

Ponte Vedra Recorder



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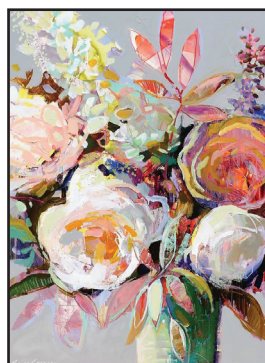
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Here's to
Healthcare
Pages 21-28



Business Weekly:
Featuring Tribute
to Realtors &
Builders
Pages 29-34



In the Arts
Pages 35-40



WIDEN A1A? NO WAY, RESIDENTS SAY

Photo by Jennifer Logue

Residents review Ponte Vedra and Palm Valley traffic improvements proposed in a draft study by the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization presented Tuesday evening at a standing-room-only meeting held at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. Read more on page 5

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COUNTDOWN TO THE PLAYERS

Active duty military to receive complimentary admission to THE PLAYERS

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The First Coast is home to more than 250,000 active-duty and retired military, and to show its appreciation THE PLAYERS Championship will once again provide complimentary and discounted admission to career military and veterans.

THE PLAYERS provides all career military – including active duty, Reserve, military retirees and dependents – with complimentary admission to the tournament throughout the week, while veterans receive discounted admission. Career military and veterans also receive access to the Birdies for the Brave® Patriots' Outpost – a hospitality tent reserved exclusively for the military that offers complimentary food, beverages and activities.

To receive a voucher for complimentary or discounted admission, visit THE-PLAYERSChampionship.com and click on the Tickets & Parking link.

Parking is not included in the complimentary or discounted ticket price. Parking passes may be purchased at <https://>

theplayersparking.clickandpark.com, or guests may take advantage of the "Four for Free" policy that provides free parking to cars with four or more passengers.

THE PLAYERS Championship 2017 will be held May 9-14 at the TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE OUTPOST

Regarding the April 20 article about Save Guana Now's preparations for hearings on The Outpost property, we're puzzled by Ponte Vedra Corporation Attorney Boulris' claim that residents opposed to the development have pressured the county to "change the rules." What rules was she referring to? Save Guana Now simply wants the existing rules enforced.

We have more examples of Ponte Vedra Corp. attempting to change the rules than can fit into a letter to the editor. 1. The land use category for The Outpost clearly identifies the use of the land as conservation, which means residential use is not permitted. 2. PVC has always been fully aware of the land use designation and the restrictions therein. 3. Residential is not compatible with

the land use of almost the entire land surrounding the Outpost, which is open space.

PVC not only changes rules, they rewrite history. Boulris claimed, "All PVC has ever asked for is a fair hearing in front of the county commission..." Really? That contradicts Boulris' admission that PVC sought an administrative interpretation from the county regarding the limits of the Conservation des-

ignation of The Outpost. This would have circumvented a public hearing if granted.

It's dizzying trying to keep up with PVC's changing of the rules and rewriting of history.

Nicole Crosby
Co-founder, Save Guana Now
Ponte Vedra Beach

TRAFFIC STUDY

A group of six people decided to do a traffic study of Ponte Vedra and Palm Valley so they could get onto A1A easier. Now, there is a movement to promote A1A to six lanes and intersections to five lanes at 10 intersections, starting with the Dolphin Cove-Marlin entrance, and nine

more south on A1A. In addition, the group is recommending sidewalk and bike lanes headed north.

Since none of the six live in a subdivision fronting A1A, it is easy to suggest the rest of us who do live just off A1A take the brunt of the suggestions.

Fine for you, bad for us.

This will create more problems than solve when we can't even get from one side of the road to the other. Our property values and mobile abilities are at risk.

Sending letters to the editor could be an excellent way of reaching out to all our

subdivision neighbors to put a halt to this expensive, and decidedly untenable, idea.

Barbara Weinburger
Dolphin Cove
Ponte Vedra Beach

The NFTPPO recently completed a traffic study for Ponte Vedra and Palm Valley. Although there are many valid suggestions we would benefit from adopting, there is one we would not. And that is making A1A six lanes.

Making A1A a six-lane roadway would seriously encroach on hundreds of homes and families, negatively affecting their quality of life and property values. It

would put pedestrians and bikers, who are crossing A1A heading to the beach, schools, stores, churches, etc., in an exponentially more dangerous situation. This, in turn, would encourage them to drive instead – which in turn would ironically increase traffic density.

And traffic experts have identified a phenomenon called "induced demand," which has been studied and documented

in England, Sydney, China and the United States. It demonstrates that adding or widening roadways doesn't actually lessen traffic, but actually adds to the congestion. Traffic engineers have a clever quote to better describe the concept: "Trying to cure traffic congestion by adding more capacity is like trying to cure obesity by loosening your belt."

Not to mention the mind-blowing

bottleneck we would have as we traveled northbound to Butler Boulevard and Jacksonville Beach.

Let's listen to the experts about induced demand and our logical observation skills and not waste our tax money on this foolishness.

Lisa Johnson Cook
Ponte Vedra Beach

A1A through Ponte Vedra should not be expanded to six lanes.

Ponte Vedra Beach is a seaside residential community known for its beaches, local shopping, resorts, golf courses and easy living. The North Florida Transportation Planning Organization publicly released its traffic study and recommendations on April 13, 2017 impacting this community. While some of the recommendations to expand turning lanes and safely enter and exit Route 210 on the

bridge over the Intracoastal will enhance traffic flow with minimal impact on the look and feel of our community, the recommendation of expanding A1A to six to eight lanes through Ponte Vedra Beach is an absurd recommendation in their quest to improve peak time traffic congestion.

There are several reasons this recommendation is not in the best interests of Ponte Vedra Beach or the surrounding communities. Studies show that expanding road size does not solve congestion –

it creates more. Increasing the number of through lanes causes a significant increase in the accident rate, and the accident rate actually decreases during peak rush hour on roads such as A1A. Lastly, expanding A1A will decrease property values in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Expanding A1A will not solve congestion problems, will increase traffic and accidents and lower property values. This congestion is limited to a few peak hours and it is caused by cut-through

traffic according to the traffic study. It does not make sense to build a permanent, expensive, offensive infrastructure as a flawed resolution to a problem caused by cut-through traffic occurring a few hours during the day.

We demand better and more community-focused solutions from our tax-supported public officials.

Jane Rollinson
Ponte Vedra Beach

I would like to submit my comments on the traffic study. While the study does have some good recommendations, particularly for intersections, I am appalled at the recommendation to increase A1A to six to 10 lanes.

Instead, it would have been much better for our community to add bike lanes and family-friendly intersections to safeguard and assist the existing community in that locale to access our wonderful resources. For example, many children and families utilize these roads and intersections to walk, ride, skateboard and bike in the area and to the beach. The creation of an eight to 10 lane obstacle course for them to cross A1A is absolutely dangerous! On

any weekend, and all through the summer, you will see scores of families dodging the existing traffic to get to the beach with rolling carts, surfboards and beach accoutrements – making A1A wider will make it nearly impossible and possibly deadly.

The additional congestion and noise from more lanes of traffic will also negatively impact the quality of life and home values of the local residents, some of whom have driveways directly onto A1A. The lovely look of this scenic highway with its palm trees and grassy medians should be enhanced – not cemented over so cars can roar by during the day and race by at night. Even further, additional police resources will be required to man-

age this traffic, representing an additional cost to the community.

Speaking of additional costs, the Ponte Vedra community is effectively funding the failure of the Nocatee developers in that Nocatee residents are utilizing A1A in Ponte Vedra to access JTB for jobs, education, shopping – while in fact those Nocatee residents should have those resources within their own community. It is wrong that the Ponte Vedra community has to pay for the construction of additional lanes to resolve the failure of the Nocatee and other developers in the establishment of Nocatee and other new communities.

Finally, the horrible recommendation

to increase A1A to six lanes (and up to 10 lanes at some intersections) will only be a temporary fix for traffic flow, since Nocatee is only partially built out and local developers are planning even more development and these roads will quickly fill up.

Instead, please put your thinking caps back on and develop other roads for Nocatee and the new communities, such as extending a road west to connect to Hodges at JTB – or better yet, do what was promised and develop jobs and schools in the Nocatee area, so these people don't have to connect with JTB and downtown.

Holly Kartsonis
Ponte Vedra Beach

Residents voice opposition to traffic study recommendations at packed community meeting



Photos by Jennifer Logue

A standing-room-only crowd packed the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall for Tuesday's traffic study meeting.

By Jennifer Logue

A standing-room-only crowd of local residents packed the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Tuesday night, with many attendees voicing their opposition to the key recommendations included in a new Ponte Vedra Palm Valley traffic study.

Organized by the Citizens Traffic Task Force (CTTF) to present the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization's (NFTPO) draft recommendations, the meeting began with an open house from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., during which attendees could watch a brief video summarizing the study's highlights, view blown-up photos of key intersections, ask questions and submit comments. That was followed by a formal presentation by NFTPO staff, who reviewed the report's key recommendations, which include widening portions of A1A to six lanes, adding a westbound off-ramp from the Palm Valley bridge to Roscoe Boulevard and replacing the Mickler roundabout with a signaled intersection.

While the meeting was the first formal presentation of the study's findings, it was clear from the public comments period that many of those in attendance had already read the report's recommendations and were there to express their opposition, particularly to any talk of widening A1A or Mickler Road.

"If they build it, they will come and I'm afraid if we make them wider, whoever is making a pathway through Ponte Vedra will only be encouraged by this," said Lee Gaul, a longtime Ponte Vedra resident who teaches at Ponte Vedra High School. "It seems to me the people at that roundabout — that long line in the morning — are not people who live here. They're not even people who work here. They are people who are cutting through

here.

"We keep talking about what a great community we have," Gaul continued. "That's because it doesn't look like Beach Boulevard. Why are we going to try to make it look like that?"

Odom's Mill resident Mario Dipola also expressed his opposition to removing the Mickler roundabout, which he said does a good job of keeping traffic moving.

"It's like the Haunted Mansion ride at Disney," Dipola said. "The line never stops."

Overdeveloped?

Throughout the course of the open house and formal meeting, attendees expressed the belief that rampant development has caused Ponte Vedra's traffic woes, with one word repeated numerous times: Nocatee.

At the start of the public comment section, Tonie Laliberte asked why a road couldn't be built west of the Intracoastal Waterway that would connect JTB to Nocatee, drawing a loud and sustained round of applause from the overflow audience.

"That may be easier said than done," Laliberte acknowledged. "The folks that own that right of way that would alleviate the congestion are also the folks that have profited handsomely from the Nocatee development itself. We have a great community — Nocatee is also a great community. I think we can find a solution that we can all live with here. But I'd like to knock on the Davis Family to see what they can come up with."

CTTF board member Greg Leonard suggested, however, that Ponte Vedra's traffic problems are more complex and deep rooted than the development of the relatively new Nocatee community.

"We have a perfect storm of growth

factors, and Nocatee is just one of them," Leonard told The Recorder.

Leonard noted that in the past three decades, the county's population has skyrocketed 400 percent while Ponte Vedra's demographics have shifted from a majority of retired couples to families with young children, putting more cars on the road.

"There's a whole litany of factors that, when taken together, have created the difficulties we're experiencing," Leonard said.

While those who spoke at the meeting expressed opposition to widening roads and replacing the roundabout, most acknowledged that Ponte Vedra has traffic issues that need to be addressed. Several residents described the difficulty they currently have entering and exiting neighborhoods located along A1A, such as Fairfield, Sawgrass Country Club and the Avalon neighborhood located near the on ramp to JTB.

"Cars are just flying by," said Michael

Switkes, an Avalon resident and president of the Ponte Vedra Community Association.



Ponte Vedra High School teacher Lee Gaul voices opposition to the proposed traffic improvements.

TRAFFIC continues on Page 7

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Since being named executive director of THE PLAYERS Championship in December, Jared Rice has been preparing for a 2017 tournament that will debut some significant changes to the Stadium Course.

Jared Rice

By Jennifer Logue

With less than two weeks to go until THE PLAYERS Championship, this must be crunch time for you. What is the main focus of your tournament preparations?

THE PLAYERS is the best fan experience in golf, and our team is constantly thinking like a fan and examining ways to improve what it means to attend the event. We have a talented team that is passionate, committed and competitive – all working together to produce the very best for our players, sponsors and fans.

You became executive director amid some of the biggest renovations and upgrades to the Stadium Course in the past decade. What has been the biggest challenge you've faced in getting ready for THE PLAYERS Championship 2017?

In the beginning, it was the transition period when I was still working both roles. We've since hired someone, so now I think it is maintaining the hectic schedule. Fortunately for me, I work with some great people who I trust to get the job done. All of us at the PGA Tour look at this as our "Super Bowl" and every employee has a part in making it the "Showcase of Excellence" it is.

What do you think will surprise returning visitors the most about the course changes?

Those who are familiar with the course will be extremely surprised and impressed with renovations that took place over the past year. The transformation of hole 12 into a drivable par 4 is by far the most obvious change on the course, followed by hole 6 and 7. New mounding throughout the course allows better viewing vantages for fans, and the openness we created really showcases the significance of the tournament.

You have an extensive background in sports marketing, having worked for everyone from the Anaheim Angels and Mighty Ducks to the Detroit Red Wings. Does a golf tournament present its own set of unique challenges in terms of marketing and promoting the event?

Like all sports, golf reaches a broad spectrum of demographics, so the marketing mix has to reflect that. Sports teams like the Anaheim Angels, and the Mighty Ducks, can focus most of their marketing efforts on local markets because that is their main fan base. Last year nearly 55 percent of ticket purchasers for THE PLAYERS came from outside the five-county area. That means we are constantly reshaping our marketing campaign to reach those national and international spectators. We see what worked, what didn't, and go from there.

What kind of economic impact does THE PLAYERS Championship have on Northeast Florida?

Half of our ticket purchases originate from outside Northeast Florida, and many of our regional hospitality partners are hosting guests nationally and internationally. In addition, we're seeing a greater number of national companies based outside of our region



PGA Tour Photo

activating at PLAYERS. Collectively, this means more out-of-town guests are coming to Northeast Florida and staying in our hotels, eating at top local restaurants and enjoying what makes our community so special. This has a great effect on our business environment and our ability to impact local charity – for which we generated \$8.5 million for Northeast Florida charities last year.

You're originally from New Hampshire. What is your favorite part of living on the First Coast?

Like many of the national and international guests attending the tournament, we discovered an amazing community that's active and vibrant. Not having snow on the ground six months a year helps that!

Traffic

Continued from 5



Tonie Liberte suggests that a road connecting Palm Valley Road to JTB be built on the west side of the Intracoastal Waterway.

Making A1A three lanes along that stretch without adding a stoplight, Switkes fears, would only exacerbate the problem and encourage drivers to go faster.

“They just built 28 houses in my neighborhood,” he said. “They need to slow people down, not make it three lanes.”

Resident Kathy Buttner, meanwhile, noted that prior to moving to Ponte Vedra, she had lived in Long Island, Boston and California.

“I spent a big percentage of my life sitting in traffic,” she said. “I felt safer driving in those places than here, with all the tailgating. I saw three cars in a row texting while driving over the Palm Valley bridge.”

Despite the negative reception to many of the traffic study’s recommendations, meeting attendees thanked both NFTPO and CTFP representatives for the time they had invested in studying the issue. Residents also offered their own suggestions for addressing local traffic woes, including enforcing the speed limit on A1A, installing a traffic light at the entrance to Fairfield and the Sawgrass Country Club south gate and – the most popular suggestion with attendees – building a north-south road on the western side of the Palm Valley bridge that connects to JTB.

Next steps

NFTPO and CTFP representatives stressed that Tuesday’s meeting was merely the latest step in a process that has many hurdles to clear before any recommendations are approved, funded and ultimately implemented. Leonard said the next step will be for the CTFP board to meet next week to review the feedback garnered at Tuesday’s meeting and share it with NFTPO. Once the draft study report is updated to reflect community input, funding would need to be obtained to finance the traffic improvements and secure any necessary rights of way before construction could begin.

CTFP also stressed that the task force was not there to advocate for the draft report’s recommendations, but instead to serve as a communications resource, distributing information and actively seeking widespread

community input.

“We’re certainly not here to propose or encourage one outcome,” Leonard said. “Ultimately, our goal is to reach into the community and get broad feedback about what type of change we are willing to tolerate in order to keep this community viable for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren.”

A copy of the complete Ponte Vedra Palm Valley Traffic Study is available online at <http://northfloridatpo.com> and at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Public Library. Comments may be submitted to Planning Director Denise Bunnewith via email at dbunnewith@northfloridatpo.com or by mail to Denise Bunnewith, North Florida TPO, 980 N. Jefferson St., Jacksonville, FL 32209. All comments must be postmarked by May 9 to be included in the official record.

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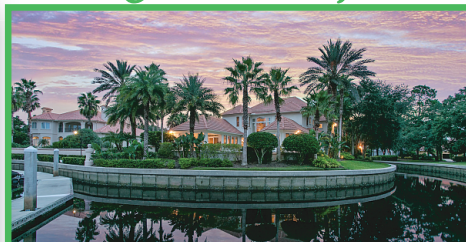
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Thursday, April 27	Friday, April 28	Saturday, April 29	Sunday, April 30
<p>Savvy Job Hunters Ministry Christ Episcopal Church will host another workshop as part of its Savvy Job Hunters Ministry series April 27 from 9 a.m. to noon. This workshop will cover the topic of "Starting Your Own Small Business," to be presented by Pat Blanchard, director of Jacksonville Women's Business Center and JAX Chamber Foundation. Following the presentation, Buddy Webster, partner and president of LEADERS Professional Recruiting, Inc., will be available to review resumes and give tips on how to bolster them. This workshop will be held in the Parish Center Conference room of Christ Episcopal Church, located at 400 San Juan Drive at Solana Road East in Ponte Vedra Beach. Guests are advised to park on the upper deck to enter the second-floor conference room. RSVP to Cindy Corritore at ccorritore@christepiscopalchurch.org, or the Pastoral Care Office by calling (904) 285-7390 ext. 231. For more information, contact Pam Ottesen at pottesen66@gmail.com.</p> <p>First Street Gallery Exhibition The work of the Jacksonville Artists Guild will be featured at First Street Gallery through May 23 as part of a juried exhibition dedicated to elevating artistic awareness and participation through programs and exhibits that enhance and promote the arts. For more information about the guild, visit www.jacksonvilleartistsguild.org. To learn more about the exhibit, contact First Street Gallery at (904) 241-6928. First Street Gallery is located at 216-B First Street in Neptune Beach.</p> <p>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 Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra area. For more information call (904) 417-7354 or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com.</p>	<p>PV Professionals Networking Group The Ponte Vedra Professionals Networking Group meets Fridays at 9 a.m. at Watson Realty Corp., 615 Highway A1A S., Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, visit www.pvpng.com or email pontevedrapng@gmail.com.</p> <p>Plein Air Paint Out The St. Augustine Art Association presents a citywide St. Augustine Plein Air Paint Out, inviting artists to capture "Impressions of the Flagler Era" through April 30. Selected works produced by the participating artists during the event will be featured in a juried exhibition entitled "Gilded," to be held at the St. Augustine Art Association, May 5-28. The Plein Air Task Force, the St. Augustine Art Association and the St. Johns Cultural Council have published a website, www.stjohnspleinair.com, that provides information for artists on appropriate locations and any restrictions that impact plein air painting in St. Johns County. For more information, call (904) 824-2310 or visit www.staaa.org/pleinair.</p> <p>Coastal Wine Market Wine Tasting Coastal Wine Market hosts Friday wine tastings from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B, Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p> <p>Live Music at Table 1 Table 1 at 330 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach will host live music starting at 7:30 p.m. in addition to the entertainment, guests can enjoy bar bites starting at \$7 and 2-for-1 well drinks, domestic drafts and house wine by the glass.</p> <p>Volunteers Needed Life Enrichment Day Retreat in Ponte Vedra is in need of volunteers any weekday for a few hours. This volunteer will assist participants with simple activities. Call (904) 417-7354 or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com for more information.</p>	<p>'A Gatsby Carnival' Volkswagen of St. Augustine will present the fourth annual "A Gatsby Carnival" at the Lightner Museum from 7 to 11 p.m. April 29 featuring classic cars, a silent auction and live music by Amy Hendrickson and the VooDoo Review, Chelsea Saddler and Chris Kearns. All funds made at this charitable event will benefit the St. Johns Cultural Council, dedicated to furthering visual, literary and performing art curriculum and resources throughout St. Johns County. Guests are encouraged to don their finest 1920s-inspired attire for a trip back in time. General entry event tickets are \$50 per person. For more information, to contribute or to purchase tickets, visit www.gatsbyforcharity.com.</p> <p>Ponte Vedra Writers Meeting Forensics firearms expert Kristin Durfee will speak at the next Ponte Vedra Writers meeting April 29 at 10:30 a.m. in the Ponte Vedra Library. Durfee will offer insight to writers in need of knowledge about firearms and forensics during her presentation, "How to Commit the Perfect Murder (On Paper)" covering three main points: using the correct types and terminology of firearms, what the crime lab does and doesn't do, and how findings and firearms tie together in court (and in stories). For more information, visit www.floridawriters.net.</p> <p>Humane Society Fundraiser The St. Augustine Humane Society will hold an open house fundraising event to support the nonprofit's expansion plans at 1665 Old Moultrie Road April 29 from 1 to 4 p.m. During the event, guests will be treated to tours of the facility and the announcement of a major capital gifts campaign titled "Raise the Roof." The free event will also feature a live radio remote with a DJ and music, door prizes, a hot dog cookout, the St. Johns County Sheriff's K-9 unit and demonstration along other activities. To learn more about the event and the Raise the Roof Building Fund, call (904) 829-2737, email admin1@staughumane.org or visit the campaign and donation website at www.staughumane.org/raisethewoof.php.</p>	<p>Palms Presbyterian Fine Arts Concert Palms Presbyterian Church will host another Fine Arts concert Sunday, April 30 at 3 p.m. headlined by the Heritage Singers of Jacksonville. The nonprofit organization is comprised of singers dedicated to fostering community with choral music. Led by Artistic Director Michael Dell, the concert, titled "A Choral Kaleidoscope of Color," is free and open to the public. Nursery will be provided. Palms Presbyterian Church is located at 3410 Third Street South in Jacksonville Beach. For more information, visit www.heritagesingersjacksonville.com, call (904) 434-4625 or email heritagesingersjax@aol.com.</p> <p>Florida's Birding and Photo Fest The annual Florida's Birding and Photo Fest returns to the GTM Research Reserve through April 30 featuring several outdoor events and photography sessions. The five-day festival includes instruction from several photographers, including Bobbi Lane, Lee Varis, Roman Kurywczak, Mike Moats and more. Wednesday's schedule of events includes four field workshops, five boating and kayak excursions, six photo seminars and a keynote presentation by Bobbi Lane. For a full schedule events, to register or purchase tickets and for more information about the Florida's Birding and Photo Fest, visit www.floridasbirdingandphotofest.com.</p> <p>ArtWorks Student Art Exhibition Hundreds of local residents will enjoy artwork created by Ponte Vedra public school students at the annual ArtWorks celebration, to be held Sunday, April 30 at 1 p.m. at the Sawgrass Marriott. Sponsored by the Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation, the free, public event will display original artwork created by students from Ocean Palms and PVPV/Rawlings elementary schools, Valley Ridge Academy, Landrum Middle School, and Nease and Ponte Vedra high schools. An exhibition of student artwork will occur from 1 to 2 p.m., followed by an awards ceremony for all student artists. One student's art from each school will be designated as "Best in Show;" the winning artwork will be professionally framed and displayed with a plaque in the student's school.</p>

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Monday, May 1	Tuesday, May 2	Wednesday, May 3	Thursday, May 4
<p>Glass and Serigraphs Exhibition The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach will host "Glass and Serigraphs," an exhibition comprised of works by Thomas Kite and Daryl Bunn, through May 26. This series of Kite's glass work and Bunn's serigraphs showcases a juxtaposition of the artists' signature styles: Kite's work pops with vivid primary color while Bunn's bold use of black lines and contrasting shapes stand out against each backdrop. The featured pieces can be purchased. For more information, visit www.ccpvb.org.</p> <p>MOSH Programs Join the Museum of Science and History for a series of daily programs. Starting at 11:30 a.m. with "Invertebrate Encounters," inside MOSH's touch tank, the museum offers exploration of ocean, land and sea; take a guided tour of the night sky in the Bryan-Gooding Planetarium with a MOSH planetarium educator, or discover the importance of the only marsupial native to North America during "Opossums Among Us." MOSH offers a different flavor of science everyday Monday through Friday. For more information about the museum's programs and admission, visit www.themosh.org.</p> <p>Sierra Club Meeting "Protecting our Trees" will be the focus of the next meeting of the Sierra Club, to be held Monday, May 1 at 6 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library on Library Road at A1A. The Northeast Florida Group of the Sierra Club is working to highlight the importance of trees to a healthy, vibrant community. This presentation will help to build awareness of the benefits of the urban tree canopy and to form comprehensive plans to preserve this vital resource. Topics will include environmental, economic and psychological values of trees and green infrastructure. Proper trimming, the benefits of the use of certified arborists and a discussion of tree protections through the Jacksonville City Charter Amendment and the Tree Ordinance are included. For more information, contact Brian Paradise at (904) 710-0479.</p>	<p>Understanding the Civil War The monthly meeting of the "Understanding the Civil War" discussion group will be held at 1 p.m. on May 2 at the Anastasia Island Branch Public Library, located in the Seagrove subdivision on A1A South in St. Augustine. The topic will be "Rebel Cavalier: JEB Stuart" The meeting is open to the public. For more information please email Charlie Smith at smithc32@bellsouth.net.</p> <p>Parents With Hope Support Group Ponte Vedra Valley is hosting a support group for parents who are suffering from the devastating loss of a child. With the goal of providing a support system in an informal setting for parents who are facing each new day without their child, this group is led by other parents in the community living with unexpected loss who now feel the desire to reach out to share their experience. Sessions are planned for once a month, on the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. Ponte Vedra Valley is located at 4750 Palm Valley Road. For more information, visit www.pontevedravally.com/grief-support.</p> <p>'A Positive Way to Menopause' Balanced Physician Care invites local women to find a "positive way to menopause" with its interactive workshop. During each session, guests will receive resources and learn strategies to help achieve hormone balance, fat loss, and fitness in a group-based setting. Each week individuals will set goals and take action to improve their health and wellbeing. The cost is \$245 and workshops will be held May 2, 9, 16, 25 and 30 from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. To RSVP, call (904) 930-4774 or email membership@balancedphysiciancare.com.</p> <p>Sunset Rotary Club Meeting The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset meets Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Community leaders are welcome to attend. For more information, call club President Janeene Hart at (904) 412-5409 or email jwhart1208@gmail.com.</p>	<p>MOCA Downtown Art Walk Join MOCA for the Wednesday Art Walk from 5 to 9 p.m. This free event takes place every first Wednesday, during which more than 40 downtown venues display art by numerous visual artists. The museum will host special guests and facilitate Art Fusion during the Art Walk, welcoming children to work with parents and guardians in sessions led by professional art educators. For more information, visit www.mocajacksonville.unf.edu.</p> <p>Lightner Museum Curator Tour Join St. Augustine's Lightner Museum for a curator tour at 10 a.m. May 3, giving guests an inside look at the museum every first Wednesday. Led by Curator Barry Myers, the curator tour will introduce guests to the collections or art and artifacts that comprise the museum. Visitors will also discuss a variety of topics, including that of newly acquired pieces to detailed appraisals. Each month offers a unique tour. The tour is included with the cost of admission (\$10 for adults, \$6 for active-duty military, \$5 for college students and kids ages 12-18 and free for 11 and under). Donations are appreciated. For more information about the tour, call (904) 824-2874 or visit www.lightnermuseum.org.</p> <p>'Moms Matter' Support Group Guests are welcome to join fellow mothers of newborns and infants who are experiencing any type of pregnancy or postpartum mood issue at the Y's "Mom's Matter" support group. In this group, held May 3 and 17 from 10 a.m. to noon, guests will receive support from others with similar experiences and learn skills to help alleviate symptoms. This support group is free to attend.</p> <p>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 will help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane. Email Carmen at carmenjsardinas@gmail.com for additional information.</p>	<p>'May the Fourth Be With You' The St. Johns County Public Library System will celebrate beloved series "Star Wars" with its "May the Fourth Be With You" event. Join Star Wars fans from 4 to 5:30 p.m. for crafts, trivia and prizes at the Southeast Branch at 6670 US 1 in St. Augustine and at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library at 101 Library Boulevard for Star Wars Art Time. During art time, kids in grades K-5 are welcome to create Star Wars-inspired crafts and see a Star Wars book display from 4 to 5 p.m. Participants are encouraged to wear Star Wars attire at both branch locations. For more information, visit www.sjcpls.org.</p> <p>Weezer @ Amphitheatre Los Angeles-based rock band Weezer will perform at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre May 4 at 7 p.m. The band, which formed in 1992, boasts album sales of more than 17 million worldwide with a stack of hits including "Island in the Sun," "Beverly Hills" and "Buddy Holly." Having released their tenth album in 2016, the band is now on a two-month summer tour across the country. They will be joined at the Amphitheatre by special guest The Pauses. Tickets start at \$39.50 and can be purchased online at www.staugamphitheatre.com. Gates open at 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>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 Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra area. For more information call (904) 417-7354 or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com.</p> <p>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 jasmine@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using</p>

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Commissioners approve moving forward with \$3M incentive program for 'Project Boilermaker' to relocate HQ to St. Johns County

By Jon Blauvelt

The Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously last week to support the advancement of a \$3 million economic incentives program for an unnamed company that is considering relocating its U.S. corporate headquarters to St. Johns County.

Referred to in county documents as "Project Boilermaker," the company is reviewing potential sites to invest \$86 million for the construction of a 210,000-square foot office building, for which it plans to hire more than 300 employees by Dec. 31, 2030, paying an average wage of \$79,442 (200 percent of the county's average wage).

In addition to Florida, the business is considering another state for its headquarters and has asked for confidentiality during the due diligence process. Details regarding the firm, including its name, current location and products/services, are consequently unknown. County Director of Economic Development Melissa Glasgow noted, however, that the company would not compete with any existing county businesses.

Glasgow explained at the April 18 meeting that the commissioners' motion to approve moving forward with the company's requests for incentives is just one step of the process. If the company ultimately chooses St. Johns County, she said, an agreement identifying the company would be drafted, disclosed publicly and brought back to the commission for final approval. Project Boilermaker would ultimately plan to construct and occupy the new building by March 31, 2020.

Project Boilermaker has requested both state and local economic incentives, Glasgow said, adding that the company scored 8.0 points on the county's Business Incentive program. That score qualifies it for an economic development grant equal to four years of ad valorem taxes paid on capital improvements and tangible personal property as well as 100 percent of impact fees and water/sewer connection fees paid to the county. According to

county documents, the company is also eligible for consideration of expedited permitting. The estimated value of the proposed grant is \$2,758,310.

Project Boilermaker has also applied for a Florida Qualified Target Industry (QTI) tax refund for 145 of the estimated 300 new jobs. Because the business falls within one of the high-impact sectors designated under Florida law, it is additionally eligible for the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund with a High-Impact Sector Bonus. Glasgow said the total value of this state incentive is \$1,015,000, and the local financial support required is 20 percent, or \$203,000.

As a result, the total proposed county incentive package is estimated to be \$2,961,310. That total would be paid to the company over an eight-year period, with the first payment made in fiscal year 2022. Per a cost/benefit analysis conducted by Glasgow, the project would lead to a \$7 million increase in the county's general fund over the next 20 years.

During public comment, St. Augustine Beach resident Tom Reynolds voiced his vehement opposition to the incentives package, referring to it as "corporate welfare." He also expressed his concerns about the county engaging in what he called "secret government." Reynolds demanded that commissioners not only cast down the proposal, but also close the economic development department, appoint Glasgow as head of the county's public relations department, freeze her salary and give her a bonus for every company she brings into the county without "give-aways."

"We don't need to give away," said Reynolds, suggesting that companies should want to establish business in the county without being provided incentives.

In response, Commissioner Jay Morris asked for the "right perspective" on the matter, saying that the incentives will pay for themselves through ad valorem taxes, and the county will eventually bring in \$7 million from the

investment.

"This is one heck of a deal for St. Johns County," he declared.

According to the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections website, Reynolds has registered to run in 2018 as a Democrat for Morris' commission seat. Morris has consistently said he will not run for reelection when he completes his current term representing District 4, which includes Ponte Vedra.

New pump station, ZAB members

In other BCC business, commissioners voted to approve a request for a new pump station building located at 324 Landrum Lane. According to county officials, the old pump station was too small and unable to handle recent flooding. It was also partially located on a neighboring property. The new building will be much larger, with closer access to the new pumps, and will be moved south to accom-

modate for the abutting property to the north. The timetable for construction is unknown, as no commercial plans have been submitted yet.

The county commission also approved a recommendation to appoint Brad Scott, Daniel Cook, Timothy Powell and Megan McKinley as board members of the Ponte Vedra Zoning and Adjustment Board. Scott and Cook previously served as board members and requested reappointment after their terms expired in 2016. Powell and McKinley are new to the board, filling vacancies due to the expired term of Jane Lucker and the resignation of John Cellucci in 2016. Scott, Cook and Powell will serve full four-year terms scheduled to expire April 18, 2021. McKinley, who is filling the unexpired term of Cellucci, will serve a partial term scheduled to expire March 17, 2019.

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OBITUARY



Raphael Michael Kelly

Raphael Michael Kelly, 77, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died April 14, 2017, after a valiant battle with cancer. Nicknamed Ray, but affectionately known as Muldoon, the Commissioner, Lieutenant, Irish or of course The King, he was born in Brooklyn, New York Feb. 26, 1940. Raised in Garden City, New York, Ray graduated from Chaminade High School and then attended the University of Notre Dame, where his love of all things Irish began. After graduating from Notre Dame in 1961, he joined the Marines and after five years departed the service with the rank of captain.

Ray began his successful career as a financial advisor in 1965, retiring as senior vice president of investments from UBS in 2011. He was a highly respected securities industry leader and served as chairman of the Southern District of the National Association of Security Dealers. Ray was also active civically. He was president of the Duval County American Cancer Society and chairman of the board for the University Club of Jacksonville. He was also appointed to the Ponte Vedra Board of Adjustments. And of course, he remained faithful and dedicated to his alma mater and served as president of the Notre Dame Alumni Association International.

In 1964, he married his wife of 52.9 years, Mary “Molly” Foley Kelly. Together, Molly and Ray raised three wise, wonderful and witty daughters in Ponte Vedra Beach, where they have lived since 1970. His daughters are his oldest Grace Gambel (Patrick), Jean “Beaner” Brown (Greg) and Elizabeth “Buffy or Pooh Bear” Kennedy (Jeffrey). He has eight grandchildren who will miss and always fondly remember their “King.”

Beyond his many accomplishments in life, Ray was known for his larger than life personality, love of travel and golf and his complete lack of handiness. He loved Ponte Vedra and spending his summers in Linville, North Carolina – and all the cherished friendships he had in both of his home cities and across the U.S. made throughout childhood, high school, college, the Marines and his career. Friendships and time with the boys were so special to Ray, especially since his retirement, which allowed him to have lunch with his crew every Monday and Thursday at Aqua Grill, faithfully served

Patricia Joan Matthews

Patricia Joan Matthews, 58, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died April 16, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery - (904) 285-1130 - www.pontevedravally.com

Karen Werle

Karen Werle, 70, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died April 12, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery - (904) 285-1130 - www.pontevedravally.com

by Pumpkin.

Ray is survived by his wife and three daughters and his eight grandchildren. Starting with the eldest Patrick Ryan Gambel (who, incidentally, lives in New Orleans and sells insurance – so let us know if he can help you out – wink, wink), Mary Ellen Gambel, Katherine Grace Gambel, Grace Elizabeth Brown, Teresa Ann Brown, William Raphael Brown, Kayla Grace Kennedy and Shane Patrick Kennedy. He is also survived by

his siblings Geraldine Ann Kelly, John Stephen Kelly and Kathleen Eleanor Kelly; brothers-in-law Samuel John Foley and Michael Francis Foley; nephew Samuel John Foley (Diane) and niece Samantha Foley Davidson; and grandnephews Samuel and Connor Foley. He is preceded in death by his parents Albert and Eleanor Kelly, brother Albert Kelly and sister-in-law Kathleen Foley.

A memorial mass to celebrate Ray’s life was held at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church of Ponte Vedra Beach Friday, April 21, 2017. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made

to Community Hospice & Palliative Care of North Florida at 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257.

Please visit the online tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com. Services are under the direction and care of Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home in Jacksonville Beach.



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PV2-LV37793

Churchmen come together for annual Spring Fling

By Jon Blauvelt

Members of the Churchmen recently gathered at the Sawgrass Beach Club with their spouses and significant others for the annual Churchmen Spring Fling.

Attendees of the April 18 event enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and cocktails followed by dinner and dancing. Group Chairman Lennox Stuart explained that the occasion is the organization's only event of the year at which members bring dates. As a result, he said, the Spring Fling provides couples the opportunity to meet and mingle with one another.

The all-male Churchmen organization was founded in 1977 by a group of gentlemen at Christ Episcopal Church with the purpose of building and fostering relationships within the Ponte Vedra community. Forty years later, it has become a non-sectarian institution that is no longer part of Christ Episcopal Church.

The organization, which currently has 177 members, meets on the third Thursday of every month at the Sawgrass Country Club for lunch and interesting speakers. Membership costs \$40 per year, in addition to a small fee for each luncheon.



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

Deborah and Jim Ross with Mary Lou Bannon



Anne and John Ruvane, Judy Ham and Bruce Rosborough



Judy Flynn, Churchmen Chairman Lennox Stuart with his wife Margie and Gay MacArthur



Bill Miller and George Hossenlopp



Ginny Roemhild, Ann Smith, Bud Roemhild and Janet Lithgow

K9s For Warriors graduates 300th service dog team

Organization celebrates partnership with American Legion, founder Shari Duval's retirement



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

David Castro receives his graduation certificate from K9s for Warriors' Brett Simon.

By Jon Blauvelt

K9s For Warriors celebrated the graduation of its 300th service dog team at the organization's most recent graduation, held April 20 at American Legion Post 233 in Palm Valley.

"We are very proud to have served 300 veterans," K9s for Warriors CEO Rory Diamond

said. "With so many veterans taking their own lives, the mission of our organization is critical." Six years after K9s For Warriors served its first veteran, the milestone was reached on a night in which the organization honored the dedication and commitment of

K9S FOR WARRIORS continues on **Page 18**



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At Apryle Showers 'Hollywood Nights' gala, glamour and giving are both in style

By Jennifer Logue

Nocatee's Crosswater Hall took on the feel of a glamorous Hollywood movie premiere April 21, as the Apryle Showers Foundation held its second annual benefit gala.

Guests clad in evening gowns and long gloves walked the red carpet and had their photos taken paparazzi-style before entering the Nocatee Room, which was decorated with

stars, glitter, miniature award statuettes and numerous pink umbrellas symbolizing the foundation. An estimated 200 guests enjoyed a buffet by TacoLu, a dessert bar by Cinotti's and the chance to bid on dozens of silent auction items at the gala, which was billed as an "adult prom." Entertainment, meanwhile, was provided by the band Brightside, one of the evening's co-sponsors.

Yet throughout the evening's glitter and glitz, the woman who inspired both the foundation and its fundraising efforts was never far from attendees' hearts and minds. Apryle Schmidt was just 37 years old when she was diagnosed with stage four breast cancer. Despite battling her illness courageously, she lost her fight in August 2015.

"Apryle was a Nocatee resident, so it's been really important to us to have a presence here," said Apryle's friend, Lauren Stafford. "The point of tonight is to celebrate life. Apryle was such a vital person. She loved to dance – if she were here tonight, she'd be leading the dancing out on the floor."

A cancer survivor herself, Stafford now serves as president of the board of the Apryle Showers Foundation, which provides healing, restorative getaways for people ages 30 to 55 who are battling cancer.

A healing getaway

The impetus for the Apryle Showers Foundation, organizers said, came from a similar getaway weekend that Apryle Schmidt received as a gift during her battle with cancer.

"The day-to-day reality of cancer can be frightening and grueling," Apryle's mother, Patricia Reinhardt, told gala attendees, listing the many doctor's appointments, treatments and medications those battling cancer must manage, all while fighting for their lives. "The psychological impact and demands on the individual, their family and friends can be brutal.

"Now picture a weekend break from all that," Reinhardt continued. "Apryle and her family were blessed with this type of gift. Her legacy is to provide that same experience for others."

At the gala, guests had an opportunity to hear from two of



Cancer survivor and foundation beneficiary Hope describes her weekend getaway.

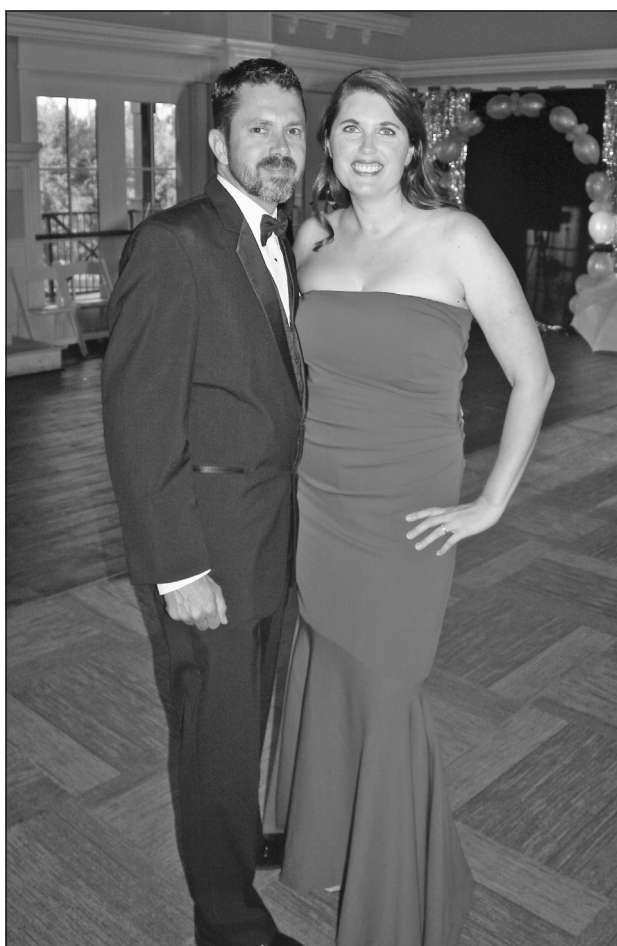


Jessica Mauch and Dorothy Bennett



Photos by Jennifer Logue

Apryle Showers Foundation President Lauren Stafford welcomes guests to the "Hollywood Nights" adult prom.



John and Jaclyn Olwin



Blaine and Scott Thomas

APRYLE SHOWERS continues on Page 17

Apryle Showers

Continued from 16

the foundation's beneficiaries, including Julie, a mother of five who went to the hospital after feeling nauseous for a few days, only to learn she had non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

"Hearing I had cancer was super hard, but telling my grown children was the hardest," Julie said. "Like most moms, I didn't want help (from the foundation) – we're used to being the ones who help everyone else. But boy, I'm glad I did."

Through the Apryle Showers Foundation, Julie and her husband enjoyed a getaway to the Ritz-Carlton Amelia Island, where the couple rode bikes, went to the beach and for the first time had an opportunity to "get real" about her illness.

"I was always trying to be strong – for my kids, my family, my friends," she said through tears. "(The getaway) was the first chance I had to just let go."

Two-time cancer survivor Hope also enjoyed a getaway. Her dream was to swim with dolphins.

"It was an emotional experience for me, because I was dealing with all these issues but I was interacting with nature," Hope said. "We had an excellent time."

Foundation board member and cancer survivor Maria Salomon noted sadly that one of the foundation's beneficiaries had died earlier that week, shortly after returning from her dream getaway to a jazz festival in Miami.

"We take it hard when we lose one of our beneficiaries," said Salomon, adding that she gained comfort from knowing the woman was able to attend the festival as she had long



Debby Carter, Vicki Fuhrmann, Sean Yost, Barbara Yost and Lisa Laettner

dreamed.

Added Stafford: "Believe me, we never forget the people we work with. We pray for them and carry them in our hearts."

View more event photos online at pontevedrarecorder.com and in the next issue of *First Coast Register* magazine.

Valley Ridge Academy receives Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant



Photos provided by Amy Zobel

Playground boat almost done - Andy Macy, Christopher Zobel, Alex Kiss, and Cameron Slayden volunteer in a group led by Hector Rodriguez (far right) of Florida Home Remodeling Group, LLC.

By Christopher Zobel

Special to the Recorder

Valley Ridge Academy recently received the Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant to help further develop its outdoor space.

The grant was made possible by the work of grant-writing volunteers Amy Zobel and Kim Piety, who spent the past two years working closely with the school's administra-

tion to produce a winning proposal to Lowe's Toolbox for Education. Upon receiving the funds, the writers, alongside the administration and parent volunteer Hector Rodriguez of the Florida Home Remodeling Group, LLC, designed and planned each item for the project and organized a volunteer weekend.

The proposal was to use materials from Lowe's to build large-scale musical instru-

ments and the S.S. Hawk, a boat for imaginative play. The school also proposed creating a citrus learning garden to teach students the process of fruiting, pollination and harvesting.

With the help of the grant, parent volunteers were able to construct five imaginative play items and a citrus learning center in one weekend. Several parents volunteered

to build the items and plant the trees for the learning garden and the PTO provided food and drinks. Lowe's employee Andy Macy helped the team plan, order and deliver the materials in addition to volunteering more than 12 hours at Valley Ridge Academy, working alongside parents and providing expert guidance.

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K9s for Warriors

Continued from 15

nine warriors and the service dogs with which they'd been paired. The Ponte Vedra-based nonprofit trains and pairs rescued service dogs with military veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury and/or military sexual trauma as a result of military service post-9/11.

Before the graduation, K9s For Warriors also celebrated its five-year partnership with American Legion Post 233. Founder Shari

Duval reminisced about her organization's humble beginnings in a 900 square-foot house, where the nonprofit used to "shove three to four warriors" into the building, she said.

At first, the nonprofit held its graduation ceremonies in front of the house's garage, Duval explained, until the American Legion offered to host the events at its nearby post. In its first few years, K9s For Warriors held approximately 200 graduations at the veterans' facility.

"Year after year, in one way or another, you have been there," said an emotional Duval. "We'll never forget your graciousness, your

generosity, your love and your support."

In turn, representatives from the post honored Duval, who announced in March that she would be retiring, handing off her duties as board president to her son, Brett Simon. The local veterans presented Duval with a plaque recognizing her service to the community and nation, as well as a certificate of honorable mention from their organization's past commanders recognizing her as a lifetime, honorary member of the post.

"We're like family," said Dan Wortman, commander of American Legion Post 233. "We've been helping them out. They've been helping us. Veterans help veterans."



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

K9s For Warriors Founder Shari Duval (center) with American Legion Post 233 representatives Dan Wortman, Roy Havekost, Robby Bacom and Jim Durnal



Robby Bacom presents a plaque to Shari Duval recognizing her service to the community and nation.

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SHORT TAKES

Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival returns May 5-7

The Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival will return to Fernandina Beach for its 54th annual celebration May 5-7, bringing a three-day celebration of music, food and family fun.

The festival kicks off at 6 p.m. Friday, May 5 with an opening ceremony and the 2017 Miss Shrimp Festival 2017 Scholarship Pageant, followed by the Pirate Parade Awards. Clay Benjamin and the TruSoul Band will bring their live R&B and soul music stylings to the Riverfront Stage at 7:30 p.m. and will return for a short set at 9:30 p.m. after the "Invasion of the Pirates" and a fireworks show.

On Saturday, May 6, the Riverfront Stage reopens with musical acts before a contest for the best adult pirate at 12:30 p.m. Several musical acts will take the stage throughout Saturday, including FlipTurn, Skip Martin and Joe Bouchard.

The festivities will draw to a close Sunday, May 7 with Shrimp Town Allstars, a special songwriter showcase led by Nashville-based writing team Woody Mullis and Mike Geiger and local favorites Sean McCarthy, Davis Turner and Susan Gallion. The blessing of the fleet, laying of the wreath and decorated shrimp boat contest will follow the performances at 1:30 p.m., with a presentation of the boat contest's awards at 3:30 p.m.

For a complete schedule of events, visit www.shrimpfestival.com.



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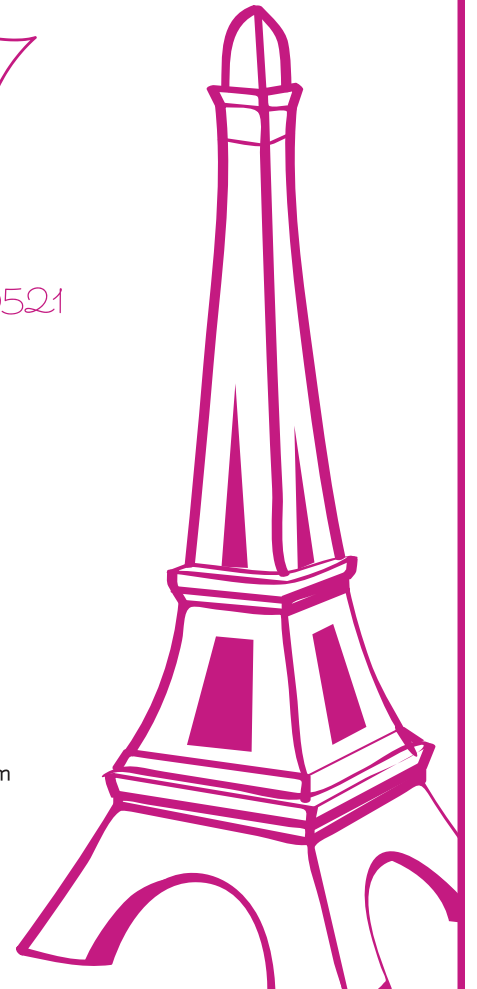
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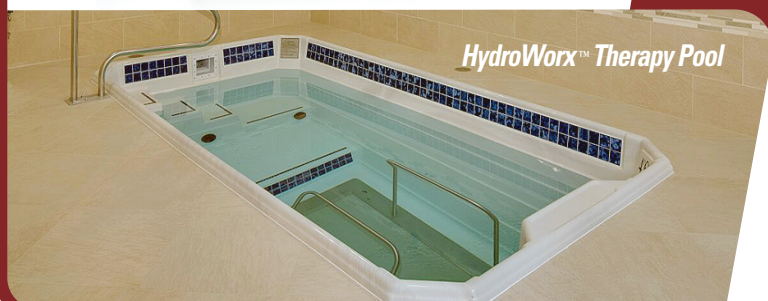
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Rotary, Recorder seek nominations for 25th Annual 'Local Heroes Awards'

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach and the Ponte Vedra Recorder are seeking nominations for the 25th Annual "Local Heroes Awards."

Presented each spring, the Local Heroes Awards recognize individuals who

give back to the community and reflect the spirit of the Rotary Club's motto, "Service Above Self." Suggested categories for which a person might be nominated include community service in the arts, education, the environment,

vocational service, volunteerism and corporate community service. A youth category recognizes young people making a difference in the community.

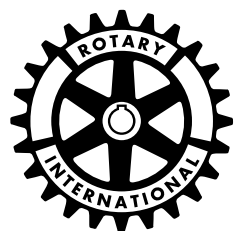
Residents who know of an individual they believe is deserving of recogni-

tion as a "Local Hero" are encouraged to complete the nomination form and email it to jlark@danielkids.org.

Nomination forms may also be mailed to: Local Heroes Awards Committee, Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach, PO Box 70, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004. Deadline for submission of nominations is Thursday, May 4.

Award recipients will be recognized at the "Local Heroes Awards" reception to be held Thursday, May 25 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Sawgrass Country Club.

For more information, contact Rotarian Jim Clark at (904) 296-1055 or jlark@danielkids.org.



The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach

in cooperation with The Ponte Vedra Recorder

2017 Local Heroes Awards Nomination Form

Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Nominated by: _____

Nominator's Telephone _____ Email: _____

Category: (check one)

Arts _____ Education _____ Environmental _____ Youth _____

Vocational _____ Volunteer _____ Corporate _____

Qualifications: *Submit this form with a detailed description of the nominee's achievements and why he or she deserves recognition. Direct any questions to:*

Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club member, Jim Clark, jlark@danielkids.org 296-1055.

Entry Deadline: Thursday, May 4
Send Entries to:

Local Heroes Awards Committee
Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach
P. O. Box 70
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004

Or email Entries to:
jlark@danielkids.org

Thank you
for your nomination!

Awards to be presented
Thursday, May 25, 2017
at 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Sawgrass Country Club

Coast Guard auxiliary to offer boating safety course

A boating safety course will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 6 at the Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Presented by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's Jacksonville Beach Flotilla 14-04, the eight-hour classroom course titled "About Boating Safely" will include demonstrations of boating basic and cover such topics as navigation, in-water survival, knot tying, state and federal boating laws and regulations, and more. A Florida and federal course examination will be given at the conclusion of the course.

Successfully passing the course will earn participants the state of Florida Boating Safely Education Identification Card, which all vessel operators born after Jan. 1, 1988 must have in their possession.

The fee for the course is \$25 (cash or personal check), which covers training materials. Two students can share course materials for a total registration fee of \$30. Participants should bring lunch and refreshments with them.

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April 27, 2017
Special Section

Ponte Vedra 
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Community Hospice of Northeast Florida changes name to Community Hospice & Palliative Care



Community Hospice of Northeast Florida has changed its name to Community Hospice & Palliative Care – a move the organization said reflects its expanding services and programs.

Since 1979, Community Hospice has provided services to Northeast Florida's five-county area. In February, the state Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) awarded Community Hospice a certificate of need enabling the organization to provide hospice services in an 11-county area in north and north-central Florida that includes Gainesville, Palatka and Lake City.

The name change is also accompanied by a new logo featuring colors the organization said represent the four components that impact a person's quality of life: physical, emotional, spiritual and social.

"It is important that our name reflect

the growth of organization beyond solely providing hospice services, as well as our geographic expansion from serving five counties to a 16-county service area," President and CEO Susan Ponder-Stansel said. "The refreshed name honors the unique value and heritage that 'Community' has within our organization, and aligns our growing palliative care services with our hospice care, since both are designed to provide comfort and support to those facing serious and life-limiting illnesses."

Despite the name change and expanded service area, the organization's leaders stress that it will continue to provide the same high level of hospice and palliative care as well as education, advance care planning, grief support and bereavement services as well as its Community PedsCare® pediatric palliative care and hospice program.

Library to present 'Honoring Choices' program on advance care planning



Jamie Buller

Ponte Vedra Beach.

Jamie Buller, director of advance care planning at Community Hospice & Palliative Care, will introduce attendees to the Honoring Choices Florida program that helps families establish a process for creating a well-informed health plan. Topics to be covered include starting a conversation around the topic of advance care planning and identifying how individuals or loved ones wish to live in the event of a serious or life-limiting illness.

A licensed clinical social worker, Buller holds advanced certification in hospice and palliative care. She previously served in leadership roles at St. Vincent's Health Care in Care Management and Palliative Care. She holds master's degrees in Social Work from FSU and Administration from Central Michigan University.

A presentation on advance care planning will be held Tuesday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library on Library Boulevard in

No reservations are needed for the presentation. For more information, visit www.HonoringChoicesFL.com.

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Ponte Vedra Eye Associates welcomes Dr. Alison Webb

Dr. Alison Webb earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Florida State University and her Doctorate of Optometry Degree from Nova Southeastern University, graduating with honors. Dr. Webb completed externships in pediatric and primary care, as well as ocular disease and geriatrics. She also completed a hospital – based ocular disease residency at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Webb is a member of the American Optometric Association, Florida Optometric Association, and a member of the Beta Sigma Kappa Optometric Honorary Society. We are proud to have her joining the team at **Ponte Vedra Eye Associates.**

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PV2-LV37560

Baptist Beaches staff receive annual nursing scholarships

Two staff members at Baptist Beaches Medical Center are the recipients of the third annual Mildred Caldwell O'Neal Baptist Beaches Nursing Scholarship.

Chief Nursing Officer Sean Lynch and Certified Nursing Assistant Alexandria Fogarty each received \$1,250 to apply toward education expenses. Lynch is completing his doctoral degree in nursing at Jacksonville University, while Fogarty is

attending Florida State College at Jacksonville and will graduate in May with her BSN degree.

The scholarship was created by the children of Mildred O'Neal to honor their mother, a nurse at Baptist Beaches for 18 years. In the 1980s, O'Neal was appointed by then-Governor Bob Graham to head the formation of a nursing program at area colleges. She also served on the State



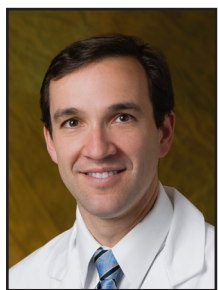
Photo courtesy of Baptist Beaches

Members of Mildred O'Neal's family congratulate the recipients of the nursing scholarship they founded to honor her. From left: Larry Caldwell, Jay Faulkner, Nanci Faulkner, Laura Hyde and scholarship recipients Alexandria Fogarty and Sean Lynch.

Board of Nursing. "There is no better way to honor my mother than by helping aspiring nurses to

reach their dreams," said Nanci Faulkner, O'Neal's daughter.

Taking care of mental health is good for your heart, new research finds



Dr. Anthony Magano

By Dr. Anthony Magano

Special to the Recorder

While diet and exercise are well-known ways to improve your health, new medical research is shedding light on the importance of mental wellness on your heart. More evidence is mounting that depression, stress and anxiety can be as damaging to your circulatory system as major risk factors like high cholesterol and obesity.

Link between mental health and heart disease

Two recently published studies have found a strong connection between mental health and heart disease. One study from the journal "Atherosclerosis" found that dying from cardiovascular disease was as strongly associated with depression as high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity. Depression and stress

accounted for about 15 percent of cardiovascular deaths in the study. Even after adjusting for other risk factors like smoking, researchers found a link between depression and heart disease.

The second study from "The Lancet" found that increased activity in the amygdala – a region of the brain involved with stress – is associated with a greater risk of heart disease and stroke. Patients with higher amygdala activity were more likely to develop heart disease and at a younger age. Stress increased the overall inflammation in their bodies and arteries – which may be one reason why stress and heart disease are related.

Stress management tools for your heart health

The good news is that you can take steps to reduce your stress that will improve both your mental and physical wellbeing. The first step when dealing with stress, anxiety or depression is to understand why you're experiencing it. Whether it's work stress, family issues, or anxiety over a chronic health condition,

understanding the problem will give you the best pathway to treatment. If you suffer from clinical depression, it is important to consult with a doctor about seeking counseling services or medical treatment.

It's also a good idea to engage in stress-reducing activities every day. Some of the best practices for managing stress are deep breathing exercises, restorative yoga and meditation with guided imagery. Even a stress-reducing hobby like gardening, reading a book or listening to music can make a big difference. Thirty minutes to an hour of stress management each day can have significant positive impacts on your heart health.

Another important step is choosing heart-healthy habits. Since physical and mental health are so closely linked, making positive physical changes can have the power to improve your overall mental health as well. Living a heart-healthy lifestyle entails com-

mitting to regular exercise and a balanced diet. Adults should aim to exercise for 30 minutes at least five days per week, as well as focus on a diet high in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains and low in salt and processed sugars. Making lifestyle changes can add extra stressors, however, so it may be best to take these changes in small increments.

Diet and exercise will always be keys to good health and a long lifespan – but with more research confirming the link between mental and heart health, it is essential to consider our psychological wellbeing and reactions to stressful circumstances as key determinants of our cardiovascular health.

Dr. Anthony Magano is a Ponte Vedra resident and cardiac electrophysiologist at St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside. For more information on Dr. Magano and his specialty treating atrial fibrillation, visit AfibJax.com.

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Ponte Vedra Family YMCA offers barre small group training classes



A YMCA instructor demonstrates the barre workout.

Photo courtesy of Ponte Vedra Family YMCA

The Ponte Vedra Family YMCA is now offering barre-based training classes.

The classes will be held Mondays and Fridays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., and Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Barre-based classes use a combination of postures inspired by ballet and other disciplines such as yoga and Pilates. Participants use the barre as a prop to balance while taking part in movements that focus on isometric strength. Barre-based exercises typically consist of high repetitions of small range-of-motion

movements.

The benefits of the barre workout include mind and body concentration, strengthening of the core and improved balance, posture and flexibility.

The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.



Coming Soon

We're Expecting...

New Labor & Delivery Center at Baptist Beaches is almost here!

Baptist Beaches is expecting a newly renovated, upscale Labor & Delivery Center later this summer. Many rooms are completed and word's getting out about the spa-like amenities and comfy, private rooms for bonding with newborns.

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Local health care leaders among Girl Scouts of Gateway Council's 2017 'Women of Distinction'



Leaders from some of Jacksonville's most respected health care organizations were among the honorees recognized recently at the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council's 28th Annual Women of Distinction ceremony.

Eight women were recognized at the April 6 event, including Jane Lanier of St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation, Diane Raines of Baptist Health and Amy Ruth of Florida Blue. Additional honorees included WJXT anchor

Mary Baer, Anna Lopez Brosche of Ennis Pellum & Associates CPAs, Diane Brunet-Garcia of Brunet-Garcia Advertising, Lakesha Burton of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and Nancy Chartrand, The Chartrand Foundation.

Women of Distinction is a signature fundraising event for GSGC, honoring local women for their professional accomplishments, service to others and community impact. Held at the Jacksonville Marriott, the event was co-

chaired by Jan Lipsky and Rebecca Steele.

Sponsors included Publix Supermarket Charities, The Chartrand Family Fun, Ameris Bank, St. Vincent's Healthcare, Florida Blue, Brunet Garcia, MarksGray, The Main Street America Group, UF Health, Baptist Health, Best Bet Jacksonville, Della Porta Group, Ennis Pellum & Associates, Jacksonville University, The Fiorentino Group and VyStar Credit Union.

"Girl Scouts of Gateway Council is thrilled to recognize eight outstanding women who embody the traits of a G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)™ and who are role models for girls," said Mary Anne Jacobs, CEO of Girl Scouts of Gateway Council. "These women are paving the way for today's Girl Scouts to become tomorrow's business and civic leaders."

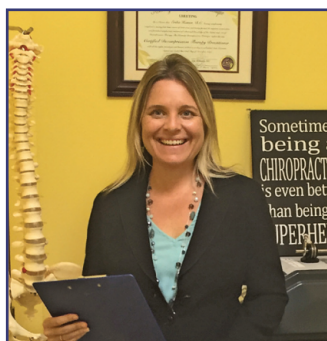
St. Johns County remains healthiest county in Florida in annual health report

For the sixth year in a row, St. Johns County has been named the healthiest county in Florida by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

The top ranking was released in March as part of the eighth annual County Health Rankings and Roadmaps report, which is a collaboration between the foundation and university to measure the progress of building a culture of health.

The report also names the county first in the state in quality of life and social and economic factors. The county additionally ranks high in clinical care, length of life and health behaviors.

The County Health Rankings and Roadmaps program compares the health of nearly all 3,000+ counties in the United States to others within their own respective states.



Dr. Erika R. Hamer, DC, DIBC, DIBE
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PV3-LV37559

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Y Healthy Living Center offers new classes

The Ponte Vedra YMCA will host several events in its Y Healthy Living Center aimed at promoting a healthier lifestyle.

Prenatal Yoga

The Y Healthy Living Center will host prenatal yoga through the month of May. Guests are invited to join a yoga class that teaches meditation and guided visualization safe for women at all stages of pregnancy, though participants are asked to get permission from their healthcare provider prior to attending. Those who wish to participate must bring a yoga mat, towel and water. Prenatal yoga classes will be held May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 6 to 7 p.m. There is a \$13 fee for this class.

"Moms Matter" support group

Guests are welcome to join fellow mothers of newborns and infants who are experiencing any type of pregnancy or postpartum mood issue at the Y's "Mom's Matter" support group. In this group, held May 3 and 17 from 10 a.m. to noon, guests will receive support from others with similar experiences and learn skills to help alleviate symptoms. This support group is free to attend.

Childbirth education

The Y Healthy Living Center will host childbirth education classes April 29 and June 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. In this comprehensive series, guests and their coaches will build confidence in the birthing process as they gain a better understanding of what to expect. The series includes information on stages and phases of labor, pain management, cesarean birth, postpartum care and normal newborn characteristics. Classes are \$65 per couple.

"Do Your Part for a Healthy Heart"

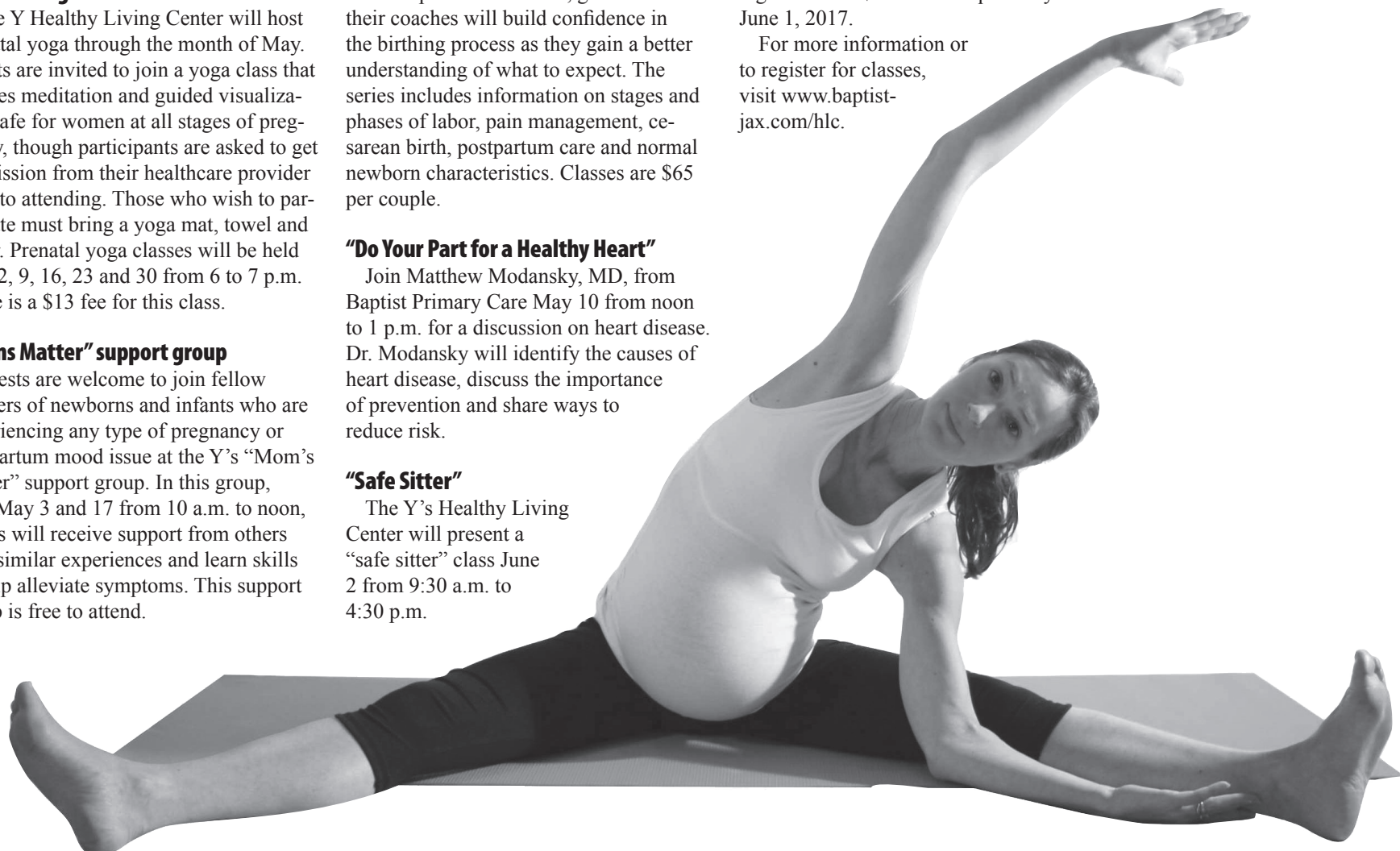
Join Matthew Modansky, MD, from Baptist Primary Care May 10 from noon to 1 p.m. for a discussion on heart disease. Dr. Modansky will identify the causes of heart disease, discuss the importance of prevention and share ways to reduce risk.

"Safe Sitter"

The Y's Healthy Living Center will present a "safe sitter" class June 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

designed to prepare students in grades 6-8 to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings or babysitting. Students should bring a sack lunch. Pre-registration is \$50 and is required by June 1, 2017.

For more information or to register for classes, visit www.baptist-jax.com/hlc.



St. Johns County offers Coast2Coast Rx discount prescription savings program

St. Johns County has partnered with Coast2Coast Rx to offer a free discount prescription savings program.

The new Coast2Coast Rx card will allow all county residents to participate and save on the cost of their medication regardless of income, age or health status. Pets and people living outside of the county are able to take part in this program, which saved cardholders throughout the county an average of 65 percent on the cost of medications in 2016. The Rx card includes more than 60,000 drugs in its formulary and is distributed free of charge. It can be used at all pharmacy chains and most independent pharmacies in St. Johns County.

"With the continual rise in healthcare costs showing no signs of slowing down, we embraced the opportunity to partner with a local St. Johns County company to offer our residents a discount prescription program," said Shawna Novak, director of St. Johns County Health and Human Services. "Provided

at no cost to the county or those who participate, the program offers additional benefits, is an excellent program for residents lacking prescription drug coverage and those required to purchase maintenance drugs on a regular basis."

In addition to the discount on prescriptions, the card also provides discounts on dental, vision, veterinary and hearing services as well as discounts on lab and imaging tests and diabetes supplies and equipment for all family members. Providing these savings through the program will come at no expense to the county.

"We are pleased to work with the county to help individuals, their families and pets combat the rising cost of healthcare," said Steve Rohm, national sales manager of Financial Marketing Concepts, Inc. of Ponte Vedra Beach, who act as the issuer of the Coast2Coast Rx card. "We appreciate all that the county and local pharmacies are doing to help those in need."



The Coast2Coast Rx card will be available for residents at most participating pharmacies, governmental offices, libraries, and County health facilities. Residents will also be able to print the Rx card and view the nearest participating locations at <http://www.coast2coastrx.com/counties/fl/stjohns>.

Baptist Health's Cory Meyers named chair of Volunteers in Medicine board of directors



Cory Meyers

Volunteers in Medicine recently named Baptist Health Vice President Cory Meyers chair of the organization's board of directors, succeeding two-term chair Helen Morse.

The nonprofit organization provides free health care services and programs to Jacksonville's low-income, working uninsured.

"We are so very fortunate to have Ms. Meyers as our board chair," CEO Mary Pat Corrigan said. "We're confident that her 30-year career in health care, coupled with her passion for Volunteers in Medicine's mission, will serve our patients well."

Currently serving as vice president of risk management, privacy and patient safety for Baptist Health, Meyers brings extensive health care experience to the position. She holds a master's degree in nursing, and is a licensed healthcare risk manager and a certified professional healthcare risk manager. She is also certified in healthcare privacy compliance.

"Volunteers in Medicine is experiencing tremendous growth and we have many new initiatives in store as a result," Corrigan said. "Our wonderful board of directors and all of us are looking forward to the leadership and guidance Ms. Meyers will provide."

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PV2-LV3756

PV3-LV37561

Nease students to participate in experiments conducted on International Space Station

By Jon Blauvelt

Nease High School students will soon participate in experiments that have been conducted on the International Space Station (ISS), allowing them the opportunity to provide real feedback to scientists.

Nease science teacher Christina Talbot is partnering with Orion's Quest, a nonprofit organization that engages middle and high school students in ISS research, to carry out the project in her earth and space and physical science classes. Through observation and analysis of research videos and photographs from orbit and into the classroom, Talbot's students will provide real data that is passed on to scientists in support of research databanks.

The organization's live mission, STEM on Station, studies the effects of microgravity on the human heart. The findings of this research could also advance the understanding and treatment of heart disease here on Earth. Current virtual missions include studies of the effects of space on microbes, plant growth, spiders, fruit flies, butterflies, and worms.

"Having a staff member who is also a practicing teacher brings important insights to our curriculum development process," said Peter Lawrie, executive director for Orion's Quest. "This work supports world class scientists and we are thrilled that forward looking teachers have seized on this opportunity to expose their students to the wonders of STEM education at this level."

Talbot hopes to kick off Nease's weeklong project this week. Talbot explained that her students will conduct experiments on crystal structure to study the effects of gravity. Students will look at photographs of crystal structure experiments that have been conducted on the ISS without gravity, she said, and then run similar experiments in the classroom with gravity in play to analyze the difference.

"They get to see real life applications," Talbot said.

After the experiment, students will take part in a conference call with Orion's Quest to discuss the data and provide feedback on what they learned.

Orion's Quest is the only organization in the United States that offers a program of this kind. The nonprofit provides materials and support needed for the experience free of charge. Teachers can choose to engage their students in "live missions" currently being conducted on the ISS, or "virtual missions" that support past ISS experiments for which scientists continue to collect data.



Photos courtesy of Orion's Quest

Orion's Quest Program Director Tom Drummond addresses a group of students at Seabrook Intermediate School in Texas.



Orion's Quest Founder and Executive Director Peter Lawrie discusses a project with students at Cody High School in Michigan.

Business Weekly

PAGE 29

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017

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INSIDE:
Tribute to
Realtors &
Builders

Arbor Terrace hosts 'Chamber After Hours'

Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra hosted a "Chamber After Hours" event April 19 for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. Chamber

members and guests enjoyed complimentary hors d'oeuvres and refreshments while networking with other business and community leaders.



Declan Reiley and Karen Everett



Ricki Taylor, Kimberly Osteen, Lori Adams and Dave Danzeisen



John Schaum and Ann Terrell



Ed and Cyndi Goldberg

Photos by Susan Griffin

Accept and prepare for significant stock market declines



Harry Pappas
Columnist

By Harry Pappas

Let's take a stroll down memory lane. The time was January 2016. There is no diplomatic way to articulate what happened with the stock market at that time, except to say that we were in panic mode!

Investors had to decide whether they wanted to go with the conventional bearish wisdom, and bail on stocks.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average hit the low of Feb. 11, 2016, when it bottomed at \$15,660. Yep...sure would have been a nice time to add stocks to one's portfolio, but when people are in the midst of a major hurricane of sorts, they often do not think clearly or rationally. Nevertheless, the Dow closed the year at \$19,974.62.

The move from \$15,600 to \$19,974 was, of course, not straight up. In fact, there were many scary moments thought the year. But once again the stock market, measured by the Dow Jones Industrial Average, climbed the

proverbial "Wall of Worry" as it ascended to close just short of \$20,000.

Indeed, nobody would think one was a genius for staying the course or better yet, buying stocks when there was blood in the streets. Nope, crazy was more like it! However, at least for now, some of the "crazy" ones are coming out ahead!

When we are in the middle of so much anxiety and folks are stampeding to the exit door, it is hard to recognize that the theater is not on fire. Nevertheless, it was déjà vu all over again, as far too many folks hit the panic button and their rational thinking went out the window. When selling stopped, and all the bears were exhausted, there appeared nothing else to do but buy! This is called capitulation! Regardless, many investors apparently believed this was going to be the first time in market history that the market went down and stayed down forever.

"Mr. Market" did it again! He made fools out of those who bet on the demise of the stock market. Of course, nobody knows what the future holds for stocks. In fact, the doom-sayers will perhaps be right at some point, but for the past seven years, the alarmists have

been dead wrong! I know that you understand that we will experience more gut-wrenching declines at some point. Regrettably, that is how the "game" works. I encourage you to accept and emotionally prepare for the pending significant decline in stocks. Heck, it could begin as I type these words, or we may not witness a meaningful downturn for years.

In other words, it is not a matter of if, but when. Therefore, how will you react when the inevitable time arrives? As I have been saying for 32 years, keep your finger off the panic button during times of turmoil. As difficult as it is, I encourage you to bite the bullet and allow the process to run its course. Yes, easily said, but not so easily done!

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PV2-LV37758

TRIBUTE TO REALTORS & BUILDERS

Hines wins top honors for Markland marketing

Real estate investment firm Hines was recently recognized for the marketing of its St. Augustine master-planned community Markland at the 22nd Annual Laurel Awards Gala.

The company won "Best in Class" for Markland's print advertising, logo and print brochure. Held March 17 at Alhambra Theatre & Dining, the event was hosted by the Northeast Florida Builders Association Sales and Marketing Council to celebrate the best in real estate market-

ing. More than 230 people from 30 different companies attended the ceremony.

Walter O'Shea, Carla Luigs and Kevin Jund represented Hines in accepting the awards. Michelle Brown, principal and director for Jacksonville's Micamy Design Studio, took home the award for "Best Interior Design for a Clubhouse" for the design of the Markland clubhouse.

Located east of I-95 off International Golf Parkway, Markland is designed for 345 single-family homes.



Photo courtesy of Hines

Walter O'Shea, Michelle Brown, Carla Luigs and Kevin Jund display their awards.



PRICE REDUCTION
Mediterranean Estate Overlooking 12th hole of the Marsh Landing CC

Exceptional 5-bedroom, 7-bath Mediterranean estate overlooking the 12th hole of the Marsh Landing Country Club Golf Course. This home has been meticulously maintained and offers floor plan flexibility. **\$1,465,000**



Mediterranean Style Home in Marsh Landing CC

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PRICE REDUCTION
Enchanting Italian Courtyard Custom Home

Constructed by Elwood Collier in the exclusive Pablo Creek Reserve. If you are looking for an open floor plan, you have found it! Huge wooden doors open to spacious courtyard featuring a summer kitchen and heated salt water pool/spa lit by two gas "coal pits." Courtyard connects to the guest house complete with mini-kitchen and master suite. All three bedrooms on the property offer luxurious ensembles. **\$995,000**



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PV2-LV37788

TRIBUTE TO REALTORS & BUILDERS

Tamaya opens new Residents Club, entrance and fully furnished and decorated model homes

A highly anticipated Residents Club, a new grand entrance and six recently built and decorated model homes are now open in Jacksonville's master planned-community Tamaya.

"This is an important milestone for Tamaya, a one-of-a-kind community and a special place to call home," said Don Wilford, Northeast Florida division president of ICI Homes. "The Residents Club is the perfect place for families to gather and enjoy the community's lifestyle."

Tamaya's new grand entrance fronting Beach Boulevard leads to a two-story gatehouse welcoming residents and guests to the community. Located inside the main gates, the 10,000 square foot Residents Club has been designed as a hub for entertainment and gatherings as well as a place for fitness, wellness and relaxation. Designed to reflect Tamaya's Mediterranean influences, it offers a casual elegance with contemporary Renaissance style, featuring a spacious great room with a catering kitchen, a clubroom, a covered porch and an outdoor patio.

The Residents Club offers two pools, a cabana and nearly 5,000 square feet of fitness space. The step-down pool area features a tower slide, a bathhouse and seating around the competition pool and zero-entry family pool. The facility also features an outdoor palm court bar and a spa garden area.

ICI's model row in the Bella Nika neighborhood features six new furnished and decorated model homes showcasing Tamaya's architecture and design style. Tamaya features a selection of distinctive, flexible and customizable home designs showcasing Tuscan, Mediterranean and

Spanish architectural influences and attractive outdoor living spaces.

Homes in the community range in size



Photos courtesy of ICI Homes

The 10,000-square-foot Residents Club is located inside the main gates of the Tamaya community.

from 1,800 square feet to 6,000 square feet and range in price from the \$300,000s to \$800,000s. Located six miles to the beach



ICI Homes' new model row features six furnished and decorated model homes.

and close to Mayo Clinic, Tamaya is located off Beach Boulevard, midway between Kernan and Hodges boulevards.



The Residents Club exudes a casual elegance with contemporary Renaissance style.

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TRIBUTE TO REALTORS & BUILDERS

Local Berkshire Hathaway affiliate receives recognition at company sales convention

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty was recently recognized as a Top 25 affiliate at the real estate company's annual sales convention in Phoenix.

The Northeast Florida affiliate ranks No. 24 nationally. The top 50 affiliates in the company's network are known as the Berk-

shire Hathaway HomeServices' Elite Circle.

"We are proud to be acknowledged as one of the leading affiliates in our real estate network," said President and CEO Linda Sherrer. "Our associates are the best in the industry, and their commitment has positioned our firm as one of the leading companies for real estate services in the nation."

Broker/Director of Relocation Linda Lindenmoyer and Broker/Realtor Debbie da Silva represented the Northeast Florida affiliate in video commercials produced at the convention and directed towards international customers and franchisees. In the commercial, they share the global exposure and powerful impact of the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices brand as experienced by both domestic and international customers.

"We are honored to have two of our agents out of 54,000 in the network selected

to represent our company in these videos," said Broker/Executive Vice President Christy Budnick. "From the luxury home market to the first-time homebuyer and investor markets, our award-winning realtors are the most respected in the industry."

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices welcomed agents from across the country to the three-day sales convention. The conference program included speakers, educational sessions and motivational programs focused on real estate growth and success.



Photos courtesy of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Florida Network Realty

The Northeast Florida real estate firm receives its recognition as a Top 25 company affiliate.



Sheron Willson, Maria Wilkes, Debbie da Silva, Pete Weller, Christy Budnick and Shameka Wilcox



Don Cline, Cathy Bade, Dawn Niermann, Beverly Hecht, Myrna Brannon and Linda Lindenmoyer

Mattamy Homes showcases RiverTown models in Parade of Homes

Three of Mattamy Homes' RiverTown models are currently being featured in the 2017 Parade of Homes, which began April 22.

Presented by the Northeast Florida Builders Association (NEFBA), the Parade of Homes showcases the best in newly built homes in the region. Running through April 30, the event provides citizens the opportunity to tour a

number of model homes throughout the Greater Jacksonville area.

"We are very proud of our new decorated models at RiverTown and excited to take part in this important industry event," said Cliff Nelson, division president of Mattamy Homes. "The Parade of Homes provides the perfect opportunity to showcase Mattamy's thoughtful design approach and River-

Town's stunning beauty and charm. I encourage everyone to visit RiverTown during the Parade and see all that we have to offer."

The RiverTown models featured in the event include the Egret, the Beauclair and the Iris, which range in size from 1,860 square feet to more than 3,000 square feet. In general, more than 30 home designs, including new floorplans and homesites, are available at RiverTown with prices starting in the \$240,000s.

Located along the St. Johns River, RiverTown is a new master-planned community in St. Johns County that features riverfront property and trails for walking, fishing and relaxing, a new state-of-the-art, \$6 million amenity center, a kayak launch, a baseball complex and more.

The community's welcome center is located at 90 Lanier St. in St. Johns. To visit, travel Interstate 95 to County Road 210 West to Greenbriar Road and turn left at Long Leaf Pine Parkway. The welcome center is located on Long Leaf Pine Parkway just past Bartram Trail High School.



Photos courtesy of Mattamy Homes

The Egret model home has three bedrooms, two baths and 1,860 square feet of living space.



The Beauclair model home has three bedrooms, two baths and 2,130 square feet of living space.



The Iris model home has 3,390 square feet of living space.



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TRIBUTE TO REALTORS & BUILDERS

NEFBA kicks off annual 'Parade of Homes'

By Jennifer Logue

The Northeast Florida Builders Association (NEFBA) kicked off its annual "Parade of Homes" with a cocktail reception for local Realtors.

Held at Nocatee's Crosswater Hall, the reception offered real estate agents an opportunity to familiarize themselves with many of the builders participating in the new-home showcase. Among the participating builders were Pineapple Corp., Mattamy, Del Webb, CalAtlantic, ICI, Dream Finders, David Weekley, Del Webb and more.

Happening through April 30, the Parade of Homes offers prospective home buyers a chance to tour 105 model homes in 75 neighborhoods across the First Coast from

Fernandina to St. Augustine. Communities participating in the event include Tamaya, Pablo Creek Reserve, Bartram Park Preserve, Atlantic Beach Country Club and Nocatee's Artisan Lakes in Duval County; Amelia Concourse, Amelia National and Plummer Creek in Nassau County; and The Forest at Las Calinas, Markland, Shearwater, Julatington Lakes and Nocatee's Coastal Oaks and Twenty Mile in St. Johns County.

"The Parade of Homes is a great opportunity for builders to introduce their model homes, and for buyers to get inspired by new design ideas," said Jenn Kjellman of Dream Finders Homes.

For more information on the 2017 Parade of Homes, visit <http://parade365.jacksonville.com/newhomes/>.



Jenn Kjellman and Jack Floyd of Dream Finders Homes



Mark and Kasia Kaprelian of Watson Realty Corp.

Photos by Jennifer Logue



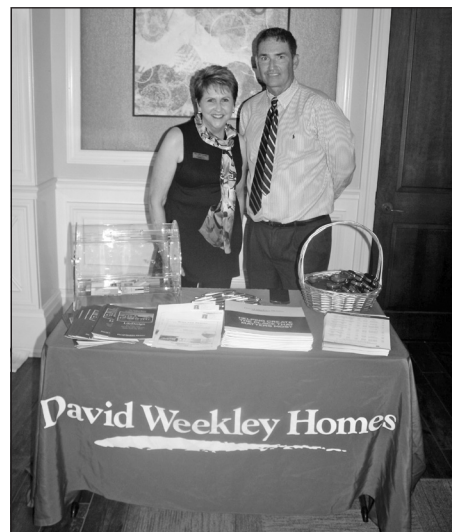
Representatives from Del Webb discuss the community with an attendee.



Olivia Wheeler, Irena Shepherd, Dario Picciotti, Kirstin Walker and Stephen Moore of CalAtlantic Homes



Angela Andres of Dostie Homes



Mary Ellen Salvador and Mike Daniel of David Weekley Homes



J.R. Rodermund and Vicki Bratvold of ICI Homes

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TRIBUTE TO REALTORS & BUILDERS

Berkshire Hathaway Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office welcomes new Realtors

The Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently welcomed Realtors Ilona Fischer and Leslie Taylor.

Prior to joining the real estate firm, Fischer spent nearly two decades

developing and executing marketing strategies and negotiating contracts. She was named to the Jacksonville Business Journal's "40 Under 40" in 2010, and she is also a volunteer for the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund. She is also an alumna of the Leadership Jacksonville

program.

Taylor, a resident of St. Johns County since 2003, has had a love for real estate since she was a child in northern Virginia. As the daughter of a Realtor, she spent weekends looking at houses from the backseat of her parents' car, helping her mother with open houses and working on school assignments in the back of her office. "I am a full-time Realtor and always provide my clients with the personal care and professional service they deserve," Taylor said. "I am a true

'people person,' a good listener, and I have a deep-rooted passion for real estate."



Ilona Fischer



Leslie Taylor



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Linda Ash, Realtor • Robert Rose, Realtor • Zandra Quintana, PA Realtor
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Jacksonville Symphony performs in Ponte Vedra at annual BRASS gala

By Jennifer Logue

The Jacksonville Symphony came to Ponte Vedra last weekend, performing a special concert at the annual gala for BRASS (Beaches Residents Actively Supporting the Symphony).

Held April 23 at the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club, the evening featured a cocktail reception, dinner and live auction for such special experiences as the opportunity to have symphony musicians perform a concert in the high bidder's home, all-week tournament tickets to THE PLAYERS Championship 2017 and the chance

to conduct the symphony at the 2018 BRASS gala. Jacksonville Symphony Associate Conductor Nathan Aspinall then conducted the symphony in a concert that included John Philip Sousa's "Liberty Bell March," Dvorak's "Carnival Overture, Op. 92" and "Intermezzo" from Act III of Puccini's "Manon Lescaut" as well as selections by Elgar, Schubert and Strauss.

A special highlight of the evening was a performance by 8-year-old violinist Leila Warren, who recently won the grand prize in the 2017 BRASS Ring Student Music Competition. Gala attendees gave a

standing ovation for Warren, the youngest musician ever to win the competition's grand prize, which includes a \$500 music scholarship.

Proceeds from the gala support BRASS's efforts to promote concert attendance and support music education while providing financial support to the Jacksonville Symphony. The all-volunteer nonprofit's support, Jacksonville Symphony CEO Robert Massey said, is critical.

"BRASS is absolutely vital to the symphony's growth in Northeast Florida," Massey said at the gala, noting that thanks

to BRASS's support, the symphony's reach has grown from 160,000 people to 201,000 people, 70,000 of whom are children.

Symphony Board Chairman Matthew McAfee agreed. "BRASS members are the lifeline of the symphony," he said. "The Beaches communities are critical to our ongoing success."

For more information on BRASS, visit www.brassonline.org.

View more gala photos online at pontevedrarecorder.com and in the next issue of First Coast Register magazine.



Photos by Jennifer Logue

Seana McAfee, BRASS President Michael Imbriani and Jacksonville Symphony Board Chair Matthew McAfee



Jacksonville Symphony supporters Monica and Robert Jacoby



Nathan Aspinall conducts the Jacksonville Symphony at the annual BRASS gala.



Jacksonville Symphony CEO Robert Massey and Jessica Mallow



BRASS Ring winner Leila Warren, 8, with parents John and Ana-Lucia Warren



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Nease drama students travel ‘Back to the 80s’

Big hair, leg warmers and neon-colored tops returned to Nease High School last week, as the school’s drama students presented the musical “Back to the 80s.”

Presented April 18-19 in the school’s Performing Arts Center, the student-driven production set in a 1980s high school featured a score filled with some of the decade’s most popular

tunes – from “Material Girl” and “Man in the Mirror” to “Love Shack” and “Wake Me Up Before You Go Go.”

In addition to performing in the musical, students also were responsible for the show’s choreography, costumes, props and publicity, with guidance from drama teacher Maria Laird and choir director Madeline Poe.



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Stellers Gallery spring show to feature works by Laura Lacambra Shubert and Erin Gregory

Paintings by nationally recognized artists Laura Lacambra Shubert and Erin Gregory will be on display as part of a new exhibition at Stellers Gallery at Ponte Vedra Beach.

An opening reception will be held Thursday, April 27 at 6 p.m. at the gallery, located at 240 A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Lacambra Shubert has been with Stellers since 1995. According to the gallery, her loose brush strokes, thick with paint in acrylic and oil, reflect joy and warmth while focusing on themes of beauty and happiness. Gregory, a more recent addition to the gallery, is known for her use of color and light in both subtle and bold brush strokes to evoke nostalgic and uplifting feelings by the viewer.



Laura Lacambra Shubert



Erin Gregory artwork

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Shapiro Group, 2012.

ABET to present 'The Hallelujah Girls'

Atlantic Beach Experimental Theatre will debut its production of "The Hallelujah Girls" next weekend with performances Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6 at 8 p.m. at 716 Ocean Blvd. in Atlantic Beach.

Set in SPA-DEE-DAH! – an abandoned church-turned-day-spa – the Southern comedy follows the feisty females of Eden

Falls, Georgia as they decide to shake up their lives. Rallying together, the women support one another as they work to overcome obstacles and launch new, improved lives.

Directed by Celia Frank, "The Hallelujah Girls" will be performed May 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21. Performances are at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, with



Photo by Caryl Butterley

Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and are available at www.abetheatre.com

or by calling (904) 249-7177.

Forensics firearms expert to offer advice to crime writers



Kristin Durfee

Writers in need of firearm and forensic advice may have their questions answered soon.

Firearms forensic scientist Kristin Durfee will speak at the Ponte Vedra

Beach Branch Library Saturday, April 29 at 10:30 a.m. as part of a Ponte Vedra Writers Association meeting. Durfee will help educate writers about these issues during her talk,

"How to Commit the Perfect Murder (on Paper)."

"Don't risk throwing your reader out of your story because an incorrect term was used," Durfee said. "Learn how to properly write about firearms, the laboratory's role in solving your character's death and how to accurately portray courtroom testimony with an expert witness."

During her presentation, Durfee will address key points and elements necessary for writers, including the correct types and terminology of firearms, information about what the crime lab does and does not do, and

how those elements tie together in court and in fiction.

A Pennsylvania native, Durfee writes for both young adult and adult readers and has published two full-length novels as well as short stories. She currently resides near Orlando with her husband, son and dogs.

The Ponte Vedra Writers chapter is one of more than 50 writers groups affiliated with the Florida Writers Association, a nonprofit membership organization with nearly 1,500 members. For more information about the organization, visit www.floridawriters.net.

Apex Theatre to present 'Disney's The Lion King Jr.' April 28-29

Apex Theatre Studio's Junior Musical Theater workshop will present "Disney's The Lion King Jr." Friday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, April 29 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

Based on the animated classic, "The Lion King Jr." follows young Simba on his coming-of-age journey from frisky cub to leader of the Pridelands. The 80-minute, family-friendly musical features hits including "Circle of Life," "Hakuna Matada," and "Can You Feel The Love Tonight."

"This group of young artists excels at comedy and storytelling," Director Ian Mairs said. "Our version of this tale is rendered with a great amount of imagination and joy. There is less of a focus on pageantry and more on the human tale which exists at the heart of the story."

Now celebrating its fourth year, the nonprofit Apex Theatre Studio fosters a passion and curiosity for acting, singing, dancing and stagecraft in young performers through a series of master classes, intensives, readings and theatrical presentations. Located at 5150 Palm Valley Road, the studio offers a variety of summer classes. A schedule of upcoming offerings is available at www.apextheatrejax.com.

Tickets for "Disney's The Lion King Jr." are \$15 and are available at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and St. Augustine Amphitheatre box offices, ticketmaster.com, all Ticketmaster outlets and by phone at (800) 745-3000.

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Roscolusa brings songwriters to Nocatee

By Jennifer Logue

“Who’s here because they love country music?” Gator Country DJ Eden Kendall asked to loud cheers from the crowd.

“Who’s here because they have a golf cart?” she added, to an equal number of cheers.

There was no shortage of either at Nocatee Town Center Field Saturday, as thousands of local residents flocked to the 6th Annual Roscolusa Songwriters Festival. Residents from across the First Coast came to the event, which gives attendees a chance to hear some of country music’s

popular songs sung by the musicians who wrote them. Along the way, the audience also gets to learn the stories behind the songs.

In addition to a five-hour lineup of music by a dozen singer-songwriters, this year’s Roscolusa featured a variety of food trucks and a kids’ fun zone. Sponsored by Citi, the kids’ zone charged a nominal admission fee, with all proceeds benefiting the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund to help children battling cancer.

After an opening performance by local artist Kay Gianna, the evening began in earnest with a “songwriter round,” as ar-

tists Casey Weston, Kaylee Rose and Tylor Bailey took the stage together. Weston – a former contestant on “The Voice” – kicked things off by sharing what inspired her to write the song “Mr. Wrong.”

“In Nashville, you hear a lot of love songs,” Weston told the crowd. “But a lot of girls (there) aren’t meeting Mr. Right – they’re meeting Mr. Wrong.”

Weston then launched into the rollicking lament about being a single girl in a city filled with Mr. Wrongs.

Other artists on the lineup at this year’s Roscolusa included Brigette Tatum, Danny Myrick, Jesse Rice, Rick Ferrell, Post

Monroe, Jeffrey Steele and Ponte Vedra native Kim Paige, who founded Roscolusa on Roscoe Boulevard in 2012.

The event quickly outgrew that venue and for the past several years has been held in Nocatee, along the way adding numerous sponsors and the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund as charity beneficiary. Sponsors of this year’s event included Ponte Vedra Beach’s Pivot CPAs – which recently opened an office in Nocatee – as well as Momentum Transportation, Fields Auto Group, ASE, Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery and more.

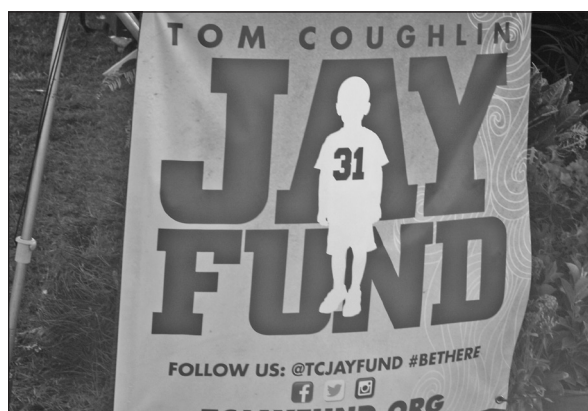


Photos by Jennifer Logue

Casey Weston, Kaylee Rose and Tylor Bailey perform at the 6th Annual Roscolusa Songwriters Festival, held April 22 in Nocatee.



The 6th annual Roscolusa Songwriters Festival returned to Nocatee Saturday.



A portion of the proceeds from Roscolusa benefits The Tom Coughlin Jay Fund.



Cassandra Kelly and Cary Ann Moody welcome guests to the Roscolusa kids’ zone. Sponsored by Citi, the family friendly section charged a nominal admission fee, with all proceeds going to the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund.



Local student athletes sign letters of intent to play in college

By Jon Blauvelt

Several student athletes from local high schools recently signed their letters of intent to further their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level.

Nease celebrated the accomplishments of six student athletes at the high school's spring signing day ceremony April 24. Attended by family, coaches and friends, the event kicked off with the recognition of boy's lacrosse players Mason Combs, Sean Howard and Tyler Schaffer. Combs pledged his official commitment to University of Montevallo, while Howard signed to play at Florida Southern College and Schaffer committed to Mercer

University.

Nease then recognized baseball players Collin Garner and Patrick Irish, who are headed to Brown University and West Point respectively. The event concluded with Panthers soccer player Pavan Ramachandria committing to Rhodes College.

At Ponte Vedra High School, meanwhile, Sharks senior Sara McKeivitt signed her national letter of intent April 19 to play golf at University of South Florida. Sharks girl's golf coach Clint Finlay hosted the signing, which was attended by McKeivitt's parents, teammates and other friends. The Ponte Vedra student athlete is the school's

first female golfer to sign for a Division 1 golf team in Florida.

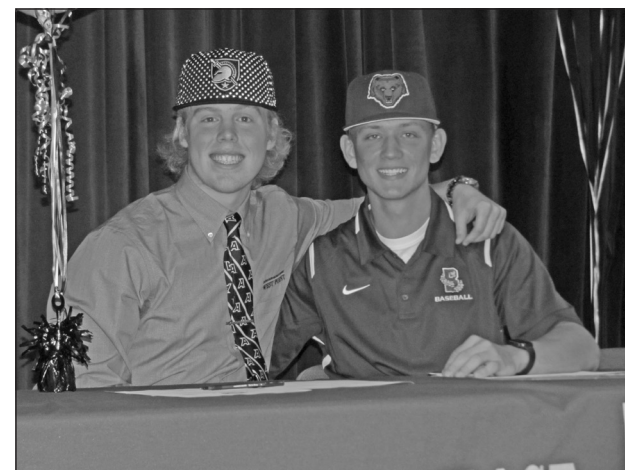
Earlier in April, Ponte Vedra Beach residents Ally Hajda, Jamie Brophy and Graham Ungrady were among 14 Bolles School student athletes honored for signing their letters of intent. Family, friends, classmates, coaches and faculty filled McGehee Auditorium on the school's San Jose campus April 12 as Hajda committed to run cross country/track at Brown University, Brophy signed to play football at Ave Maria University and Ungrady pledged to swim at West Point.



Panthers senior Pavan Ramachandria signs to play soccer at Rhodes College with his family at his side.



Six Nease student athletes sign their letters of intent April 24.



Nease baseball players Patrick Irish and Collin Garner join together after committing to their respective colleges.



Nease lacrosse players Tyler Schaffer, Sean Howard and Mason Combs come together after signing.



Sharks senior Sara McKeivitt signs to golf at University of South Florida with the support of coaches Clint Finlay and Jim Ragland and parents Lydia and Rick McKeivitt.



Sara McKeivitt gathers with teammates and friends after signing her letter of intent.



Photo courtesy of The Bolles School

Ponte Vedra Beach residents Ally Hajda, Jamie Brophy and Graham Ungrady are among 14 Bolles student athletes to sign their letters of intent April 12.

Ponte Vedra girls lacrosse advances



Photo submitted by Brette Reiman

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to state semifinals

The Ponte Vedra girls' lacrosse team is heading to the state semifinals after defeating St. Augustine High School, Winter Park High School and Oak Hall School in three regional play-in games to become 2017 FHSAA regional champions.

The Sharks' final regional game against Oak Hall in Gainesville last week was their most challenging, with Ponte Vedra winning 13-10. Sharks senior All-American and Navy commit Ellie Lecker took control of the game with four goals and an assist, while also securing six important draw controls. University of Virginia commit Sarah Thomasson contributed two goals, and it was her two caused turnovers late in the game that were vital to the team's win.

Hustle plays in the midfield made by future Davidson commits Tess Reiman and Emma Johnson helped the Sharks find the net multiple times, with Reiman scoring two goals and adding an assist, while Johnson contributed one assist. Freshman attacker Abbey Watson stepped up and scored three goals with two assists. Attackers Catee de Roziere and Caroline O'Neil rounded

out the Sharks' scoring with one goal each.

Sharks coach Karen Healy-Silcott was especially proud of freshman goalie Lexie de Roziere, who accumulated 10 saves. The Ponte Vedra coach also emphasized the importance of senior leadership from Laney McGriff, Amanda Ward, Tess Reiman and Mad-die and Ellie Lecker.

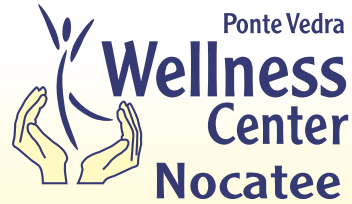
"These seniors have led the way through coaching transitions and experience on and off the field," said Healy-Silcott. "Their selflessness and heart for their teammates has made me so proud to coach them."

The Sharks will travel to Jupiter High School to battle Orlando's Bishop Moore High School in the state semifinals on Friday, April 28, at 2 p.m. The finalists will play in the state championship on Saturday, April 29, at 4:05 p.m.

"This team has so much heart," said Healy-Silcott. "They understand what a combination of hard work, focus and teamwork can achieve. It is such a great feeling as a coach when you realize that your team trusts you and succeeds."

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9. Plague carrier
13. *Like a plant in Zone 2
14. Column's counterpart
15. Exclude
16. *More bitterly cold
17. Computer-generated imagery
18. One of Florida Keys
19. *Fahrenheit alternative
21. Nanking cotton
23. Make weblike fabric
24. Giant Himalayan
25. Geological time period
28. Russian parliament
30. Join the military
35. 100-meter _____
37. One in a million
39. Crude commodity transporter
40. Icelandic epic
41. Rock bottom
43. Aquarium scum
44. Sends
46. Foal's mother
47. Tear violently
48. *A blast from the North Pole
50. Belgian port, in Dutch
52. Fish eggs
53. T on a test
55. "_____ we there yet?"
57. *End-of-summer
61. *Average weather

DOWN

1. Swanky
2. Fabric related to #23
3. Seed covering
4. "That is," to an Ancient Roman
5. Indefinitely large number
6. Tolkien villains
7. *Cause of low visibility
8. Strong string
9. "Don't give me any _____!"
10. Plural of lira
11. U2 guitarist
12. Longest division of time
15. *a.k.a. The Little Boy
20. Driver's 180
22. Had a meal
24. Distance to a golfer
25. Swelling
26. *Meteorologist's tool
27. Echo sounder
29. Madam, to a cowboy
31. Baron Munchausen, e.g.
32. Sicker
33. Repeat, in music

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SHORT TAKES

Putt N' Crawl to return to Jacksonville Beach

The 14th Annual Putt N' Crawl is set to take place at Jacksonville Beach on Saturday, May 6 from 1 to 7 p.m.

During the event, 11 restaurants and bars along the beach will be transformed into mini-golf greens to benefit local charities, including Ronald McDonald House, Giving Greens, Mission House, Foodies USA, American Lung Association, USO and more.

Golfers can sign in at Lynch's Pub, Ocean Grille or Zeta Brewing Company and proceed to any of the hole locations. Holes are located at the three check-in locations in addition to Flask and Cannon, V Pizza, Mango's Bar, The Pier Cantina and Sandbar, The Tavern on 1st, The Wreck Tiki Lounge, Local's Dock and Campeche Bay Cantina.

Tournaments can be played individually or in groups of four. Tickets are available at online for \$20 each, or they can be purchased the day of the event for \$25 at selected participating venues. Credit card payment is preferred. Putt N' Crawl is an exclusive event for guests aged 21 and older. Once registered, players will receive a wristband, an official scorecard, map and other prizes. For more information, visit www.puttcrawl.com.

Harry Potter actor appear at Romanza Festivale of the Arts

A Harry Potter event will be among the many activities happening as part of St. Augustine's annual Romanza Festivale of the Arts, to be held across the Ancient City from May 5-14.

On Saturday, May 13 from noon to 8 p.m., Francis Field will be transformed into Diagon Alley, with live performances, shops, butter beer and a chance to ride the Hogwarts Express. Guests will have the opportunity to be sorted into one of the four Hogwarts houses, try out new wand techniques and cheer for their favorite teams during a Quidditch match.

A special highlight of the vent will be an appearance by actor Chris Rankin, best known as the actor who played Percy Weasley in the Harry Potter Films. Advance tickets to the Harry Potter event are \$4, available online at www.romanzafestivale.com, and \$5 on the day of the event at the gate.

In addition to the Harry Potter event, visitors can enjoy various other offerings at the 10-day Romanza Festivale. Daily events include music and dance performances, concerts, art shows, dramatic productions and much more at several locations throughout the city. Many events are free, though admission is required for others. For more information about events and times, visit www.romanzafestivale.com.

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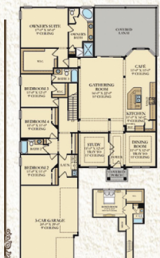
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