Tampa Bay on Nov. 3 - just 24 hours later. The course, designed by Larry Packard, had been closed for four months due to renovation

As one of only a handful of courses in the Southeast U.S. to feature Platinum Paspalum, the Ocean Course's new surface features thick, short grass blades. Tolerant of all seasons, the grass is able to withstand seasonal temperature





changes, yet maintain a healthy year-

"By replacing Bermuda grass with the

salt-tolerant Platinum Paspalum, we now

some at the re-opening of the Ocean Course at Hammock Beach gathers. The group includes Paul Propis (from left), the resort's golf committee chairman: Lee Elder, the barrierbreaking, four-time PGA TOUR winner: Brad Hauer, Hammock Beach Resort's director of golf; and Tennis Hall of Famer Ivan Lendl.

Photo courtesy of Gregory Heck

LEFT: The Ocean Course at Hammock Beach Resort is known for its six Atlantic Ocean-hugging holes and closing stretch named "The Bear Claw."

Photo courtesy of Ryder Haske

offer golfers one of the purest surfaces in the game," said Brad Hauer, director of golf at Hammock Beach Resort. "And, in addition to improved playing conditions

for golfers of all levels, the views of the Atlantic Ocean are simply incredible."

The Ocean Course originally opened in April 2000. While the integrity of the original design never changed throughout the restoration process. New forward tees have been added to each hole, allowing the par 72 course to play as short as 4,100 yards, but retain a challenging overall length of 7,201 yards from its back tees.

Hammock Beach's acclaimed Conservatory Course accommodated guests and members while the Ocean Course was closed for renovation.

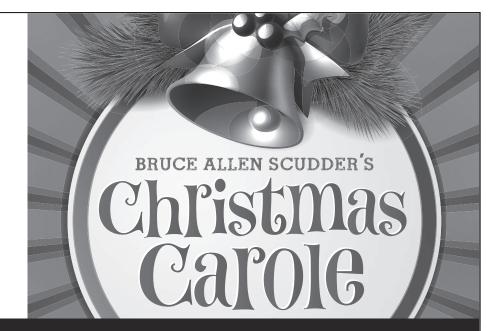
The Ocean Course restoration project followed a number of previous enhancements at Hammock Beach Resort, which recently renovated its grand lobby, refurbished all 15,000 square feet of indoor meeting and event spaces and re-opened its signature restaurant: The Atlantic

In mid-November, the resort will launch its boutique accommodation option: The Lodge at Hammock Beach, which will offer an accommodation option overlooking the Ocean Course. It will feature 20 guest rooms, direct access to the beach and a VIP "Lodge Experience" service with amenities and a daily breakfast. The Atlantic Grille, which features an ocean view, is serving "Shore to Table" cuisine, highlighting local, freshly caught seafood. The restaurant is led by executive chef Kevin Luque.

Hammock Beach Resort is located just south of historic St. Augustine at 200 Ocean Crest Drive in Palm Coast; golf and social membership options are available. For more information, call Hammock Beach Resort at (866) 841-0287 or visit www.hammockbeach.com.



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Top to Bottom, Left to Right: Harris L, Bonnette Jr., Robert A. Dawkins, Anne Buzby-Walt & John F. (Buck) Fannin; Clay B. Tousey III, Mary A. Robison, Robert N. Miller, Marvin C. (Mark) Kloeppel & John E. Lawlor, III; Kateena Manners, W. Hamilton Traylor, Michael R. Leas, Michael W. Fisher, Clay B. Tousey Jr. & Beverly H. Furtick

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Sharks earn playoff spot with win over Creekside



ABOVE: Ponte Vedra's Zack King drives through a mass of Knight defenders for the Sharks' first touchdown of last Friday's game.

RIGHT: Ponte Vedra's Tommy Zitiello (17) and Duncan Van Kouteren (45) combine to block a Creekside punt.

Photos by Jerry and Chris Norton





Ponte Vedra's Jarrett Stepp goes in for a tackle against Creekside runner.

By Jerry Norton

Special to the Recorder

Ponte Vedra controlled its playoff destiny with an important 38-15 win on the road over the Creekside Knights Friday evening.

The good news is the win earned the Sharks a spot in the mysteriously complicated District 5A playoff picture. The bad news is the Sharks will play Godby, the No. 2 ranked team in District 5A-Region 1. And to make it more challenging, Ponte Vedra must travel three hours to Tallahassee for the game.

Against the Knights, Ponte Vedra kept its focus on the game at hand and won handily, scoring 24 second half points. Kyle Barker the talented, junior wide receiver — played a major role in the Shark offense, catching eight passes for 118 yards and a touchdown.

Running back Zack King — who is enjoying his return to play following a potentially seasonending hip injury earlier in the year — scored two of the Sharks' touchdowns. Touchdown catches by Jarrett Stepp and Rani Toma accounted for the other two Shark scoring plays.

The Shark defense showed it is ready for the postseason as well by making two more game-changing plays. Tommy Zitiello and Duncan Van Kouteren combined to block a Creekside punt. Then, Christian Herring intercepted a Knight pass to stop a Knight drive.

Special teams also made its share of contributions. Ponte Vedra successfully executed yet another onside kickoff following the team's third touchdown. Cole McCormick, as he has done several times this season, recovered the ball.

Ponte Vedra's punt team also found ways to make game-changing plays. In the first half, Riley Robbins' punt pinned the Knights deep when Zach Summers downed the ball at the Creekside 4-yard line. Robbins, who converted all five point after attempts, added three more points to his team-leading point total with a 23-yard field goal in the third quarter.

The District 5A Region 1 playoff schedule for Nov. 10 has No. 1 ranked West Florida (Pennsacola) slated against eighth ranked Rickards. No. 4 ranked Ribault plays No. 5 ranked Wakulla. No. 3 ranked Trinity Christian plays the sixth ranked Bolles Bulldogs, and the seventh-ranked Sharks face No. 2 Godby.

Should the Sharks upset Godby, they would face the winner of the Bolles/Trinity matchup Nov. 17.

Panthers kept out of playoffs, but planning for future

Nease ended the 2017 season with a 56-21 loss to Bartram Trail last Friday, and the Panthers will miss the playoffs, thanks, in part, to the new playoff format.

The new system, which became effective this season, awards points based on several categories with a big emphasis on what it deems as strength of schedule. District champions from Class 5A to 8A receive an automatic bid to the playoffs and receive a 1 to 4 seed based on a new points system. Four wild cards will be taken from each region based on points following the conclusion of Week 11 to make up the 32-team field. Under the old playoff system, Nease likely would have made it to the Class 6A playoffs.

Nease coach Tim Krause hasn't been won over by the new playoff formula.

"I think the old system needed to be updated, however, there are too many variables in this system," he said. "I feel like we were a team that could compete in the playoffs and that we played a competitive schedule but were not necessarily rewarded for that."

The Panthers finished the season 5-5 overall and 3-1 in District 4-6A.

"Although it was an up and down season

record-wise, our kids battled in every game," Krause said. "Regardless of injuries, our kids and our staff adapted and found ways to compete. I finished the season really proud of the growth of so many of our kids."

Nease now shifts focus on next season, and Krause said the team will commit to its weight program and "making sure our younger kids are physically prepared to compete at a high level" during the offsea-

And the Panthers will have some big shoes to fill next season with the loss of several senior standouts, as well.

"We will definitely miss our seniors," Krause said. "Guys like Jareem Westcott, Ashton Wood and Zach Sheffer have led us for the last few years and will be hard to replace. We have a number of younger players we are excited about and are looking forward to seeing them work in the offseason program to fill those roles."

And Krause's fondest recollection of the season?

"The way our kids stayed together as a team this year and battled in every game," he said.



Photo courtesy of Jeff Heinemann/theimagecaddy.com

Nease running back Jareem Westcott is tackled by a Bartram Trail defender in last Friday's game. Westcott finished the season with 1,519 rushing yards.

The Ponte
Vedra
High
School
girls volleyball
squad
huddles
up during
its recent
match
with
Santa Fe.

Photo by Mae Logue



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OPEN HOUSE DATES

Lower School (PreK-5)
Open House for Parents

Ponte Vedra Beach Campus Nov. 28, 2017 at 6 p.m.

Lower School (PreK-5)
Open House for Parents

Whitehurst Campus Nov. 14, 2017 at 6 p.m.

Upper School (9-12) Open House for Parents

San Jose Campus Nov. 10, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. San Jose Campus Dec. 8, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. San Jose Campus Jan. 5, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. San Jose Campus Feb. 2, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

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PV2-LV44375

Ponte Vedra volleyball advances to Class 6A state semifinals

By Mae Logue

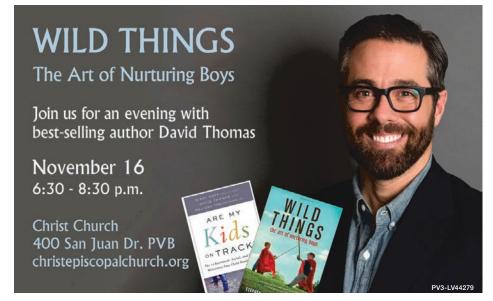
The Ponte Vedra High School girls volleyball team is heading to the Class 6A state volleyball semifinals after defeating Fivay High School 3-2 on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

The team will now travel to Jacksonville on Saturday, Nov. 11 to play Bishop Kenny in the semifinal contest. The Sharks beat the Crusaders 3-0 last year to advance to the finals, where the team lost to Bishop Moore

Before beating Fivay on Tuesday, Ponte

Vedra defeated the Santa Fe Raiders 3-1 on Nov. 1 at the Shark Tank. Santa Fe won the first match 25-23. The score bounced back and forth between the two teams, with Ponte Vedra leading for most of the match. But ultimately Santa Fe pushed ahead in the last two minutes.

In match two, Ponte Vedra rallied and scored point after point thanks to consistent serving by sophomore Logan Mignerey and defeated Santa Fe 25-10. With high spirits, the girls sailed through the last two matches and won 25-18 and 25-17, respectively.





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48TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RECORDER

The Recorder celebrates 48th anniversary

On Nov. 7, the Ponte Vedra Recorder celebrated its 48th anniversary as the community's newspaper of record. Join the Recorder in reflecting on its long-standing commitment to the community by checking out these leaders who are no longer with us today. various covers and articles from the past several years. We also take this opportunity to remember a few of the Recorder's former

Thanks again to all of you for your continued support! We wouldn't be able to celebrate this milestone without you!



For a look back at more of the Recorder's 48 years, go to Page 44





48TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RECORDER



The Recorder's 1996 and 1997 PLAYERS Championship guides



A special section on Mikhail Gorbachev sponsored by The Ponte Vedra Federated Republican Women's Club



A Recorder article from 2001 spotlights Gen. Paul Tibbets' address to the Ponte Vedra Federated Republican Women's Club on dropping the atomic bomb.



Goldie Hawn graces the cover of the Ponte Vedra Recorder.



The Ponte Vedra Recorder's 2000 primary election voter guide



The Ponte Vedra Recorder's 1997 dining directory



The 1999 edition of FYI, the Recorder's former newcomer's guide



A first publication of the Ponte Vedra Recorder in 1969



A special section on the Ponte Vedra Federated Republican Women's Club

FORMER LEADERS



ABOVE: A 1997 tribute on former Ponte Vedra Recorder publisher Tim Bradford

RIGHT: Ponte Vedra Recorder co-founder **Peggy Bradford**





A 2009 cartoon published in the Recorder memorializes Grace Haves, the former editor of the paper who died that year after a battle with cancer.

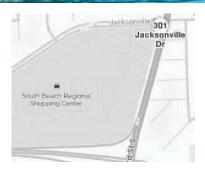
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Hey Kids ... Send your letters to Santa

Santa has asked the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber to put special mailboxes in Ponte Vedra Beach so he receives letters from all the children.

Dec	ır Santa,	33	
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		Mailbo	oxes in
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		After tha	at, San
		will be	e busy!
SA			
	Sincerely,		
		AGE:	

DROP-OFF AT SANTA MAILBOX LOCATIONS:

Ponte Vedra Recorder Office (inside) 1102 A1A N., Unit 108 Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 Sawgrass Village (located outside near Nona Blue) 215 Tourside Drive Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 Ponte Vedra Recorder · November 9, 2017 LETTERS TO SANTA 47

Santa's mailbox to accept letters at Sawgrass Village and Recorder office

Letters mailed to Saint Nick will receive responses

By Jon Blauvelt

First Coast children seeking to send their Christmas lists to Santa Claus may drop them off at Santa's mailbox located near Nona Blue in Sawgrass Village and at the Ponte Vedra Recorder office.

Letters mailed between Nov. 15 and Dec. 15 will receive a response from Santa thanks to a special arrangement the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce made with the North Pole.

"I have asked the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce to help me out by collecting your letters in this special mailbox," Saint Nick said. "No need for a stamp, but if you would like me to respond to your letter, please include your return address on the envelope.

"The nice folks at the Chamber will



The Recorder

Mailbox for letters to Santa at Sawgrass Village.

be collecting letters for me up until Dec. 15," added Santa. "After that, I will be too busy to respond because I will be

preparing for my busy night on Christmas Eve. I look forward to reading your letters!"



St. Johns County Parks and Recration to host phone calls from Santa

St. Johns County Parks and Recreation is hosting phone calls from Santa this holiday season for children 8 years old or younger, or those who still believe. Santa will make his phone calls between 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. from Dec. 5 through Dec. 7. Parents must register children by Dec. 2 by downloading a registration form from www. sjcfl.us/youthactivities and faxing it to (904) 209-0321 or emailing it to jjbratovich@sjcfl.us. For more information, call (904) 209-0386.

Some secrets on writing letters to Santa

At the tip of the North Pole resides a jolly man who collects letters from children asking him to deliver all of their hearts' desires

Although Santa Claus does a thorough job of making sure children's treats are delivered on the same night, sometimes he needs assistance with reading and responding to the thousands upon thousands of letters sent to him each year. That is why he often relies on an extensive list of helpers to handle much of his holiday correspondence.

According to Smithsonian, the practice of writing to St. Nick dates back more than 150 years. Early depictions of Santa show him as a disciplinarian. The first Christmastime Santa letters were actually sent by Santa, rather than the other way around. Such letters encouraged children to be good boys and girls. Eventually, an illustration by Thomas Nast depicted "Santaclaussville, N.P." as Santa's address, providing children with a place where they could send their correspondences to the big guy in red.

The Universal Postal Union, an intergovernmental organization that coordinates postal

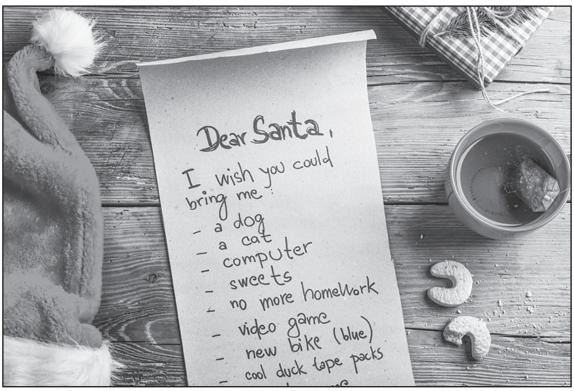


Photo courtesy metrocreativeconnection.com

policies across 192 member nations, indicates that 1,350,000 letters to Santa were sent by Canadians, while Americans sent more than one million and Britains mailed roughly 800,000 such letters in 2012, the most recent year from which figures are available. To account for the staggering number of letters

sent, various post offices and postal programs were established to help Santa with the task of tackling children's wish lists

In 2016, the USPS instituted a new letter-writing option that enables parents or guardians to include a personalized response letter back to children who address letters to Santa. The package can be postmarked to: North Pole Postmark Postmaster, 4141 Postmark Drive, Anchorage, AK 99530-9998.

Many other letters to Santa end up routing to various post offices where thousands of volunteer "elves" can adopt letters and make children's wishes come true. A "Letters to Santa" program enables children in serious need to get items that can help keep them safe and happy.

Parents may also investigate a number of services that will provide letters from Santa, Mrs. Claus or elves for nominal fees. These letters can be personalized with details. Santa has even gone high-tech with personalized videos and pictures as well. A quick web search can yield the instructions on how prospective helpers can get started.

Children can improve their chances of letters being read and received, with these tips.

- Identify who is writing the letter and share some details about your life.
- Make sure you've been nice and well-behaved.
- Ask Santa how he has been and engage in some polite conversation.
- Politely ask for the toys you'd like. Understand that Santa is busy, so keep the list brief
- Thank Santa in advance for his kindness. Hopefully, he'll have time to reply.
- Write and mail the letter as early as possible, as things tend to get busy as Christmas nears.

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PV3-LV44271

Landrum Lions fall to Liberty Pines Wolves in playoffs

By Troy Hilbert

Special to the Recorder

The Landrum Middle School Lions fell 28-8 to the Liberty Pines Academy Wolves in the first round of the St. Johns Middle School Athletic Association (SJMSAA) playoffs last Wednesday, Nov. 1.

Lions coach Todd Fordham and his staff had high hopes for the game, as the Lions have been making marked progress each week. The players gave a valiant effort. The game was in their grasp, but it was not to be.

Captains Joel Dearie, Luke Pirris, Evan Fleisher and Bobby Kegley squared off at midfield for the coin toss. The Wolves won the toss and opted to receive the ball for the opening kickoff.

Will Henne's onside kick was recovered by the Wolves on their own 36-yard line. The Wolves' opening play was a quarterback keeper left to the weak side. Their star player ran the play 64 yards for a touchdown. With a successful two-point conversion, the score was 8-0 with only 15 seconds off the clock.



Photo by Erin Marie Stehl of Stehl Photography

A Landrum ball carrier weaves his way through Wolves defenders.

The Wolves' subsequent onside kick was recovered by Riley Fowler at the 50-yard line. The Lions' opening drive would be brief as the Wolves took over on downs at their own 43-yard line after only one series. The Wolves' second possession was stopped short. The Lions answered the early touchdown by stopping the Wolves' star player with tackles by a host of players, including Cooper Fordham, Conrad Vent and Nathan Stehl-Obi.

The Lions' second possession promised to even the score as they drove the ball down to the Wolves' 6-yard line on a quarter-back keeper to Mason Flores off the weak side. With first-and-goal inside the 10-yard line, the Lions were certain to score. The series ended with the Lions turning the ball over on downs at the Wolves' 4-yard line.

The next play by the Wolves would take advantage of the deflated Lions, with their star

quarterback running 96 yards for his second touchdown of the day. The two-point conversion failed, and the score was 14-0.

The Lions could not answer after the touchdown and turned over on downs. The Wolves took advantage of the still shocked Lions and put up another six points after a broken pass play was turned into a 70-yard scramble through the Lions' defense by their star player. The two-point conversion was good, and the score was 22-0 at the half.

To start the second half, the Lions received the onside kick at their own 40-yard line. The next play, Mason Flores connected with Nathan Bunkosky on a 60-yard pass for a Lions touchdown. The two-point conversion pass was good, making the score 22-8 just after the half.

It looked as if the Lions may still be able to change the momentum of the game. The Wolves received the kickoff and returned it to their own 38-yard line. After one series, the Wolves' MVP quarterback kept the ball up the middle for a 40-yard touchdown. The

two-point conversion was denied by a rare one-on-one tackle on their star by Michael Hilbert. The score was then 28-8.

The Lions would make two more valiant attempts at scoring with strong runs by Fleisher and a broken 35-yard pass play on fourth-and-7 to Hilbert in the end zone, which was thrown into double coverage and intercepted by the Wolves' star player on defense. The Lions played to the end and held the Wolves to just six points in the second half, but were unable to close the scoring gap with touchdowns of their own. The game would end with a 28-8 score.

Coach Fordham, in his final words to his players, emphasized how they had closed the gap on becoming a better team from the first game to now. He told them this game was within their grasp if they believed they could win. The game was certainly closer than the score showed. All season long the team motto was, "Keep digging." Next year it may very well be, "Believe you can win, and you will."

Marsh Landing Women's Golf Association (WGA) holds member-member tournament

The Marsh Landing Women's Golf Association (WGA) held its member-member tournament Oct. 31 and Nov. 2. The format was better ball of the twosome, aggregate two-day scoring.



Helen Shor

Helen Short and Betty Jean O'Steen won the low gross with a score of 171. Peggy Reale and Isobel Spink took home the low net with a score of 137. Leigh LeMoyne and Karen Wehle finished second in the low

net with 138, and Alison Kusch and Dottie Hall finished third with a score of 140.



Alison Kusch and Dottie Hall



Peggy Reale and Isobel Spink



Leigh LeMoyne and Karen Wehle

PALMER CATHOLIC GIRLS WIN BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



The Palmer Catholic Academy varsity girls basketball team celebrates after winning the championship against Assumption Catholic School at Bishop Snyder High School Oct.

30. Led by coach William Mayer, Palmer ultimately won the game 18-16 and finished the season with a 14-1 record. Laine Gray was named the championship's MVP.

Photo provided by Kristen Gray



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KEEPING UP

By Barbara Boxleitner

Special to the Recorder

Briggs Hurley has been recognized for his soccer play.

The Principia College senior midfielder was named to the All-St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference second team. The Ponte Vedra High School graduate started each of the 16 games he played and finished with one goal and three assists.

More men's soccer

University of North Florida's **Josh Castellanos** was named to the All-Atlantic Sun Conference second team. The Allen D. Nease graduate finished with four goals, including a team-best two game winners, in starting 13 of the 15 games he played. He was named the conference player of the week Oct. 30 after scoring three times in

two games.

Pavan Ramachandria started one of the five games he played for Rhodes College. The freshman forward played for Nease.

Baseball

Justin Smith batted .250 in 33 games for the Atlanta Braves' Danville affiliate. Out of Bartram Trail, Smith hit three home runs and drove in 11 runs for the rookie club. The outfielder participated in the organization's fall instructional league.

Men's swimming

Saint Leo University junior **Clayton Howerton** won the 200-yard backstroke against Rollins College. The former Bartram Bear placed third in the 200 freestyle and 200 individual medley.

Nease graduate **Carmine Raimondi** is a Skidmore College freshman specializing in the freestyle and butterfly.

Women's cross country

Sydne Grier finished fifth among Florida International University's entries at the Conference USA Championship. The Bartram Trail graduate finished the 5K in 19 minutes, 39.73 seconds.

Women's swimming

Centre College sophomore **Cat Gleason** placed second in the 1,000 freestyle against University of the Cumberlands. The Ponte Vedra Beach native was third in the 500 freestyle.

Lafayette College sophomore **Emily Benson** was seventh in the 200 butterfly against Loyola. The former Shark was seventh in the 500 freestyle.

Denison University sophomore **Samantha Price**, who competed for the Sharks, finished sixth in the 200 butterfly against Eastern Michigan.

Send updates about area athletes to Barbara Boxleitner at jdanddoc@gmail.com.

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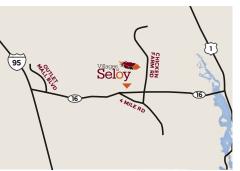
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JAGA Scholarship Golf Classic raises more than \$17,000

The Jacksonville Area Golf Association (JAGA) raised more than \$17,000 at its 15th annual Scholarship Golf Classic on Oct. 30 at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. The event, which was sponsored by Nader's Pest Raiders, featured 87 golfers participating in a four-man scramble on a day that started out chilly but gave way to a beautiful, cloudless North Florida

The money raised supports JAGA's Scholarship Trust program, which currently provides financial aid to 27 students who attend 15 different colleges in Florida and elsewhere. Since the trust was formed in 1974, JAGA has awarded approximately \$1.7 million to more than 300 area students aspiring to earn college degrees.

Former JAGA president Adair Roberts (2014-15) of the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club chaired the event, with Randy Nader of Sawgrass Country Club serving as his co-chair. The event was launched by another former JAGA president, the late Bill Black (1993-94), and carries on in his

Joining Nader's Pest Raiders as patrons of the Classic were Dan and Brenda Davis, Gerri and John Hayt, Julie and Michael McKenny, Marty and Miles King, Cindy B. Bohn/CPA and the Roberts Family. In addition, there were 23 hole sponsors.

The gross and net prize-winning teams were:

Gross

1st — Duke Butler IV, Len Schonfeld II. Lon Schonfeld III, Jeff Adams 58 (-14) 2nd — Jerry Wood, Keith Kinsella, Bill Lassiter, Sidney Morris 59 (-13)

Net

1st — Jerry Wood, Keith Kinsella, Bill Lassiter, Sidney Morris 53 (-19)

2nd — Thomas Bozzuto, Jr., Rick Dunham, David Strohecker, Ryan Newton 57 (-15)

3rd — Randy Nader, Howard Mathues, Don Daniels, Lee D'Agostino 58 (-14)

4th — Jason Burhyte, Paul Corbett, Joe Eberly, Frank Cuteri 58 (-14)





ABOVE: Low gross winners Len Schonfeld III. Duke Butler IV, Len Schonfeld II and Jeff Adams

LEFT: Low net winners Bill Lassiter, Jerry Wood and Sidney Morris (Keith Kinsella not pictured)

Photos provided by Jeff Adams

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9 Kind of cola 13. Opening 14. ___ de Triomphe 15. Opposite of domesticated 16. Beer garden mug 17. Hula dancer's necklace 18 "Haste makes waste," e.g. 19. *Thanksgiving game day stars 21. *Peeps around the table 23. "But I heard him exclaim,_ drove out of sight ..." 24. Queen of Carthage 25. British broadcaster 28. Fungal spore sacs 30. Anary dispute 35. Rhine tributary 37. "Cogito, sum" 39. Did like a star at 40. Assortment 41. *Last float passenaer 43. Larger-than-life 44. Like a neon sign

53. Impose, as in tax 55. Rage

64. Small, olive-gray bird 65. Kind of printer

68. Donated livesaver 69. Born, in society

70. Child-eating mythology 71. Do this at a

72. Symbolized by elephant 73. Funny

DOWN

tion Set Computer 2. "Do ___ others...' 3. Hearty one-pot dish 4. *Squanto's Wampanoag, e.g

6 "Buffalo won't you come out tonight..."

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50. Plural of "forum" mouth 11. Same as cagey 52. State of no-12. Stout relative

57. *Star of the show on Thanksgiving 60. *"The Thanksgiving Sona" singer

67. Nose of a missile

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25. *_ variety wine stone 34. *Pumpkin alternative

4 5 Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every 15. Kate Hudson's "Almost __ 20. Those in favor 22. Sum it up 24. Make something seem worthy ___-breasted 26. Pop out 27. Prepare white 29. Pack like sardines 31 Lose one's coat 32. November birth-33. Get together

36. Dig like a pig

38. Bismarck's first

name

42. Courtyards 45. Non-scholarship player 49. "_ Spot run" 51. Palmer 54. Contending 56. *"Thanksgiving," poem by ____ Albert Guest 57. Michelin product 58. Strong desire _ harvest before giving thanks 60. Beehive basket 61. Stretched ride 62. Like a villain 63. Bona fide 64. Wedding promise, 66. "New" prefix

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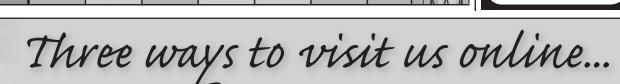
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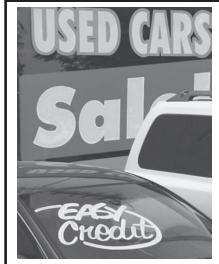
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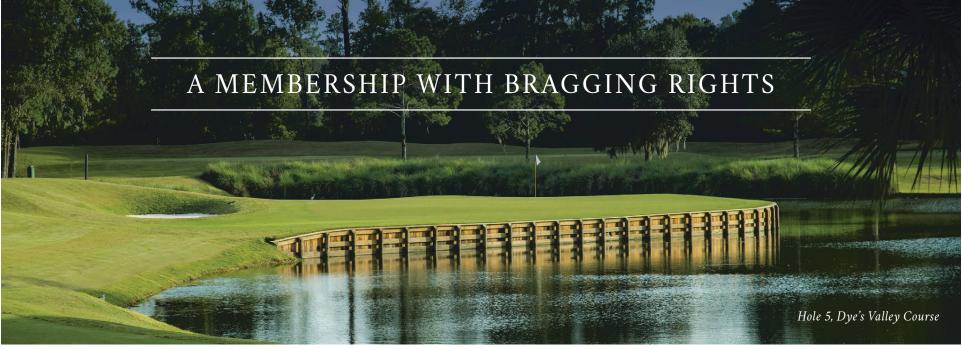
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Dye's Valley Annual Pass Family Membership, \$4,000

- Cart fee-only access to Dye's Valley Course
- Preferred rates on THE PLAYERS Stadium Course
- Exclusive access to Members-only dining and events
- And more!

