

Ponte Vedra Recorder



September 22, 2016
Volume 46, No. 38
75 cents

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com



Life is Sweet

Custom confections
in Ponte Vedra

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The Gift of Giving

Meet your local
charities and
nonprofits

Page 17

NEW!



Business Weekly

Featuring a Tribute
to Realtors & Builders

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SHARKS TROUNCE WOLFPACK

The Sharks' Hal Swan runs through the Wolfson line for a good gain. Read more on page 41.

Photo by Chris and Jerry Norton

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One of Us

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Meet Your Local Nonprofit

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Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. If you have hard copies of photos you want us to feature, feel free to bring them to our office — we'll scan them and hand them right back. E-mail submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



Visit our new website at www.pontevedrarecorder.com

Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder

WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer to jennifer@opcfla.com by Tuesday at 5 p.m.

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

Four readers correctly identified last week's photo as Berry & Co. Real Estate. The winner of the random drawing is **Julie Briggs** – congratulations, Julie! You may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during regular business hours.



Don't forget — incorrect but entertaining guesses might also be rewarded with a trip to the zoo.

ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

Hi there! I'm a 4-year-old male cat named Philly who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center as a stray. As this animal was a stray there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit us today here at the pet center! #33482



DOG OF THE WEEK

Hi there! I'm Anna, a 6-year-old female lab mix who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center because my owners were no longer able to keep me. I'm very sweet and love to have my belly rubbed and go on long walks.



Please come visit me here at the pet center and give me a forever family. #34268

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

St. Johns County Pet Center

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

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

A	L	A	R	M	T	E	C	P	U	M	A	
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Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

Something
SPOOKTACULAR
this way
comes...



**OCTOBER 14-16,
21-23, 27-31**

6:30 PM - 10 PM
GATES CLOSE AT 9 PM



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Gate subsidiary sues county to act on Outpost development application

By Jennifer Logue

A Gate Petroleum subsidiary has filed a lawsuit against St. Johns County, asking the court to force the county to act on its planned unit development (PUD) application for “Vista Tranquilla,” a 77-home development it wants to build on the Outpost property.

In the lawsuit, the Ponte Vedra Corporation (PVC) charges that county officials

have failed to act for more than three years on its request for a routine administrative interpretation regarding the limits of the Conservation designation of the 99-acre Outpost property located at the end of Neck Road and adjacent to the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve. After failing to receive a response to the request submitted in 2013, PVC filed a PUD zoning application

in July 2016, which the lawsuit charges also has not been acted upon within the typical time frame.

“By refusing to process and/or by delaying the processing of PVC’s application for administrative interpretation and the Vista Tranquilla PUD application,” the lawsuit states, “county staff has illegitimately imposed procedural barriers to PVC’s ability to seek any final agency action from the BOCC concerning development of the Outpost site under the current Comp Plan.”

The lawsuit asks the court to issue an injunction requiring the county to process the PUD application in a timely man-

ner, interpret the property’s Conservation designation and declare that county staff violated PVC’s right to due process by delaying consideration of the project.

“This is not to get damages or monetary benefit,” Gate Petroleum Vice President Ken Wilson said of the lawsuit against the county. “It’s just to force them to act.”

Resident opposition

In response to the proposed Vista Tranquilla development, local residents have organized a group called “Save Guana Now.” Led by Neck Road residents Nicole

LAWSUIT continues on Page 7



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Barbara Maple 904.571.1764
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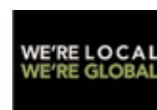
Spend your evenings enjoying the cool summer breeze on the screened lanai of this immaculate estate residence. MLS 845734

Jeanie Leapley 904.673.8846
JLeapley@WatsonRealtyCorp.com
Daryl Atkins 904.415.7323
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North Florida women 'Unite for Trump' at Sawgrass Country Club event

By Jennifer Logue

Angelia Savage recalled the time two young men in their 20s came into Trump Tower and wanted to look at some apartments.

A former Miss Florida and now the host of Jacksonville's "The Chat," Savage didn't think the young men could possibly afford the building's multimillion-dollar residences and thought it would be a waste of time to give them a tour. Her boss, Donald Trump, set her straight.

"He said, 'Angelia, this is a lesson for you – never, ever discriminate; never judge a book by its cover,'" she said. "He doesn't discriminate and he didn't expect me to, either."

Savage showed the men some units, and the next day they purchased not one, but two multimillion-dollar apartments.

It was but one of the many lessons Savage learned during the seven years she worked for Trump, she said last week at a "Women Uniting for Trump" event. Held Sept. 15 at Sawgrass Country Club, the event organized by Janet Westling and Duval Republican Party Chairwoman Cindy Graves attracted 250 First Coast women supporting Trump's candidacy for president.

Savage dispelled many of the misconceptions she said both the public and the mainstream media have about her former boss. Far from being an arrogant and aloof millionaire, she said, the Donald Trump she knows is a kind, devoted family man who invests his time in teaching and mentoring employees at every level of his organization.

"He treats everyone equally – from the grounds keepers to the highest executives," she said, adding that Trump has great respect for women, who make up the majority of his employees.

"It angers me no end," Savage said, "to hear someone say he doesn't like women." Above all, she said, Trump's skills as a negotiator and his ability to fix problems will make him a great president.

"He's a great troubleshooter – he fixes things before they're broken and he'll do that for America," she said. "He's also a great listener; he'll get everyone in the room's opinion on an issue before making a decision. That's a great quality to have in a leader."

Savage's comments resonated with the

audience of Trump supporters, many of whom took turns at the microphone to share their reasons for supporting Trump's candidacy.

Patricia Rutherford, wife of former Jacksonville sheriff and congressional candidate John Rutherford, said she is supporting Trump because she cares about her grandchildren and the world in which they'll grow up.

"Many of the reasons people don't like Trump are the reasons I support him," she said. "He is tough on foreign policy and will stand up for America. How can anyone honestly say the world is safer after eight years of so-called diplomacy?"

Several attendees said Trump's experience as a successful businessman was key to their support for him.

"I don't care that he's not a policy wonk," Andrea Anthony said. "He's not a politician – he tells it like it is. And he knows how to surround himself with great people."

Robin Albaneze agreed. "He's a good businessman," she said. "I think he'll bring in the best of the very best to run the country."

Peterbrooke Chocolatier founder Phyllis Geiger said her support for Trump was rooted in her family's long support for independence and American values that stretches back to the Revolutionary War, in which her ancestor fought.

"Throughout history, we have always been good Americans," Geiger said, "and now to be called deplorable makes my blood boil."

Congressional candidate Glo Smith said her support for Trump disproves the media's contention that few if any African Americans are supporting Trump's candidacy.

"I'm here to tell you there are more of us than they will ever tell you," Smith said.

Noting that she was raised in the projects of Jacksonville by a mother "who told me you can be whatever you want," Smith said, "I was taught to vote across party lines and to vote for the best candidate."

In this election, she said, that candidate is Donald Trump.

"We have waited too long for a man to step up and lead us in the direction we want to go."

View more event photos online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com.



Photos by Jennifer Logue

"The Chat" Host and former Miss Florida USA Angelia Savage addresses attendees at the Women for Trump event.



Event organizers Janet Westling and Cindy Graves



Donation from Ponte Vedra Beach family brings PVHS band unity, new style

Newly appointed Ponte Vedra High School (PVHS) Marching Band Director Jermaine Reynolds and his Ocean of Sound Band, decked out in new blue and grey uniforms, made their much-anticipated home opener debut Friday, Sept. 9 at a football game against Oakleaf.

The new uniforms were made possible by a donation from longtime Ponte Vedra Beach residents Duke and Sherry Horner, who were honored and thanked during halftime for their role in helping the band acquire new gear.

Senior trombonist Abby Horner, the Horners' granddaughter, has watched the band evolve over the last three years.

"When I was a freshman at PVHS, there were only 27 band members marching and we had been through a few directors in a short period of time," she said. "I thought about quitting, but realized I loved the band. I did not want to give up on the chance of helping to create the best band possible.

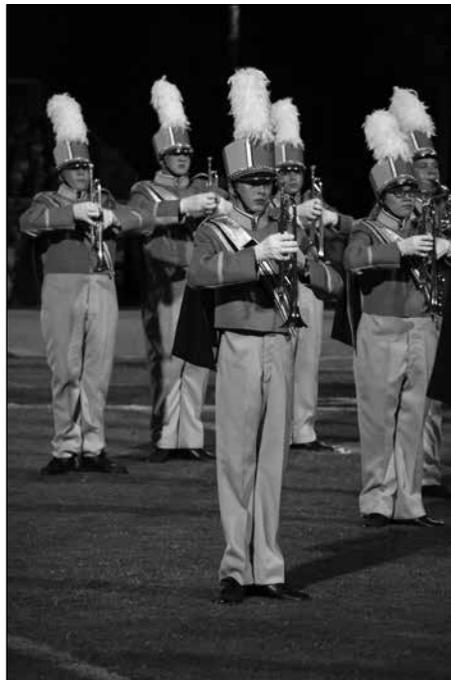
"Then, sophomore year, Mr. [Jakob] Wisdom came along and he got the kids excited about the band," Horner recalled. "He wrote a new fight song for our school and from there, the band started picking up a lot of steam. The kids could see how fun it was to have a real band."

A need for unity

At one of the Ocean of Sound's competitions in 2015, Abby's grandparents came to support their granddaughter and the PVHS band. Since its inception, the musicians wore coordinated band themed t-shirts, black or dark blue pants and black sneakers. The PVHS entry was the only band competing without formal uniforms.

Sherry Horner recalled feeling distressed once she realized the PVHS band didn't have a "unified" look.

"It just broke my heart that our kids



Photos by Robert Leverock

The PVHS Band trumpet section performs at the Sept. 9 football game half-time versus Oakleaf.

were working so hard to make the band a success, but did not have, so to speak, a tux for the prom or a dress to wear to the ball," she said.

"Duke and I sat there during that competition and thought about how we could help make uniforms a reality for the following year, less than 10 months away."

Meeting the challenge

The couple initially offered a \$20,000 gift to the band for uniforms, but later found that the price – \$53,000 – greatly exceeded the band's budget, even including the donation. The two then offered to match any other monies the band could raise dollar for dollar.

Band members and their families set off raising money through the Ducky Derby,



Senior Trombonist Abby Horner in her new band uniform with her grandparents, Duke and Sherry Horner, at the first PVHS home football game on Sept. 9.

the Winter Spectacular, by selling Fan Flip Flops and soliciting other donations. In all, they raised \$25,000 – twice as much as they'd ever raised before.

The Horners promptly matched the \$25,000 the band raised, bringing their family's total gift to \$45,000. Touched by the efforts of the band and their families, the couple realized the commitment the community had to the kids of the band.

"One of the wonderful things Duke and I have been able to witness is the evolution of Ponte Vedra Beach," Sherry Horner said. "We've been here 60 years and have watched it grow from a two-lane road with only one K-8 school, to a four-lane road with two elementary schools, a middle school and its very own high school. And to see our own children and grandchildren thriving here has made it even more fulfilling.

"We thought this would be a wonderful

way to celebrate our love for the community, to give back to a town and school that has given us so much."

The band's new ensemble features grey bibber pants, a light blue jacket with a white sash, a black, one-shoulder cape and a blue hat accented by a long white feather plume. In addition, all members have matching black shoes. Most instrument sections wear white gloves, and the color guard has complementary gray uniforms with black lines. Next, the band intends to purchase garment bags to keep the new threads fresh.

The state competition will be held in Tampa in November – and nearly 100 musicians and color guard members will be marching there in style.

"The uniforms have changed the conversation about PVHS's band," Reynolds said. "Our new music program is called Identity, which is a hat tip toward the Sharks' new look. And we are heading to state's. It does not get any better for a school band."

Eleven Ponte Vedra students named National Merit Scholar semifinalists

Eleven local students were named National Merit Scholar semifinalists Sept. 14.

Ava Hampton, John Hiltonen, Malavika Nair, Suzanne Raybuck and Shelby Wallace of Allen D. Nease High School and John Fox, William Harrington, Clare Hartman, Carson Richter, Parker Shannon and Adam Snowden of Ponte Vedra High School were among those selected.

Officials of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced the names of approximately 16,000 semifinalists in the 62nd annual National Merit Scholarship Program, in which academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in a competition for more than 7,500

National Merit Scholarships worth about \$33 million that will be offered next spring.

Approximately 1.6 million high school juniors entered the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2015 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). To become finalists, semifinalists and their high schools must submit an application and meet requirements such as maintaining an outstanding academic record, writing an essay and earning SAT scores confirming their qualifying test performance. 15,000 semifinalists are expected to advance to the finalist level, a designation they will be notified of in February.

The NMSC will offer three types of scholarships in the spring of 2017. Every finalist is expected to compete for one of the 2,500 National Merit Scholarships worth \$2,500 awarded on a state-representational basis. Approximately 1000 corporate-sponsored scholarships will be provided by an estimated 230 corporations and business organizations for finalists who meet their criteria. In addition, roughly 190 colleges and universities are expected to finance some 4,000 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship Awards for finalists who will attend the sponsor institution.

The winners of the National Merit Scholarship will be announced beginning in April and ending in July.

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As a senior associate attorney for Rock Solid Business Law, Yasmin Adamy specializes in estate planning, probate, elder law and guardianships. Her own personal experience as a child dealing with the courts under tragic circumstances motivated her to become an attorney to help others navigate the legal system.

Yasmin Adamy

By Jennifer Logue

How can attorneys be of assistance to senior citizens in handling their estates?

An attorney can be a strong advocate for senior citizens. As an elder law attorney, I use a holistic approach to help seniors protect their assets, qualify for government or veterans' benefits, plan for incapacity, and ensure that the senior has appointed someone they trust to carry out any financial decisions and make health care decisions. Although litigation is a last resort, I do represent clients in probate litigation and elder law litigation.

Our firm uses a proactive approach in designing an estate plan for our seniors so that difficult situations that may arise when it comes to capacity or probate never occur. We plan today for tomorrow.

A rewarding part of my elder law practice includes long-term care planning for veterans. In addition, my practice also includes pet trusts and pet protection plans. Many people consider pets to be part of their family. A traditional estate plan (or no estate plan) will not protect furry family members when their humans are incapacitated or when they die.

What legal protections do you recommend that families have?

There are core estate planning documents that every person should have in place. These include a Durable Power of Attorney, so that financial decisions can be made during incapacity; Health Care Surrogate and Living Will, to ensure that your loved ones know your end of life decisions; and a Last Will and Testament, so that you give an inheritance and legacy to the people that you choose and not the people that the state of Florida has chosen for you. For most families, a Living Trust is a powerful estate planning tool that will avoid the probate court process, provide an immediate inheritance to your loved ones (as opposed to the delay caused by probate), and maintain privacy (probate proceedings are public record).

By having an estate plan in place, your loved ones are spared from having to deal with guardianship proceedings and probate proceedings at court. Your estate plan is "your plan" and it makes certain that "your wishes" are carried out. An unexpected tragedy or illness can happen at any time. If your estate plan is in place and it is rock solid, your loved ones will not be left in the position of having to deal with attorneys, court fees and a bunch of rules and regulations.

What sets Rock Solid Business Law apart from other firms?

We are a boutique firm that offers paramount legal services to our clients, who communicate directly with the attorney handling their case. By being a boutique firm, we are able to offer our clients custom-made plans at competitive prices. This also allows us to be flexible. We gladly meet clients on weekends and are more than happy to meet them at their home if they cannot come to our office. We consider our clients to be family.

How did you decide on a career in the law?

As a young child, I had to testify at a trial pertaining to the death of my father, who was a police officer killed



Photo by Jasmine Marshall

in the line of duty. I will never forget the terror I felt as I looked at the attorneys and members of the jury. I will never forget how helpless I felt. It seemed as if no one was listening to me. I became an attorney so that I could advocate for my clients – so that their voices will be heard.

Fresh out of high school, I had the opportunity to work for an elderly gentleman who was also a famous tax attorney, lovingly referred to as "Black Al, the Tax Payer's Pal." Al suffered from macular degeneration; he could barely see. Being a tax attorney who was still practicing and teaching at the law school and not being able to read was very frustrating for him. I became his eyes. He would have me read statutes, newspapers and law books. I learned to love estate planning and probate because of Al. Two years ago, my grandmother died from complications due to Alzheimer's Disease. I was very close to my Gram and witnessed how the disease progressed until it claimed her life. Through my experiences with Al and my

Gram, I developed an affinity for our seniors and empathy for the challenges that they deal with. This is why I am a strong advocate for our senior citizens.

Are there any civic or charitable groups with which you're involved that you'd like to highlight?

I strongly support the mission and purpose of K9s for Warriors, C.O.P.S. (concerns for police survivors), Alzheimer's Association and the local Pet Rescues.

What brought you to the First Coast?

I've always wanted to live in Ponte Vedra. When I first moved to Florida, I was driving down A1A and thought to myself "Wow! This place is beautiful. Someday, I'd love to live here. What is this area called?" Later, I found out that it was Ponte Vedra. I just didn't know how to pronounce it (I thought it was "Pontay Vaedra"). Now that I live here, my pronunciation is passable. Who knows, I might even learn how to say "Mickler's."

Lawsuit

Continued from 3

Crosby and Gary Coulliette, the group says the Outpost property is home to wild-life and aims to prevent development on the property so it may be preserved.

“I think Ponte Vedra Corporation is behaving like a bully,” Crosby said. “They’ve filed a lawsuit to circumvent public process because they don’t like the laws on the books. We get emails every single day from people who are furious about how Ponte Vedra Corporation wants to destroy that land.”

PVC claims, however, that far from trying to circumvent the process, it is merely trying to move forward with a process the county has stymied. At issue is the property’s designation as Conservation land. According to the lawsuit, PVC states that the company always intended to develop the Outpost property, but a mapping error decades ago erroneously included the Outpost and surrounding homes as part of the Guana Preserve.

“The homes on Neck Road have the same labeling as our property,” Wilson said. “There was just a very poor mapping effort by somebody.”

While the Outpost is currently designated as Conservation land, PVC contends that in several other instances the county has determined that development on non-jurisdictional portions of such property may be developed consistent with the surrounding area, which in the case of the Outpost is Residential C. After submitting its request for administrative interpretation on the issue and receiving no response, PVC asserts that the county determined the Conservation designation was “inconclusive” and that development on the Outpost would require a Comprehensive Plan amendment.

In the lawsuit, PVC claims county officials publicly stated this determination without ever communicating with the company or giving it an opportunity to speak on the issue. The lawsuit also charges that county officials ruled on other Conservation properties during the period PVC was waiting for a response to its 2013 request.

“The Outpost is the only Conservation-designated property in the county about which the county’s planning staff has contended that land use designation is too inconclusive to interpret or apply,” the lawsuit states.

When asked about Save Guana Now’s opposition to the Vista Tranquilla project, Wilson disputed the group’s contention that the property is rife with endangered wildlife, and suggested opposition was motivated more by abutters’ desire to prevent additional homes from being built in their neighborhood.

“It doesn’t escape me that both (Crosby and Coulliette) live on Neck Road,” Wilson said. “It seems as though they got theirs and they don’t want anyone else to.”

Crosby, however, said the focus is on

preservation. “We have faith in the county to represent the people and the law of the land, especially environmentally sensitive land.”

St. Johns County Communications Director Michael Ryan said the county was unable to comment on the facts of the case due to the pending litigation.

“The PUD application filed this summer is currently under review and the county will continue to process the request accordingly,” Ryan said. “But it’s safe to say the county may have a difference of opinion regarding the events and issues outlined in the suit.”

Crosswater Community Church to add third service

Crosswater Community Church will add a third Sunday morning worship service next month to accommodate the growing number of families in the Nocatee and Ponte Vedra Beach areas.

Beginning Sunday, Oct. 2, Crosswater will offer worship services beginning at 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Full children’s ministry programs for infants through 5th grade will be offered at each service in the church’s newly constructed children’s and youth wing.



Crosswater Community Church is located at 211 Davis Park Rd. in Ponte Vedra.

For more information on service times, children’s and youth ministry programs and more, visit www.crosswaterchurch.net.

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Thursday, Sept. 22	Friday, Sept. 23	Saturday, Sept. 24	Sunday, Sept. 25
<p>PV Library Semiannual Book Sale The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library Semi-annual Book Sale continues Sept. 22 and 23 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sept. 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for \$10 Bag Day. The library is located at 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call (904) 827-6950 or visit www.sjcpls.org.</p> <p>Project Buckle Up Is your child's car seat installed correctly? Are you sure? Nearly 80 percent are not. Have your child's seat checked by nationally certified child passenger safety technicians for free at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library Thursday, Sept. 22 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. The library is located at 101 Library Blvd. For more information, call (904) 827-6950.</p> <p>Ask the Expert Ask the Expert: "The Experienced Shoulder" will take place Sept. 22 at noon at the Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA, 170 Landrum Lane. Join Paul Provenzano, DPT, from Baptist Beaches Rehabilitation as he discusses the anatomy of the shoulder and how aging can affect this joint. This free event is open to the community. Reserve your seat at baptistjax.com/ymca or by calling (904) 202-5376.</p> <p>Social Security Seminar A free social security seminar will take place Thursday, Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 24 at 11 a.m. at the University of North Florida Adam W. Herbert University Center, 12000 Alumni Drive, Jacksonville. This information only workshop shows individuals and couples between the ages of 55-67 how Social Security works now, and how it will work in the future. For more information, email sarah@libertyadvisorygroup.com</p> <p>The Whitney Lecture Neurobiologist Dr. Adrian Horridge will present "The Disgraceful Affair of the Bees and Flowers" lecture Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. at the Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, 9505 Ocean Shore Blvd., St. Augustine. The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, call (904) 461-4000 or visit www.whitney.ufl.edu.</p>	<p>Senior Life & Education Day Senior Life Network's Senior Life & Education Day will take place Sept. 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at TPC Sawgrass. The event will feature health screenings and complimentary consultations and resource information by local health care practices, businesses and professionals who specialize in the senior market. This event provides the senior attendees with the ability to learn about the various resources available to them. There will also be educational presentations throughout the event. Complimentary food and beverages will be served. For information or to RSVP, call (904) 491-2166.</p> <p>'Into the Woods' Players by the Sea Theatre's production of "Into the Woods" will be on stage through Oct. 8. Tickets are \$28. The theatre is located at 106 Sixth St. N., Jacksonville Beach. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (904) 249-0289 or visit www.playersbythesea.org.</p> <p>'Arboreal' exhibit The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach's new exhibit "Arboreal" featuring two Florida artists, Seth Satterfield and Linda Richichi, will be on display at the Cultural Center through Oct. 15. The Cultural Center is located at 50 Executive Way. The main gallery is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 904-280-0614 ext. 204 or www.ccpvb.org.</p> <p>'Merrily We Roll Along' The Atlantic Beach Experimental Theatre's 25th season debuts with "Merrily We Roll Along" on stage through Sept. 25. Performances take place at the Adele Grage Cultural Center located at 716 Ocean Blvd. in Atlantic Beach. For tickets, call (904) 249-7177 or visit www.abetttheatre.com.</p> <p>'Oklahoma!' Limelight Theatre's production of "Oklahoma!" will be on stage through Oct. 23. Tickets are \$26. The theatre is located at 11 Old Mission Ave., St. Augustine. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (904) 825-1164 or visit www.limelight-theatre.org.</p>	<p>Katz 4 Keeps Adoption Days Katz 4 Keeps adoption days will take place Saturday, Sept. 24 and Sunday, Sept. 25 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Katz 4 Keeps, 935B A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach (next to Sherwin Williams). For more information, call (904) 834-3223 or email katz4keeps.org. Katz 4 Keeps, an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization, is looking for adults 18 or older to become members of its clean and feed program that ensures the shelter's rescue cats, kittens and facilities have the best of care. For more information, please contact Peggy Hatfield, program coordinator, at peggyhatfield63@comcast.net</p> <p>Strut Your Mutt The Jacksonville Humane Society's annual event hosted by Best Friends Animal Society, Strut Your Mutt, will take place Saturday, Sept. 24 from 8 a.m. to noon at Metropolitan Park, 1410 Gator Bowl Blvd., Jacksonville. The Jacksonville Humane Society fundraiser will include a dog walk and furry-family activities. Register online at http://bit.ly/2cFZGcP. Email llyender@jaxhumane.org with questions.</p> <p>Toast to the Animals The 19th annual Toast to the Animals, a fundraiser for the Jacksonville Humane Society, will be held Saturday, Sept. 24 from 6:30 to 10 p.m. in the Terrace Suite at EverBank Field, One EverBank Field Drive, Jacksonville. Chaired by Jacksonville Jaguars General Manager David Caldwell and his wife, Joelle, the event will feature a wine and beer tasting and samplings of local cuisine. All proceeds will benefit the JHS medical fund. This event is restricted to those 21 years of age and older. To purchase tickets, call (904) 493-4566 or visit www.jaxhumane.org.</p> <p>Gem and Mineral Show The 28th Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society Show & Sale will take place Sept. 23-25 at Morocco Shrine Auditorium, 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road S., Jacksonville. The show will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 23 and 24 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 25. General admission is \$4 per person, per day or \$7 for all three days. Children under 12 are admitted free with a guardian. Senior and military with ID will receive \$1 off. For more information, visit www.jaxgemandmineral.org.</p>	<p>Children's Arts Festival The Friends of the St. Augustine Amphitheatre's 3rd annual Children's Arts Festival will take place Sunday, Sept. 25 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre. The free event will feature interactive activities for children; children can sing, dance, play instruments, engage in a variety of art projects, make a puppet, tell stories, play theatre games, learn magic tricks and more. Area organizations with information for families and a select group of non-food vendors will also be on hand. Concession stands will be open all day and there will be specially packed goodie bags for the first 500 children. For more information, visit www.fosaa.org/2016-childrens-art-festival. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre is located at 1340C A1A S., St. Augustine.</p> <p>Trivia Night at Pusser's Caribbean Grille The Ponte Vedra Woman's Club invites the community to attend Trivia Night at Pusser's Caribbean Grille Sunday, Sept. 25 from 6 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. RSVP to Denice Goldberg at dzboss1@hotmail.com. Pusser's is located at 816 A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Practice with Purpose at Big Fish Yoga Practice with Purpose is an all-level yoga class offered on Sundays from 4 to 5 p.m. at Big Fish Power Yoga. The fee for the class is a \$5 cash donation that goes to the charity that Big Fish Power Yoga has selected for the quarter. Big Fish Yoga is located in the South Beach Regional Shopping Center in Jacksonville Beach at 3852 South Third St. For more info, call (904) 372-0601.</p> <p>Cultural Center's 'Friends for the Arts' Become a "Friend." The Cultural Center recently recreated a volunteer organization dedicated to supporting the arts. Get involved in the arts by joining a team of fellow art supporters in Ponte Vedra Beach. Help develop and support fundraising projects and help initiate special projects to benefit and promote The Cultural Center and the arts in the community. More than 50 volunteer art supporters have already joined. Make a difference in our community. For more information visit www.ccpvb.org/friends-for-the-arts.</p>



FORUM ON GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27



Stan Collender
Founder of "Capital Gains and Games" blog on Forbes.com and National Director of Financial Communications of Qorvis MSLGROUP

"The 2016 Election and Beyond: After the Hype, Spin, and Craziess"

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Monday, Sept. 26	Tuesday, Sept. 27	Wednesday, Sept. 28	Thursday, Sept. 29
<p>Ponte Vedra Woman's Club meeting The Ponte Vedra Woman's Club will meet Monday, Sept. 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sawgrass Country Club. The speaker will be Ed Mickolus, a retired CIA agent who will speak about the "History of Intelligence." The cost is \$22. RSVP to Tonya at tsnowden@landstar.com.</p> <p>Sound: An Exhibition of Sound Art Sound: An Exhibition of Sound Art featuring 17 artists will be on display at the Crisp-Ellert Art Museum Sept. 2-Nov. 22. The museum is located at 48 Sevilla St., St. Augustine. For more information, call (904) 826-8530.</p> <p>Life Enrichment Group The Life Enrichment Group is a program designed for those with memory changes who like to stay active mentally, physically and socially while allowing caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. This program is offered weekdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ashford Court, 1700 The Greens Way in Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 568-8174, or email life_enrichment-group@yahoo.com.</p> <p>Habitat for Humanity volunteers Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County is currently seeking qualified homeowners. Habitat does not give away homes for free. Instead, homeowners pay an affordable monthly mortgage payment and Habitat helps build them a simple, decent place to live. For more information on volunteering, donating or qualifying for a Habitat home, visit habitatst-johns.org.</p> <p>For the Love of Driving Volunteer drivers are needed to assist seniors in achieving their mobility goals in St. Johns County. Transportation needs range from trips to the grocery store and classes to spousal hospital visits or social activities. Contact the mobility manager at the Council on Aging, (904) 315-6505, or email Katie Arnold at karnold@stjohnscoa.com.</p>	<p>Talk with a Doc: cholesterol Talk with a Doc: "Conquer High Cholesterol" will take place Tuesday, Sept. 27 at noon at the Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA, 170 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra Beach. Join Pamela Rama, MD, from Baptist Heart Specialists, as she discusses how to reduce your risk for heart attack by controlling your cholesterol and making healthy lifestyle choices. Learn how exercise, eating well and stress management all play a role in your heart health. This free event is open to the community. Reserve your seat today at baptistjax.com/ymca or by calling (904) 202-5376.</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>Mental Health Recovery Support Free mental health support is available to the public facilitated by Georgia/Florida Certified Peer Specialist Whitney Bolin. Sessions are by appointment only Monday through Friday; call (770) 403-4991 or email whitneybat76@gmail.com. Bolin also facilitates a mental health recovery group at Flagler Hospital from 2 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday.</p> <p>Tapas Tuesday The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Café. Every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on the Cummer Café patio, take in the sunset while listening to local musicians with beer, wine, or artfully-inspired tapas for sale at the café. For more information, visit www.cummermuseum.org.</p> <p>Free Bridge Lessons Free beginning bridge lessons are available at the Jacksonville School of Bridge, 3353 Washburn Road, Jacksonville Beach on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Lessons start 9:30 a.m. and end at 10:15 a.m. This is followed by an actual game at 10:30 a.m. and ends by 2:15 p.m. Contact Burt O'Dell at (352) 428-1075 for more information.</p>	<p>The Ann Wilson Thing Ann Wilson, Rock and Roll Hall of Famer from the band Heart, will perform Wednesday, Sept. 28 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. Doors open at 7 p.m.; the show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$73 and are available at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and St. Augustine Amphitheatre box offices, ticketmaster.com and all Ticketmaster outlets or by phone at (800) 745-3000. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, visit www.pvconcerthall.com.</p> <p>PV Professionals Networking Group The Ponte Vedra Professionals Networking Group meets Wednesdays at 9 a.m. at Watson Realty Corp., 615 Highway A1A S., Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call Gloria at (904) 635-6103, visit www.pvpng.com or email pontevedrapng@gmail.com.</p> <p>Ponte Vedra Toastmasters The Ponte Vedra Toastmasters Club offers opportunities for developing your leadership and communication skills. The group meets Wednesdays at The Players Community Senior Center, located at 175 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra Beach. The meeting starts promptly at 7:30 a.m. Contact Carmen J. Sardiñas at (904) 382-3303 or contact-5199@toastmastersclubs.org for more information.</p> <p>Music by the Sea concert series Music by the Sea takes place every Wednesday through Oct. 12, 2016 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the St. Augustine Beach Pier, 350 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine Beach. The annual summer music and food celebration features local bands and performers paired with local restaurants. On Sept. 28, MTBS All Star Band will perform and the featured restaurant will be South Beach Grille. The concerts are free; guests can purchase a dinner plate for \$10 from the sponsoring restaurant. Food is served at 6 p.m. and the music starts at 7 p.m. Concert-goers can bring with them beach chairs and coolers. For more information, call (904) 347-8007 or visit www.augustine.com/event/music-sea.</p>	<p>Chapel Concert: EG Kight EG Kight, 2013 Georgia Music Legend Award recipient, will perform Thursday, Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. in the Beaches Museum Chapel. Kight's performance will be the kickoff to the Beaches Museum & History Park's Fall Concert Series. Tickets are \$20 in advance; \$25 day of show. For more information, call (904) 241-5657 or visit www.beachmuseum.org. The museum is located at 381 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Arbor Terrace Life Enrichment Group The Life Enrichment Group Day Program takes place every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra, 5125 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. The group is designed for those with memory changes who would like to stay active mentally, physically and socially. For more information, call (904) 497-4346 or visit www.at-pontevedra.com.</p> <p>Travel Training Program The Council on Aging's Travel Training program is designed to assist seniors in learning to ride the Sunshine Bus. Residents interested in expanding their transportation options or who would like to increase their confidence as a bus rider can receive assistance from trained volunteers in navigating routes, reading time tables and making transfers. Contact the mobility manager at the Council on Aging at (904) 315-6505 or email Katie Arnold at karnold@stjohnscoa.com.</p> <p>Annual Activity Member Become an Annual Activity Member at The Players Community Senior Center. Membership includes discounts on fee-based classes, designated events and Coastal Travel along with complimentary participation in a wide variety of scheduled activities. Call Darlene Mahany at (904) 280-3233 for more information.</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 carrie@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</p>

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Sept / Oct 2016

Mother Daughter Tea Time

Wear your best dress & pretty pearls,
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Sunday, September 25th
1:00 - 4:00 PM
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Tuesday, October 4th
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Tuesday, October 13th
6:00 - 8:00 PM
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For complete information on our dining and social events, visit our website at <http://www.tpc.com/sawgrass-dining>.
For more information or to make a reservation in NINETEEN or for a Social Event, please contact the dining room at 904.273.3238.



Bag Day

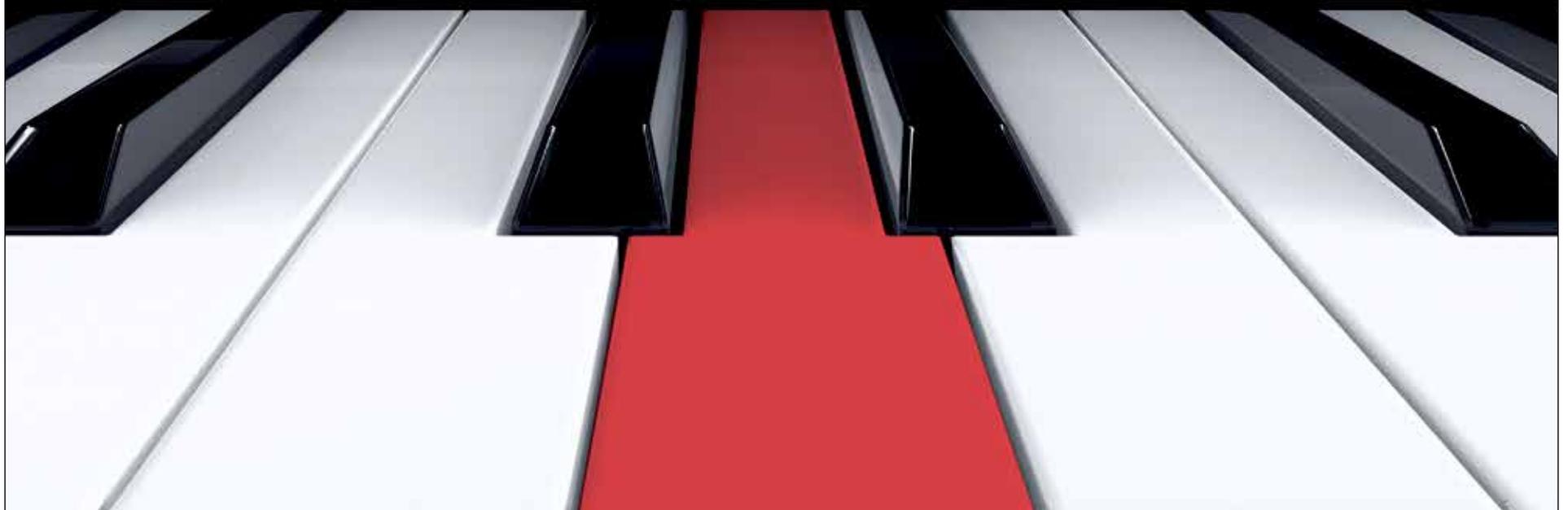
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SHORT TAKES

Right Whale Festival

On Saturday, Oct. 1, celebrate the annual return of the endangered North Atlantic right whales to the warm coastal water off Northeast Florida and Georgia with the annual Right Whale Festival at the Seawalk Pavilion.

The family-friendly festival will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will fea-

ture local efforts to protect these whales from extinction as well as ocean-themed activities and exhibits to emphasize education and environmentally responsible adventures and products.

Live music, food trucks, art, and water recreation displays will also be featured at the festival. For more information, visit www.rightwhalefestival.com.

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SHORT TAKES

Beaches Oktoberfest

The Beaches Oktoberfest will take place Oct. 14-16 at the Seawalk Pavilion in Jacksonville Beach.

The three day festival boasts a large variety of German beer, daily performances by national performing acts, food trucks, a Ferris wheel, arts and crafts vendors, games, activities, a Kinderzone for kids and more.

Crafttoberfest featuring beers from over 50 craft breweries will take place Oct. 14 and the featured performer will be The Movement. Blues Traveler will be the featured performer for Oct. 15, with Collie Buddz featured Oct. 16.

Gates open at 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 14 and 1 p.m. on Oct. 15 and 16. General admission entrance to the festival is free; VIP and unlimited sampling passes are available.

PONTE VEDRA

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<p>AN EVENING WITH THE ANN WILSON THING SEPTEMBER 23</p> <p>SARAH JAROSZ & PARKER MILL SAP SEPTEMBER 30</p> <p>THE DANDY WARHOLS WITH SAVOY MOTEL OCTOBER 4</p> <p>EDWIN MCCAIN WITH DANNY BURNS OCTOBER 9</p> <p>THE MINNEAPOLIS SOUND THE ULTIMATE PRINCE TRIBUTE BAND OCTOBER 7</p> <p>HENRY ROLLINS (SPOKEN WORD) OCTOBER 9</p> <p>WELLRED COMEDY TOUR OCTOBER 14</p> <p>JOHN MAYALL OCTOBER 15</p> <p>THE PSYCHEDELIC FURS WITH MY JERUSALEM OCTOBER 16</p> <p>JOSH RITTER OCTOBER 23</p> <p>RUSTED ROOT & DEVON ALLMAN BAND OCTOBER 22</p> <p>TODD SNIDER WITH RORY CARROLL OCTOBER 29</p> <p>NF WITH SPECIAL GUEST FLEURIE NOVEMBER 3</p>	<p>WAR NOVEMBER 13</p> <p>ERIC JOHNSON NOVEMBER 13</p> <p>GALACTIC WITH THE HIP ABDUCTION NOVEMBER 17</p> <p>AN EVENING WITH NELLIE MCKAY NOVEMBER 18</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC PROJECT PRESENTS HAYDN & SHOSTAKOVICH NOVEMBER 20</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC PROJECT PRESENTS SCHUBERT JANUARY 23</p> <p>GAELIC STORM FEBRUARY 3</p> <p>THE BARES PRESENT HORMONAL IMBALANCE: A MOOD SWINGING MUSICAL REVUE FEBRUARY 11</p> <p>UNDER THE STREETLAMP TWO PERFORMANCES! FEBRUARY 12</p> <p>ANDY MCKEE FEBRUARY 15</p> <p>COLIN HAY FEBRUARY 22</p> <p>ELIZABETH COOK & DALE WATSON FEBRUARY 24</p> <p>OLD 97'S WITH BOTTLE ROCKETS FEBRUARY 25</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC PROJECT PRESENTS SCHUMANN FEBRUARY 26</p> <p>AN EVENING WITH MARC COHN MARCH 1</p> <p>THE WEIGHT FEATURING MEMBERS OF THE BAND THE LEVON HELM BAND & THE JACK JARANO GROUP MARCH 3</p> <p>ILLUSIONIST RICK THOMAS APRIL 1</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC PROJECT PRESENTS MOZART & DEBUSSY APRIL 23</p>	<p>FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC PROJECT PRESENTS SCHUBERT JANUARY 23</p> <p>GAELIC STORM FEBRUARY 3</p> <p>THE BARES PRESENT HORMONAL IMBALANCE: A MOOD SWINGING MUSICAL REVUE FEBRUARY 11</p> <p>UNDER THE STREETLAMP TWO PERFORMANCES! FEBRUARY 12</p> <p>ANDY MCKEE FEBRUARY 15</p> <p>COLIN HAY FEBRUARY 22</p> <p>ELIZABETH COOK & DALE WATSON FEBRUARY 24</p> <p>OLD 97'S WITH BOTTLE ROCKETS FEBRUARY 25</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC PROJECT PRESENTS SCHUMANN FEBRUARY 26</p> <p>AN EVENING WITH MARC COHN MARCH 1</p> <p>THE WEIGHT FEATURING MEMBERS OF THE BAND THE LEVON HELM BAND & THE JACK JARANO GROUP MARCH 3</p> <p>ILLUSIONIST RICK THOMAS APRIL 1</p> <p>FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC PROJECT PRESENTS MOZART & DEBUSSY APRIL 23</p>
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FALL 2016 OPEN HOUSE DATES

Lower School (PK-5) Open House for Parents
Ponte Vedra Beach Campus | October 5, 2016 9 a.m.

Lower School (PK-5) Open House for Parents
Whitehurst Campus | November 9, 2016 9 a.m.

Middle School (6-8) Open House for Parents
Bartram Campus | November 8, 2016 9 a.m.
Bartram Campus | November 10, 2016 6 p.m.

Upper School (9-12) Open House for Parents
San Jose Campus | October 7, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.

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THE BOLLES SCHOOL

ALL THINGS POSSIBLE

St. Augustine City Manager John Regan receives Order of Isabel la Católica from Spanish government

St. Augustine City Manager John Regan was recently presented with the Order of Isabel la Católica by the government of Spain.

The honor, presented with the royal sanction of King Felipe VI, was awarded Sept. 9 at City Hall by Candido Creis, consul general of the Kingdom of Spain in Miami. The honor recognized Regan's contributions to cultural exchanges between Spain and the United States, including his work commemorating the 450th anniversary of the founding of St. Augustine.

Shortly after being appointed city manager in 2010, Regan's responsibilities grew with the approaching 450th anniversary of the founding of St. Augustine by Spain on Sept. 8, 1565. Under his leadership, the city undertook a four-year series of events, programs and projects highlighting the historical and cultural achievements of the city and in particular those relating to the city's ties to Spain.

The multi-year commemoration closed with a five-day series of events that drew thousands to the city for free concerts and a reenactment of the founding of the city attended by a wide array of national and international guests and officials.

The commemoration culminated with a visit by King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain, whose visit coincided with a meeting in St. Augustine of the Spain-U.S. Council led by Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia. The annual meeting of the prestigious group of international leaders came about in large part because of efforts led by Regan.

The Order of Isabel la Católica was created in 1815 with the intent of rewarding Spanish citizens and foreigners who contribute to the enhancement of Spain's relations with the nations of the Americas.

In his remarks, Consul General Creis praised Regan's devotion to his work, his efficiency, and called him a great



St. Augustine City Manager John Regan (left) and Candido Creis, consul general of Spain in Miami

and true friend of Spain, adding "He is a wonderful honorary ambassador, active and discreet, helpful as always, thinking of ways to promote better understanding between Spain and the U.S."

Regan was named city manager following more than 12 years as the city's utilities director and a stint as chief operations officer.

"Commemorating the 450th anniversary of the founding of St. Augustine was a great opportunity to reinvigorate our city's ties with Spain and our common history," Regan said. "This recognition is truly for all the people of St. Augustine who every day, each in their own way, express their pride in the nation's Oldest City and its very unique history."

St. Augustine 'Restaurant Week' to be held Oct. 3-9

Local residents will have an opportunity to sample cuisine from a variety of Ancient City restaurants next month when the inaugural St. Augustine Restaurant Week occurs.

Sponsored by the St. Augustine Independent Restaurant Association (SAiRA), Restaurant Week will be held Oct. 3-9, giving patrons a chance to enjoy dining experiences at more than a dozen independently owned SAiRA member restaurants located throughout St. Augustine. Chefs from each restaurant will prepare special lunch and dinner menu experiences for Restaurant Week participants.

Lunch offerings will be \$20, while dinner menu experiences will be \$35. Participants may pick up a Restaurant Week Passport at any SAiRA member establishment listed at www.staugustinerestaurants.com/restaurantweek. Diners who receive passport stamps from five restaurants throughout the week will receive an offer of \$25 off their sixth visit to a SAiRA member restaurant.

"We're excited to treat diners to the best culinary experiences St. Augustine has to offer," said Jeremy Ticehurst, SAiRA president. "Each SAiRA member restaurant looks forward to showcasing their most creative and flavorful dishes to Restaurant Week participants."

SAiRA membership is made up of independently owned restaurants located in St. Augustine. The association's mission includes building relationships through the sharing of information and supporting local independent restaurants. Together, they leverage resources and hospitality to support organizations throughout the St. Augustine community.

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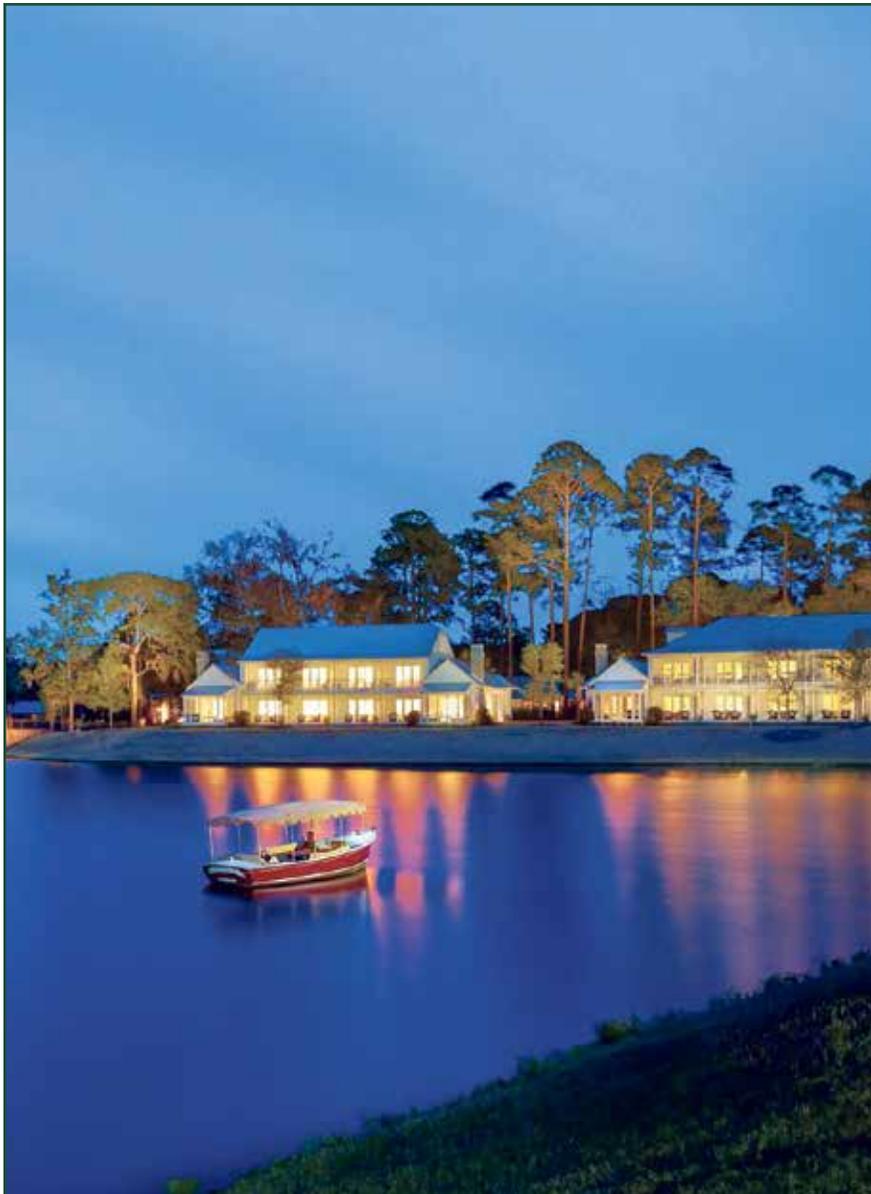
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Ocean Palms holds food drive



Photo submitted by Ocean Palms Elementary

Ocean Palms Elementary School joined forces with St. Johns CARES recently to conduct a food drive. More than 800 items were collected to benefit St. Francis House, Celebration Lutheran Church's Christ's Pantry, and Hastings/Armstrong for Migrant Workers. From left: Lance DAmato, Preston Zilinski and Jacob DAmato.

City of St. Augustine hosts flag exchange ceremony with sister city

The City of St. Augustine recently hosted a flag exchange ceremony with sister city Avilés, Spain at city hall.

Sonia Barbosa of Avilés presented her country's flag to Mayor Nancy Shaver and members of the city commission.

The flag was given to her by Aviles City Council Member Manuel Ángel Campa, head of Aviles' economic development and promotional activities. In exchange, Barbosa will return to Avilés with a flag from the City of St. Augustine.

Barbosa's visit was planned to coincide with the 451st anniversary of the day Pedro Menendez de Avilés sighted land on Aug. 28, 1565 – the Feast Day of Saint Augustine.

Menendez decided to name the city Saint Augustine - after the patron saint of his hometown of Avilés, Spain – when he founded the city 11 days later.

St. Augustine has maintained a sister city relationship with Avilés since the 1920s which has resulted in the exchange of numerous official gifts and cultural programs.

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Ponte Vedra Recorder
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Journey to St. Augustine

A transit driver by profession, Barbosa's avocation keeps her on the road - literally. Riding her BMW motorcycle, named "Trailer," Barbosa travels some of Europe's most picturesque county roads as a travel writer for "El Comercio," a prominent newspaper in Asturias, and for an official newsletter for BMW in Spain.

Her writings and photographs are also used by the Austrian government in tourist promotions.

For her trip to St. Augustine, Barbosa had her motorcycle shipped to New York City and began her journey to St. Augustine Aug. 22.



Courtesy of the City of St. Augustine

Sonia Barbosa of Aviles poses with St. Augustine Mayor Nancy Shaver and members of the city commission after the flag exchange ceremony. Barbosa had her motorcycle shipped to New York City and rode it down to St. Augustine for the Aug. 26 ceremony.

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A SPECIAL SECTION TO

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September 22, 2016

Senior care providers join forces to jumpstart Lend an Ear Outreach

Nonprofit seeks used and discarded hearing aids to refurbish for those in need

By Jennifer Logue

When an elderly loved one dies, the person's hearing aids often end up being tossed in a drawer or even the trash. A local nonprofit is mounting a renewed effort to change that, however, by collecting and refurbishing used hearing aids in order to give those in need the gift of hearing.

Lend an Ear Outreach held a kick-off breakfast last week to celebrate its new partnership with Vicar's Landing and its revitalized focus on addressing the many health problems related to untreated hearing loss. Held Sept. 16 at Vicar's Landing, the breakfast brought together representatives from numerous local senior living facilities and organizations that work with aging populations.

"Modern hearing aids are expensive and many people can't afford them," said Bruce Jones, CEO of LCPS Management, which oversees Vicar's Landing. "The simple gift of hearing can have an immense impact. We're thrilled to be part of creating the future of Lend an Ear."

The gift of hearing

The Lend an Ear Outreach story began

in 2010, when Lisa Sheek, a social services coordinator at Pablo Towers in Jacksonville Beach, met with a senior of limited means who had purchased a \$10,000 hearing aid on credit. When the device later malfunctioned, she returned to the place where it was purchased, only to be told that all they could do was extend her additional credit to purchase another hearing aid.

"This woman was in tears," Sheek said. "She was isolating herself; she stopped going to the Friday night movies because she said she didn't know when to laugh. I was desperate to help her."

Sheek met with Dr. Jane Burns, an audiologist who told her that used hearing aids could be refurbished for a fraction of the cost of purchasing a new one.

"New hearing aids can cost up to \$15,000," Sheek said, "and for less than a few hundred dollars we can refurbish a used mechanism and place it in a new ear mold, and that person now has the ability to hear."

Working with Dr. Burns and other volunteers, Sheek founded Lend an Ear Outreach. After receiving 501 c 3 nonprofit



Photos by Jennifer Logue

Vicar's Landing Senior Security Officer Aaron Mobley – shown here with daughter Jessie and wife Lynn – was instrumental in forging the partnership between Vicar's Landing and Lend an Ear Outreach, which provided him with much-needed hearing aids.

status, the organization began reaching out to local hospitals, funeral homes and other locations in their quest to collect, refurbish and donate hearing aids. To date, the all-volunteer organization has helped 200 people regain their hearing.

A new partnership

One of those recipients, Aaron Mobley, would prove instrumental in establishing the partnership between Lend an Ear and Vicar's Landing. The senior officer for security and transportation at Vicar's Landing, Mobley was afraid his deteriorating hearing was going to cost him his

job because he wouldn't be able to pass the hearing test required to renew his commercial driver's license.

According to his supervisor, Scott Hetzinger, Mobley looked into purchasing a hearing aid and received a price quote of \$9,000.

"For the average person, \$9,000 is just unobtainable," Hetzinger said.

A member of Mobley's church connected him to Lend an Ear, however, and within three days, Mobley had his hearing aids.

LEND AN EAR continues on Page 19

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Lend an Ear

Continued from 18

“It just shows what Lend an Ear does, who we are and how we want to help people,” said Hetzinger, who is credited with connecting Vicar’s Landing with the organization and creating the partnership that will help marshal the resources needed to collect and refurbish more hearing aids for donation to those in need.

Added Jones: “Vicar’s Landing has a similar mission (as Lend an Ear Outreach). Our staffs are committed and share a passion for ensuring the dignity of the people we serve.”

Related health problems

Lend an Ear Outreach’s impact extends beyond restoring an individual’s hearing, senior care providers say. Debbie Young, CEO of A Care Connection, said research shows a correlation between hearing loss and a greater risk of falling.

“As a nurse in the home health industry, one of our biggest concerns is fall prevention,” said Young, one of Lend an Ear Outreach’s original board members. “I had the opportunity to see many residents struggling with hearing loss.

“It’s a cognitive overload,” she continued. “If you’re so focused on trying to decipher those garbled words around you, you don’t have the mental capacity to do



Dr. Jane Burns, Bruce Jones, Lisa Sheek and Debbie Young

that and walk at the same time.”

Individuals with hearing loss are also at greater risk of becoming socially isolated and developing dementia, Young added.

Seeking donations

Yet despite the benefits related to providing hearing aids, Young said, neither Medicare nor most insurance companies

will cover the cost of hearing aids, which makes Lend an Ear Outreach’s efforts to collect, refurbish and donate the devices all the more important. The organization recently launched a new website – www.lendaneareoutreach.org – where individuals can learn the locations of collection boxes where used hearing aids may be deposited for refurbishment and donation. Monetary

donations may also be made through the website to support the costs associated with refurbishing the hearing aids and fitting them to new recipients.

“If we can prevent people from falling or from developing dementia by providing them with hearing aids, that’s something worth supporting,” Young said. “We’re really trying to save lives.”



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Project SOS is currently producing a series of digital videos that offer middle and high school students with critical life skills.

Courtesy of Project SOS



Project SOS throws teens a lifeline by teaching life skills

By Jennifer Logue

Dr. Pam Mullarkey-Robbins recalls the day 23 years ago she had to break the news to a Ponte Vedra couple that their 14-year-old daughter was pregnant.

While the girl's well-educated, affluent parents were at work, she was persuaded by an older boy to let him into her home. He later encouraged his friends to exploit the girl as well.

"She had no sense of boundaries and no refusal skills – and her parents were devastated," said Robbins, a former high school teacher who served for eight years on the St. Johns County School Board. "They were the perfect family, but they were having problems just like any family."

The incident would lead Robbins to found Project SOS – Strengthening Our Society – a nonprofit organization aimed at equipping teens with the critical life skills needed to make positive choices and protect themselves from unhealthy situations and relationships. Today, more than two decades later, Project SOS has impacted more than 460,000 students in the Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia area as well as in such far-flung locales as Russia, Haiti and Uganda.

Working with middle and high school students, Project SOS's youth development specialists go into the classroom and teach kids evidence-based, age-appropriate strategies for dealing with issues in eight key



areas: goal setting, boundaries, refusal strategies, healthy and unhealthy relationships, media influences, substance abuse, sexual risk avoidance, and anti-bullying/self-harm/suicide. Participants receive a journal titled "Envision: Defining Your Direction in Life" that provides information and activities to help students set goals and develop effective strategies.

Project staff stress, however, that the sessions are anything but boring.

"We try to make the lessons 'edutaining,'" Youth Development Specialist Geraldine Ramirez said. "We use videos, play games and share stories."

Project SOS has also offered summertime digital arts internships that enabled teens to help write and produce the digital videos used to help their peers develop effective skills and strategies. Available for viewing online at <http://projectsos.com/resources/teen-resources/>, the videos present real-life scenarios today's teens may face and offer effective strategies for successfully navigating difficult situations.

"We're all about getting students involved and engaged and equipping them," Youth Development Specialist Bernabe Murguia said.

Robbins agreed. "With the videos, we can now reach kids where they are – on their cell phones."

A positive paradigm

Last year, Project SOS reached nearly 11,000 students in more than 50 area schools. Among the issues project staff encountered, they said, were teens who felt their lives lacked meaning.

"We try to help them see that life is about more than just chasing what you want right now," Murguia said. "It's about giving back, having a purpose and making life more meaningful. We try to instill those core values that are not being taught academically."

Youth Development Specialist Katrina Rogers noted that when teens are struggling with depression or suicidal thoughts, it becomes difficult for them to see beyond the negative aspects of their current situation.

"We try to shift that paradigm to the positive," she said, "and help them focus on the fact that in this moment their life has value."

Parental involvement and open communication are also critical, staff said. When Project SOS specialists asked students how it made them feel when their parents spent

Project SOS Teen Creative Writing Contest

Project SOS is looking for creative writers to envision the next story for the nonprofit's Envision Online video lesson. Teens are encouraged to submit a fictional short story about a teen who uses refusal strategies to get out of a dangerous peer pressure situation. Students can visit <http://projectsos.com/resources/teen-resources/envision-online-program/refusal-strategies/> to learn about the strategies and refusal skills that Project SOS teaches and include them in their story.

Project SOS staff will select the story that most creatively incorporates the pressure and refusal skills found on their website. The winner will receive a \$100 gift card to the retailer of their choice, credit for their short story on Project SOS's upcoming video and be recognized on social media.

The deadline for entries is Friday, Oct. 14 at noon. To register and submit an entry, visit <http://projectsos.com/events/teen-creative-writing-challenge/>.

Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary presents donations to Mission House, ARC of the St. Johns

Planning under way for Rotary's 2017 Mineral City celebration

By Jennifer Logue

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach recently presented donations to representatives from Mission House and The ARC of the St. Johns, the latest local contributions the service organization has made from the proceeds of its 2016 Mineral City celebration fundraiser.

As the Beaches' only day facility for people who are homeless, Mission House helps individuals to become productive and self-sufficient. In addition to providing meals, showers, clean clothing and health services, the nonprofit organization provides case management services that assist people with finding employment and accessing other needed social services.

The Arc of the St. Johns chapter helps people with intellectual and developmental disabilities achieve satisfying lives in their own community. The organization currently operates two charter schools, multiple adult day programs, continuing adult education classes, residential programs and employment programs.

Mineral City Celebration

Planning is already underway for the 2017 Mineral City celebration, the proceeds of which will enable the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach to provide assistance to local charities and community groups. A kick-off celebration was recently held at the Jacksonville Beach home of club President-Elect and Event Chair Billy Wagner.



Photo by Anouk Wagner

Members of the Rotary Club Mineral City Celebration planning committee meet to begin plans for the 2017 event. From left: Rotarians Marc Ressler, Vincent Grassia, Mike Koppenhafer, Emily Rhodin, Lorraine Dorsa, Beverly Flanagan, Jennifer Logue, President Michael Bruce, President-Elect and Event Chair Billy Wagner and Toni Boudreaux.



Photo by Jennifer Logue

Manny Enriquez (second right) accepts a donation to the Arc of the St. Johns from the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach. From left: Rotarians MJ DeNardo, Chuck Day and Ken Smith; Enriquez; and Rotary Club President Michael Bruce.

NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

EPIC Behavioral Healthcare

Most people know someone dealing with a substance abuse and/or mental health issue. Unfortunately, confronting an addiction or an illness like depression or anxiety among family or friends is commonplace in today's world. Fortunately, the stigma is fading as research is clearly showing that both substance abuse and mental health disorders are diseases that are treatable.

EPIC Behavioral Healthcare is a private, not-for-profit behavioral health organization that has been serving St. Johns County for 43 years. EPIC specializes in the prevention and treatment of substance abuse disorders and mental health disorders. Services provided by EPIC include:

- Inpatient detoxification and residential treatment center
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- Outpatient substance abuse and mental health counseling for ages 4 and up

- Crisis intervention
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- Prevention programs for adolescents and parents
- Specialized therapy groups for teens (including anger management)
- Parenting programs
- Support groups

In spite of the prevalence of substance abuse (drugs, alcohol and now the increase in the use of heroin), many people feel panicked when faced with a loved one's use. EPIC also provides reassurance and guidance to family members so that they know how best to respond to a family member or friend's substance use.

For more information regarding EPIC's services and programs, call (904) 829-2273 or visit www.epicbh.org.

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Monique Burr Foundation to host Champions for Child Safety Luncheon

Child safety initiatives will be highlighted at the Champions for Child Safety luncheon to be held Wednesday, Sept. 28 at 11:30 a.m. at the University of North Florida.

Sponsored by the Monique Burr Foundation for Children, the event aims to raise child safety prevention issues awareness and recognize community members working to prevent child abuse and bullying. Featured keynote speaker will be Erin Merryn, a national advocate and child sexual abuse survivor. The author of three books, Merryn's advocacy

has led to a version of Erin's Law being passed in 28 states and another 18 states are considering a proposed law.

Several key supporters will receive the Champions for Child Safety Award for work to prevent child abuse and bullying. In addition to Merryn, awardees will include Florida State Sen. Rob Bradley, Florida State Sen. Aaron Bean and 11 school facilitators from throughout Florida who have implemented the MBF Child Safety Matters program for the past five years.

"Parents, educators, advocates and

concerned citizens are invited to join us on Sept. 28," MBF Executive Director Lynn Layton said. "The MBF Child Safety Matters™ program, research-based and evidence informed education, is making a real difference throughout Florida and in some other states."

A limited number of individual tickets are available for \$50. Registration for the luncheon is open at www.mbfchild-safetymatters.org. Sponsorships are also available. Contact Tammy Long at tlong@MoniqueBurrFoundation.org or (904) 562-1849 for more information.

SOS

Continued from 20

mealtimes scrolling through their cell phones, students said it made them feel as though they didn't matter to their parents, or that their parents' friends and Facebook posts were more important than they were.

"A lot of parents put the blinders on because it's easier than dealing with the problem," Robbins said.

Currently, Project SOS has produced videos to accompany two of its eight key components and is raising funds to produce the remaining six. The organization is also working on ways to engage more teens by inviting them to share their own experiences through a creative writing contest.

"We'll speak to any school, organization or PTO where we're invited," Robbins said, saying the life skills Project SOS imparts can help prepare teens mentally and emotionally for high school, college and beyond. "God knows I wish I had these tools when I went to college."

For more information on Project SOS, visit www.projectsos.com. To invite Project SOS to speak to your school or group, contact Katrina Rogers at katrina@projectsos.com.



Mission House Compassion by the Sea

Please place in the COMMENT BOX: Table 1

Come support the only Beaches facility helping adult men and woman who are homeless, return to a life of self-sufficiency. Mission House has assisted 48 people into housing in 2016. It would have been a cost of \$50,840 if these people had been on the streets and arrested. The Mission House Clinic has assisted 139 new patients saving local hospitals \$183,464 in what would have been unnecessary emergency room fees.

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Anonymous donation to Volunteers in Medicine spurs 'Fifty Days to \$50K' campaign

In response to a \$50,000 gift by an anonymous donor, Volunteers in Medicine has launched a "50 Days to \$50K" campaign to raise additional funds for the nonprofit organization.

A note accompanying the \$50,000 donation referenced the donor's personal commitment to achieving good health and the importance of maintaining it, and asked Volunteers in Medicine to use the gift to challenge the community to participate in the fall fundraising campaign.

Designed to raise awareness of Volunteers in Medicine's free health care services to Jacksonville's low-income working residents, the "50 Days to \$50K" fundraising campaign kicked off with an internal soft launch Aug. 10 targeting the organization's board of directors, volunteers and patients. Within two weeks, the organization raised more than \$5,000, with several of the clinic's patients making contributions in appreciation of the services they receive at the clinic. The public campaign

officially launched Aug. 30.

For every dollar donated, Volunteers in Medicine has announced a pledge to match dollar for dollar all funds donated over the next 50 days, up to \$50,000. The funds raised will provide 1,000 comprehensive wellness exams and all of the annual required screenings and tests. The goal is to keep patients healthy, employed and out of hospital emergency rooms.

"The well-being of a community can be gauged by the health of its people," Vol-

unteers in Medicine CEO Mary Pat Corrigan said. "The fortunate have company-funded health care; the poorest among us can turn to government-assisted health care. The people who remain work hard, earn more than the government allows but not enough to pay hefty premiums and deductibles. These are the families – men, women and children – who need our assistance the most."

For more information or to make a donation, visit www.vim-jax.org.



North Florida Land Trust adds land protection specialist to its team

Aaron Glick has joined the North Florida Land Trust team as a land protection specialist.

Glick will work closely with the land protection director to initiate, plan and implement conservation projects and land acquisition. He will also be supporting the director in providing outreach to the planning and development community.

Glick comes to NFLT after nine years with the City of Jacksonville, where he served as one of the city's historic zoning overlay planners and collaborated on various infill projects throughout the urban core.

Glick is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati in Ohio, where he earned a bachelor's degree in urban planning.

A resident of Springfield, Glick is the co-founder of the think tank TransForm Jax.

He currently serves on the board of directors of SPAR council and is an organizer of PorchFest. When he is not working, he enjoys biking, exploring regional parks and trails and enjoying the unique environments of Northeast Florida.

Northeast Florida Therapy Animals to host Therapy Animal Expo

The Northeast Florida Therapy Animals (NEFTA) Group will host its first Therapy Animal Expo Saturday, Oct. 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville.

The program will feature informational workshops, speakers and panel discussions, nationally recognized therapy animal experts and special exhibits.

The program is geared toward pet owners who are interested in learning about animal-assisted therapy or people who want to have an animal therapy program at their facility, school or business.

Event attendees can learn about training options to become a therapy animal team, the different types of animal assisted interactions and how to start a therapy animal program.

Representatives from the Alliance of Therapy Dogs, Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, Baptist Medical Center Beaches, the Clay County Humane Society, Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, the Jacksonville Humane Society, K9 Obedience Club of Jacksonville, Mayo Clinic, Northeast Florida Therapy Animals, Pet Partners Jax, R.E.A.D. and Wolfson Children's Hospital will be on site.

The expo is free and open to the public but organizers ask that those planning to attend register on www.eventbrite.com.

Pets are prohibited from attending this event. For more information, visit www.neftagroup.org.



Rev. Marsha Holmes and Mary Alice Wester of Christ Episcopal Church



Mission House Board Members JulieAnn Weber and Joyce Kramzer



Brock Blue, Michael Huffer and Jason Proly

'Compassion by the Sea' celebration benefits Mission House

By Jennifer Logue

Hundreds of friends and supporters celebrated the contributions Mission House makes to the Beaches last week, when the nonprofit hosted its 6th Annual Compassion by the Sea benefit.

Held Sept. 16 at Atlantic Beach Country Club, the event featured a cocktail reception, hors d'oeuvres and both live and silent auctions offering a wide range of gifts and unique experiences. Guests perused the many silent auction offerings, including private lunch and dinner excursions with notable First Coast residents, golf packages, gift baskets and getaways to such destinations as Napa Valley, Charleston, St. Lucia and more.

Three "waves" of silent auctions were held throughout the evening, offering attendees the opportunity to raise their paddles and bid on such items as a private

sushi dinner with the owners of Massage Envy, complete with massage gift certificates; a Budweiser Brewery corporate tasting party for up to 100 plus 10 VIP tickets to Oktoberfest Jacksonville; a guest role on The Chat with Angelia Savage and a \$200 David Medure experience; and a private dinner at Blackstone Grille with WJXT's Sam Kouvaris plus a Jacksonville Suns stadium experience and two tickets to Tim Tebow's Florida Forum appearance.

Many guests in attendance had a volunteer connection to Mission House. Leanne Paolucci, for example, noted that her employer, Fresh Market, supports Mission House by donating food.

"We donate every single day – fresh produce, bakery good and deli items," she said.



Joanna White, Dawn Huffer and Madison Blue

BENEFIT continues on **Page 25**

BENEFITING ST. FRANCIS HOUSING CRISIS CENTER

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Benefit

Continued from 24

Members of the Beaches Rotaract Club were also on hand to volunteer and assist with the event's live auction.

Mission House Board Member JulieAnn Weber said the purpose of the Compassion by the Sea event extends beyond raising the funds needed to provide critical support services to the Beaches' homeless residents.

"While we're here, of course, to raise money, we also want to raise awareness," Weber said. "Homeless people are first and foremost people and there's an opportunity for everyone to get involved."

Proceeds from the Compassion by the Sea event will support Mission House's services, which include providing homeless individuals with two hot meals a day, fresh clothing, shower facilities and medical services through its clinic. The nonprofit also provides case managers who assist clients with finding employment and housing.

To view more event photos, visit www.pontevedrarecorder.com.



Ash Khan with Mission House Executive Director Lori Anderson



Greg Groshan, Kim Whitson and Jeff Whitson



Danielle Fisher, Magda Cichon and Sarah Rose Stewart of the Beaches Rotaract Club were on hand to volunteer at the benefit.



Former high school classmates Don White and Leanne Paolucci reconnected at the Compassion by the Sea event.



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Local community, nonprofit and business leaders celebrate the opening of the St. Johns Volunteers! Volunteer Center.

Photos by Matus Foris



St. Johns Volunteers! holds ribbon cutting at volunteer center

More than 100 business, community and nonprofit leaders attended the grand opening celebration Sept. 19 for the St. Johns Volunteers! Volunteer Center at 1 News Place, Ste. A in St. Augustine.

Founded in 2015, St. Johns Volunteers! matches individuals who have a desire to serve with local community service opportunities.

In addition to matching services, the volunteer center will serve as a hub for training volunteers and volunteer managers.

Residents may attend workshops on volunteering, while nonprofit managers can take advantage of specialized training programs on such topics as

grant writing, fundraising and capacity building.

Community partners for St. Johns Volunteers! include Flagler Hospital, the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, Flagler College, Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, Advanced Disposal, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, St. Augustine Record, Fidelity Bank, UBU, St. Johns County Council on Aging, United Way of St. Johns County, Neville Breidenstein Wainio CPAs and the St. Johns Cultural Council.

For more information on the volunteer center, call (904) 584-9600 or visit www.stjohnsvolunteers.org.



Ann Junod accepts an award recognizing her late father's volunteer services from Flagler CEO Joseph Gordy.

Photo by Susan Griffin

21st annual SAYS Charity Golf Tournament Oct. 10

St. Augustine Youth Services (SAYS) will hold its 21st annual Charity Golf Tournament Monday, Oct. 10 at Marsh Creek Country Club.

Proceeds from the tournament, presented by All American Air Charitable Foundation, will help support the SAYS Hutson Family Campus, which provides a homelike environment to for abused and neglected children.

Now celebrating 27 years of service, SAYS employs a staff of professionals who are specially trained to deal with problems unique to children from abusive homes.

Golf tournament registration begins at 8 a.m. Tee-off is at 9 a.m. with a shotgun start. An awards lunch will be held following play. Registration is available online at www.sayskids.org/golf.

For more information about becoming a sponsor or playing in the tournament, contact Robin Burchfield, director of development, at (904) 829-1770 or robinb@sayskids.org.

NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

St. Francis House

Giving is something we do with our hearts. While all of us like a tax donation, the real reason we give is to change the world – even just a little bit – even for just one person or family. That's enough. To know that we made a difference in even one person's life is motivation enough for us to give.

Over our more than 30 years of serving the homeless and less fortunate in our county, St. Francis House has seen what your gifts have accomplished, but never more than in the past three years. Your support has enabled us to transform St. Francis from a shelter to a comprehensive housing crisis center.

So what's the difference, you say? A shelter provides services – shelter, food and clothing. Important, but not enough to help someone overcome homelessness. A housing crisis center provides solutions: opportunities to change lives. That is what your gifts support – solutions and opportunities. Over the past

three years, St. Francis has restructured our programs to focus on providing individual personalized support for the men women and families we see and serve each and every day. The results are more jobs, more people housed, more people achieving self-sufficiency. Your gifts have made this happen. Giving changes lives.

But thanks to you, we're not stopping there. This month, St. Francis assumed the street outreach activities in St. Johns County. Two teams of street outreach workers have hit the streets to find and engage the homeless in our county and connect them with the medical care, the services and the solutions that can help them. Giving can change outcomes.

The most exciting program you are helping support, however, is the launch of a multi-service unaccompanied/at-risk homeless youth initiative. This program will begin this fall with a designated youth street outreach team

dedicated to connecting with and assisting these young people who are at such risk. On Thursday, Nov. 3, St. Francis will unveil the rest of the plans for the youth initiative.

This program promises to be one of the most exciting and inspiring initiatives to hit our county in many years. You are invited to join us for this exciting event and announcement by attending "Magic at the Fountain" at the Fountain of Youth from 6:30 to 9:30 on Nov. 3. Funds raised from the event will help support these programs and so much more.

Your gifts are making this happen and will continue to change the lives of men, women, families and now youth in St. Johns County. So be sure to be there for the magic on Thursday, Nov. 3. To make your reservations visit stfrancisshelter.org or call (904) 829-8937.

Provided by St. Francis House

Cultural Center to present dinner with artist, wine tasting events

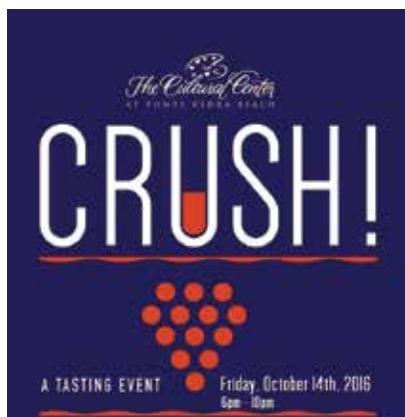
Dinner with an artist and a wine tasting event are among the upcoming events to be held at the Cultural Center of Ponte Vedra Beach.

The Cultural Center's Friends for the Arts group will present an evening of Parisian fare, wines and fellowship during the Dinner with an Artist series. Proceeds from this event will directly benefit the arts programs at the Cultural Center.

To be held at JJ's Liberty Bistro in Ponte Vedra on Sept. 29, the dinner will honor artist member and instructor Ellen Diamond, a contemporary impressionist who will share her inspirations and samples of her artwork with guests.

Diamond received formal training from New York University, learning abstract and traditional approaches to art. Her pieces are displayed in several galleries.

Tickets for the dinner event are \$100 for cultural center mem-



bers and \$115 for non-members. Tickets may be reserved online by visiting www.ccpvb.org or by calling (904) 280-0614, ext. 205. Seating is limited.

CRUSH! wine tasting

The Cultural Center will also host a fall wine tasting fundraiser featuring varietals from around the world with "CRUSH! A Tasting Event."

To be held Friday, Oct. 14, the event will include an evening of wine tastings, food pairings, fla-

menco dancing, grape crushing, live entertainment and more. Fine wines from Spain, New Zealand, Australia and Sonoma county will be among the offerings of the evening. Wine experts will also be on site to share information about the vineyards and processes of wine making, and a silent auction will be held for art, vacation destinations and other items.

Individual tickets are \$75 for members and \$100 for non-members. Sponsor levels are also available, which include reserved seating for parties of four or more.

Event sponsors include SunTrust Bank, John and Ana McLaughlin, St. Johns County Tourist Development Council, Regions Bank, Griggs Group and PRI, among others.

To purchase tickets or to learn more about the event, visit the Cultural Center's website at www.ccpvb.org.



Photo courtesy of Ellen Diamond



Photo courtesy of CCPVB

Annual Event

A CHAMBER CELEBRATION

Get your Business Boogie on with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce at the Annual Event, A Chamber Celebration. The festivities will include food, dancing, and silent auction, plus awards and a celebration of last year's accomplishments.

Wednesday, Oct. 19

Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

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St. Augustine
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 St. Augustine, FL 32086



Photo courtesy of The Arc Jacksonville

Blake Bortles and CJ

Jaguars Quarterback Blake Bortles to serve as face of The Arc Jacksonville's new campaign

Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Blake Bortles is assisting The Arc Jacksonville with an invitation for community support to help citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities achieve their greatest potential.

Bortles headlines The Arc's "What's Next?" campaign, a multifaceted communications effort to increase public understanding of the capabilities of adults with special needs.

"I've always known that my next step would include football," Bortles said. "But for people like my friend CJ, their future isn't always so clear."

Bortles saw CJ, who has autism, increase practical skills while living away from his family at Arc's

Summer LIFE program. He signed on to spread the word about how Arc can help others as part of his ongoing commitment to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in pursuit of full, independent lives.

"Summer LIFE is just one of Arc's programs to assist people to optimize their capabilities," said Jim Whittaker, Arc president and CEO. "We are very grateful for Blake's willingness to help us deliver the message that Arc is here to guide and support adults making life choices that enable them to achieve at their highest level.

"We are also most grateful for Blake's message of inclusion and acceptance that can sometimes be a challenge to overcome," Whit-

taker added.

In addition to Summer LIFE, Arc also assists people through life junctures at its newly opened The Arc Jacksonville Village.

The village was created at the request of young adults and their families seeking a safe environment where people in need of some lifestyle support could independently establish a home.

An apartment-style neighborhood for 121 adults aged 18 and older, the village is working to become a national model for custom design in promoting socializing, sharing among residents and engagement throughout the surrounding community. Opened in May 2016, the village was fully leased by August.

NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Johns County



Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) is not your typical organization. We help children realize their potential and build their futures. BBBS of St. Johns County serves all of St. Johns County. Our mission is "to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring professionally supported one-to-

one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever." We do this by providing an additional level of support for children through being matched with a caring adult mentor – the Big Brother or Big Sister.

BBBS offers school- and community-based mentoring programs that provide enriched experiences and positive role models. After a thorough screening process (which includes an in-depth interview, reference checks, Level 2 background screens, and home visit), a volunteer "Big" is matched with a child (the "Little"). Children are referred to the program by their caregiver or their school. In the site-based program, matches meet for one hour per week at the child's school. In the community-based program, matches meet for a few hours a week out in the community. All matches receive professional match support (a hallmark of the BBBS program nationally) to aid with developing strong, long-lasting matches.

There are many opportunities to get involved in and/or support BBBS of St. Johns County. Volunteer "Bigs" are always needed – especially males. While BBBS does not currently have a site-based program in Ponte Vedra, it is on the strategic plan of the organization to expand to schools in the area. However, community-based matches are made in Ponte Vedra and some Ponte Vedra residents travel to the site-based programs located in St. Augustine.

BBBS has several fundraisers that allow the organization to expand to new sites as well as maintain current matches. These include:

Great Chowder Debate - this annual event hosted by The Conch House in St. Augustine has chosen BBBS as the beneficiary this year. The debate will be held on Sunday, Nov. 6, 2017.

Tips for Kids Sake – the major fundraiser of BBBS, this popular and fun event pairs locals as celebrity waiters at area restaurants, with all tips donated to BBBS. In Ponte Vedra, Aqua Grill, Bogey Grille and Lulu's Waterfront Grille participate in this February event. Businesses and individuals are invited to participate as celebrity waiters.

BBBS Specialty License Plates – when it's time to renew your tag, consider purchasing the beach inspired BBBS tag.

In addition, businesses often sponsor the annual BBBS Holiday Party as well as match activities such as the Summer Picnic and Spring Game Night.

For more information on how to make a difference in the life of a child, call (904) 829-9986 or visit www.bbbsstjohns.org.

Provided by Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Johns County



Provided by Tilson PR

Jamie Dingle, Safeco Insurance; Jacci Easterling, Nicholas Wozniak Foundation; Zach King, athlete with the Special Olympics; Anthony Iannone, Nicholas Wozniak Foundation, Amber Piernick, The Shapiro Insurance Group and Joel Shapiro, The Shapiro Insurance Group.

Nicholas Wozniak Foundation receives \$5,000 donation

The Nicholas Wozniak Foundation recently received a donation of \$5,000 after Ponte Vedra Beach's Shapiro Insurance Group earned a 2016 Make More Happen award for its community work with the organization.

The award, which included a \$4,000 donation directed to the foundation from Safeco Insurance, recognizes independent agents who demonstrate extraordinary volunteerism for a nonprofit organization in the areas of health and safety, education and civil service. The insurance group was selected based on a photo and application demonstrating its commitment to the organization. An additional \$1,000 was given to the nonprofit after an online story about the Nicholas Wozniak Foundation and Dillon Cunningham of Shapiro Insurance Group received enough virtual "cheers" on Safeco's website.

The Nicholas Wozniak Foundation provides programs and opportunities that facilitate intellectual and physical growth as well as social integration for those with

disabilities. Shapiro Insurance Group employees volunteer at the Nicholas Wozniak Foundation at events in St. Augustine and Jacksonville, helping to raise funds for athletic programs such as a basketball league, a swimming program and a track and field team.

Throughout 2016, Safeco will select a total of 66 independent agencies for the awards and donate up to \$330,000 to the nonprofits they support. The Make More Happen Awards are a part of Safeco Insurance's Agent Giving Program.

"Safeco is committed to encouraging agents to make a difference in their local communities and through the Make More Happen program, we enable them to directly support the programs where they personally see the greatest need," said Jamie Dingle, Safeco Insurance southeast territory manager. "We are thrilled to see so many agents participating in this program, and we're proud to help them support the local charities they care about most."

Coast Guard auxiliary to offer 'About Boating Safely' course

A boating safety course will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1 at the Captain's Club, 13363 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville.

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 basics 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.

To register or for more information, contact Bill Vaughan at (904) 955-7077 or boatsafely04@gmail.com.

American Merchant Marine Veterans seeking members

The American Merchant Marine Veterans (AMMV), a Florida-based nonprofit veterans organization, is seeking members to join one of the 40-plus chapters or join as member-at-large for those not within geographical proximity of a chapter.

AMMV was established 32 years ago primarily for WWII members, but the organization is seeking Merchant Mariners from all eras to become members. The AMMV Constitution also mandates membership for wives, widows and descendants of WWII mariners as well as those mariners of later conflicts, current mariners and those in training at maritime academies.

One of the primary goals of the organization is earning veteran status for post-WWII, Korean, Vietnam and Middle Eastern conflict-serving Mariners.

Visit www.ammv.us to fill out an online membership application or to print a mail-in membership application. An annual dues membership fee of \$33.23 includes a quarterly magazine to keep abreast of the progress towards the organization's goals.

For additional information about membership, call the national headquarters office administrator Sindy Raymond at (707) 546-6349 or email her at saaren@sonic.net.

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PET HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

Does your pet have a spooky or silly costume for Halloween?

WE WANT TO SEE IT

BEST DRESSED WILL WIN A PRIZE



All photos received will be published in the October 20th edition of The Ponte Vedra Recorder. **When sending the photo, be sure to include:** Pet's name and breed, Pet's parent(s) name(s), & Contact phone number

Email your photo to april@opcfla.com or mail it to the **Ponte Vedra Recorder**

Attn: April Snyder • 1102 A1A N., Unit 108 • Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

All entries must be received by Friday, October 14th.

Mayo Clinic, UNF to Host 12th annual 'Upbeat Pink' concert

Mayo Clinic and the University of North Florida (UNF) will mark National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October by hosting the 12th annual "Upbeat Pink: A Musical Tribute to Breast Cancer Survivorship" concert Friday, Oct. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the University of North Florida.

The theme for this year's program, "Superheroes," showcases the UNF Wind Symphony, which will be conducted by Gordon Brock. Music from such movies as "Wonder Woman," "Superman," "Batman," "Spiderman," "Star Wars" and others will be featured in the performance.

Guest speakers will include Shelly Brock, a nurse practitioner in the Breast Clinic at Mayo Clinic's Florida campus; and Jennifer Case, a breast cancer survivor.

The Upbeat Pink musical tribute is a prelude to the 10th annual 26.2 with Donna: The National Marathon to Fin-

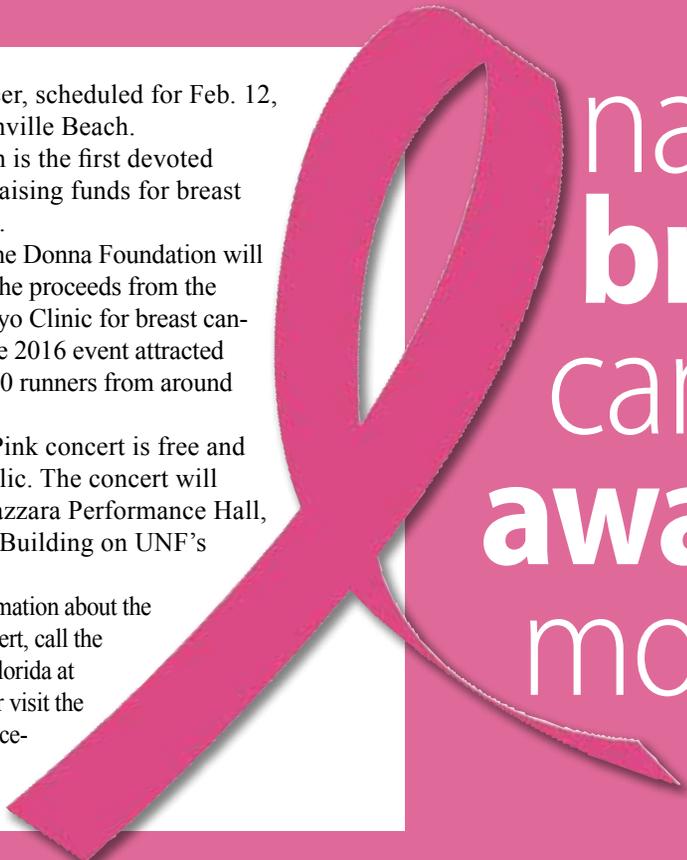
ish Breast Cancer, scheduled for Feb. 12, 2017 in Jacksonville Beach.

The marathon is the first devoted exclusively to raising funds for breast cancer research.

Once again, the Donna Foundation will donate most of the proceeds from the marathon to Mayo Clinic for breast cancer research. The 2016 event attracted more than 10,000 runners from around the world.

The Upbeat Pink concert is free and open to the public. The concert will take place in Lazzara Performance Hall, UNF Fine Arts Building on UNF's campus.

For more information about the Upbeat Pink concert, call the Breast Clinic in Florida at (904) 953-0707 or visit the Breast Clinic's Facebook events page.



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Business Weekly

TRIBUTE
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Page 37-39

PAGE 32 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Officials from the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce were on hand Sept. 14 for the grand opening of new restaurant Nona Blue in Sawgrass Village. Handling ribbon cutting duties was PGA Tour golfer Graeme McDowell, who owns Nona Blue with partners Joe Davi and Bill Bona.

Photo by Susan Griffin



St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce to hold annual awards celebration

'Business Boogie' theme of Oct. 19 event

A new format, a new venue and a new theme are just a few of the highlights of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's upcoming annual awards celebration.

To be held Oct. 19 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, this year's event will feature a more celebratory atmosphere, organizers said. Featuring a 1970s theme of "Business Boogie" – '70s attire is encouraged – the event will include a brief awards presentation followed by dancing to the popular band "Boogie Freaks" presented by SERVPRO of St. Augustine and SERVPRO of Ponte Vedra Beach. Guests will also be able to move among a variety of food and drink stations and bid on silent auction items while networking.

SJC Chamber CEO Isabelle Rodriguez noted that this year's celebration is open to not only chamber members but all companies that are interested in joining the chamber to help grow their business.

"This is an annual signature event that businesses do not want to miss," she said. "This year it has a different twist with more entertainment as well as networking opportunities. Attendees will enjoy great food and drinks and dancing to the fun hits of the '70s!"

"Business Boogie" will also celebrate the chamber's accomplishments of the previous year, with awards presented to leaders who have made significant contributions to the chamber's mission. Awards to be presented include the President's Award, the Fred Schroeder Member of the Year Award, the St. Augustine and Ponte Vedra Ambassador of the Year awards and the Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year Award.

Sponsors include Northrop Grumman Corporation, Auld & White Constructors, the Ponte Vedra Recorder and the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

Susan Griffin, publisher of the Ponte Vedra Recorder, is heading up the silent auction effort.

"Silent auction donors will position their goods and services before a large gathering of local business and community leaders," said Griffin, who said the chamber celebration is a highly anticipated annual gathering. "So get on your boogie shoes and come party with the chamber!"

An early bird ticket rate of \$95 per person is available to chamber members. Tickets for non-members are \$125 per person. To register, visit www.sjchamber.com. For information on available sponsorships, contact Debra Bulak at debra.bulak@sjchamber.com. To donate an auction item, contact Griffin at susan@opcfla.com.

Ponte Vedra welcomes Nona Blue

By Jennifer Logue

Hundreds of local residents turned out to celebrate the grand opening of Nona Blue last week, marking the latest restaurant to open in Ponte Vedra's burgeoning Sawgrass Village.

Nona Blue's Sept. 14 grand opening was preceded by a VIP reception the night before. Guests walked the red carpet and posed for photos with PGA Tour golfer Graeme McDowell and his Nona Blue founding partners Joe Davi and Bill Bona. Inside, guests enjoyed cocktails and generous samplings of the restaurant's appetizers, including firecracker shrimp, fried calamari, "Mama's meatloaf" sliders, flatbreads and more.

The following day, McDowell and his partners held a formal ribbon cutting ceremony to inaugurate their second Nona Blue location.

"It's so amazing," McDowell said of joining the Ponte Vedra community. "I've played many PLAYERS Championships here."

In addition to representatives from the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, the Nona Blue team was joined by former New York Giants Coach Tom Coughlin, who accepted a \$15,000 donation for his Tom Coughlin Jay Fund representing all the gratuities the Nona Blue staff collected

during their "Practice with a Purpose" soft opening.

"We were looking for a local charity to support and what I found out about the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund really resonated with me," McDowell said.

Coughlin, in turn, thanked the Nona Blue staff for donating their gratuities to his foundation to help children battling cancer.

"What a wonderful thing to come into the community and give back," Coughlin said. "That's the first thing they did!"

A dream fulfilled

The opening of the Ponte Vedra restaurant follows the 2013 opening of the first Nona Blue restaurant in Orlando. According to McDowell, the restaurant's name came from his participation in the Tavistock Cup: As a member of the Lake Nona team, McDowell wore a blue jersey while competing against the red-clad Isleworth team anchored by Tiger Woods.

After passing on a previous opportunity to own a restaurant several years earlier – and regretting it – McDowell said he wasn't about to let the Nona Blue opportunity pass him by.

"I had this vision of walking into my own restaurant."



Rob and Tina Schlingmann



Geri Price and Debbie Davis



Ray and Anna Washington

NONA BLUE continues on Page 36

Home baker enjoys the sweet life



Life is Sweet by Angie offers homemade confections

By Jennifer Logue

When Angie Anderson learned two years ago that her husband was being transferred from England to America, the news was bittersweet.

A native South African and mother of two, Anderson had recently opened The Pink Lemon Honey Pot in a small village in Surrey, where the largely self-taught baker held baking classes and children's parties.

"I had only had the shop for such a short time," said Anderson, who now calls Ponte Vedra Beach home.

As the family became acclimated to their new community, the former elementary school teacher found herself with time on her hands.

"I wasn't working and the children were



Angie Anderson displays a few of her homemade cakes and sweets at her Ponte Vedra Beach home.

Photos by Jennifer Logue

in school all day, so I baked," she said. "I baked a lot!"

Soon, Anderson was sharing her sweet treats with friends and neighbors, who began turning to Anderson for their children's birthday cakes and treats for other occasions. The rave reviews she received gave her the encouragement to begin baking professionally again.

Life is Sweet

Now, Anderson is launching Life is Sweet by Angie to provide home-baked cakes, cookies and other treats for parties, special occasions and other events. After researching and working through the legal require-

ments of running a home baking business, Anderson is beginning to spread the word of her confectionary talents. In addition to cakes and cupcakes, her most popular items include everything from cookies and cake pops to candy-covered Oreos.

"Everything is custom made," she said, noting that pricing varies depending upon a customer's request.

She has also begun doing wedding cakes, and is eager to bring to Ponte Vedra a party trend that is popular in England: the dessert table. In addition to baking all the treats, Anderson will come to the home and set up an attractive dessert display.

Currently, Anderson is accepting or-



ders through her Facebook page – www.facebook.com/lifeissweetbyangie – and via email: lifeissweetbyangie@mail.com.

"Angie is an artist," neighbor Sheryl Kozarski said. "Word is getting around."

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Traffic study, PV Greenway among items discussed at PVB Chamber meeting

By Carrie Resch

Improving traffic and transportation safety and a proposal to build a traffic-separated greenway trail in Ponte Vedra were among the topics discussed at a luncheon meeting of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Held Sept. 14 at the Sawgrass Beach Club, the luncheon featured presentations by Greg Leonard of the Citizens Traffic Task Force and Deb Chapin of the PV Greenway & Preserve initiative.

Ponte Vedra/Palm Valley Traffic Study

The Ponte Vedra/Palm Valley Traffic Study – which focuses on A1A from Mickler Road to the Duval County line, Palm Valley Road, Solana Road and Roscoe Boulevard – is scheduled to be completed by next summer.

“This entire process and the completion of the study will happen by June of next year,” Leonard said. The study results and recommendations will be made public at that time, in June or July 2017.

Unanimously approved by the Board of County Commissioners in December 2015, the study will assess the need for traffic and safety improvements, with one of the key areas of study being activity at intersections

– both in turning counts as well as total volume. Drivers may have already noticed counters along a number of roadways in the past month, Leonard noted.

The study will also cite data from existing sources such as the Florida Department of Transportation traffic counts along SR A1A, FDOT’s crash data, the Department of Revue Property Appraiser’s database, the Florida Geographic Data Library and other relevant sources of information pertinent to the study. Future growth affecting the study area will be projected through 2040 and incorporated in the study.

In addition to studying vehicular traffic, the traffic study will also examine bicycle, pedestrian and truck traffic within the study area, the results of which will be used to generate a draft technical memorandum to use as a baseline or benchmark for use in future activities associated with the project. Leonard pointed to the PV Greenway & Preserve Initiative as being one of the best options the community has to improve mobility, particularly pedestrian mobility, he said.

After the traffic study is completed, the next step will be figuring out how to mobilize funds. Possible sources of funding include the federal government, FDOT or the county, but asking the county for new



Photo by Susan Griffin

Dr. Erika Hamer, Lin Jones, Jennifer Bruno, Debra Chapin, Derek King, Brian Anderson and Dave Danzeisen

funds at this point in time is a very uphill task, Leonard said.

“This is good news for us as a community, but it also illustrates the rather lengthy process that making changes like this requires,” he said.

Ponte Vedra Greenway & Preserve initiative

The action plan set forth by the PV Greenway & Preserve initiative, meanwhile, has been largely accomplished, organizer Deb Chapin said. The grassroots group, which proposes to create a multi-use traffic-separated greenway trail system, has gained a lot of policymaker support and established a lot of partnerships, she said.

Currently, the group is in the process of looking at obtaining a 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, and is seeking funding to help with the group’s website – which Chapin said should be online in a couple of weeks – as well as maps and renderings. A business plan for maintenance also needs to be established, she said.

Chapin will discuss the initiative at the next trails symposium scheduled for Oct. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at Crosswater Hall in Nocatee. Hosted by St. Johns County in conjunction

with the St. Johns County Trails Coalition, the Oct. 5 symposium will be the second in a series of sessions to discuss what updates members of the community would like to see made to the St. Johns County Greenway, Blueway and Trails Master Plan.

Appealing to the small business owners and chamber of commerce members at the meeting, Chapin noted that there could be an opportunity for businesses to capitalize on the proposed trail.

“Some of the things that we’re envisioning may be private entities for renting bicycles,” Chapin said. “Maybe there’s a little bit of horseback riding/trail riding for the hotel tourists; maybe a private membership dog park, but there’s a lot of [opportunities] along the way.”

Chamber member Dr. Sharyl Truty of Balanced Physician Care applauded the grassroots groups’ effort.

“We have obesity as a major epidemic,” Truty said. “I come from a culture, where I moved from recently in Chicago, where there’s a lot of these bikeways and pathways, and I think just for the health of the community, this is a fantastic project.”

The Learning Experience holds ribbon cutting at new Nocatee center



Photo by Susan Griffin

The Learning Experience held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new location in Nocatee Sept. 15.

Members of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce were on hand to help

welcome the new business, located at 70 Greenleaf Drive at the entrance to Nocatee’s Greenleaf neighborhood.

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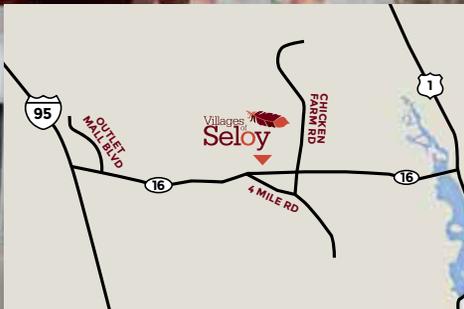


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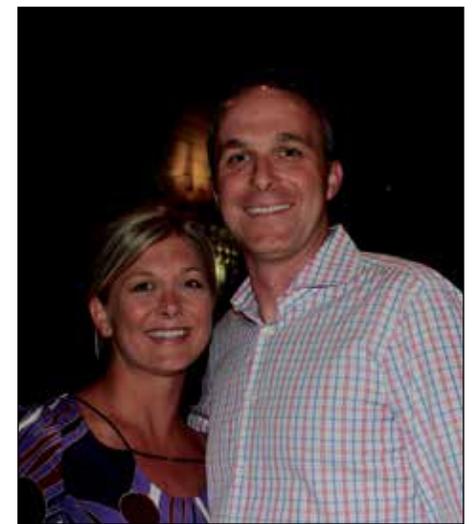
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Toni Boudreaux and Lin Jones



Jen Hendrich and Jared Rice

Nona Blue

Continued from 32

Added Davi: "This was a dream between the three of us and our family members," he said, noting that two critical team members – his wife, Candace and Chef Miguel Hernandez – have been with him for 15 years. "There's just tremendous passion here."

Davi said he hopes to build a local following for Nona Blue through word of mouth.

"I've never advertised," said Davi, who has been in the restaurant business for decades. "It's our job to execute from plate to plate and from cup of coffee to cup of coffee and let the world advertise for us. Our job is simple: Don't fail to execute at the table."

In addition to the regular menu, he noted, Nona Blue has 250 "off-menu" items that will give regular patrons a wide variety of options from which to choose, including the freshest seafood available.

"The tuna we're going to serve today (Wednesday)," he said, "was swimming in the ocean on Saturday."

In addition to visiting Nona Blue for the menu, patrons may also get an occasional glimpse of McDowell, who said he enjoys meeting people and hearing about the positive dining experiences they've had at his restaurant.

"I'll be endeavoring to spend more time here in Ponte Vedra," McDowell said.

View more photos online at www.pontevedrerecorder.com.

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TRIBUTE TO REALTORS

Retired couple become first residents of Markland

Residents find new home, reconnect with family in St. John's County

Retirees Lynne and Raj Natarajah were still living in Bradenton, Florida when they learned of a new master-planned community in St. Johns County.

They heard about the Hines development before most. Their daughter had previously built a house with Riverside Homes in St. Johns County and was satisfied, so when the couple decided to move from Bradenton to be closer to their grandchildren, Riverside Homes Principal Chris Wood showed them the Markland property.

There, the Natarajahs were able to pick out a home site at the far end of the community's 15-acre central lake. Originally from the United Kingdom, the two now enjoy watching sunrises and sunsets on the lake as Markland's first residents.

"We were lucky to find out about Riverside Homes from our daughter and are happy to make the connection and now live in Markland," Lynne Natarajah said.

The Natarajahs said they love Markland because of the convenient location to highways, shopping, health centers and the beaches. The couple also enjoys taking their grandchildren to the Kompan play structure, and their dog Milo to run around pocket parks and on the trails.

Riverside Homes is one of six premier builders available in Markland, a master-planned community located east of I-95 off International Golf Parkway. Other builders in Markland include Cottage Home Company, Arthur Rutenberg Homes, Providence Homes, Drees Homes and Dream Finders Homes.



Photo courtesy of Hines

Markland's first residents, Lynne and Raj Natarajah, stand in front of their lakefront home in Markland, a Hines community off International Golf Parkway.

Trent Real Estate opens third location in Jacksonville

Trent Real Estate has opened a new branch in Jacksonville in order to assist clients with buying and selling property for reduced 3 percent commission rates in North Florida.

The firm will also continue to work with its institutional bank clients and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to grow its distressed asset management division throughout the Florida.

Roy Trent Jr., director of operations at the company, said Trent Real Estate is pleased to be in Jacksonville and looks forward to providing service to the area.

"It simply doesn't make financial sense for anyone to pay a whopping 6 percent to sell their home these days," said Trent. "With the available technology out there and website syndication such as Realtor.com and Zillow, agents are doing less but getting paid more. Most sellers don't realize that a lot of the time it's not even the agent you hired that sells your property, it's usually an agent from a different firm altogether."

In addition, Trent noted, it is often buyers who let agents know they have found a home on which they would like to put an offer.

"Buyers and sellers are very empowered and they have much more information at their fingertips these days," he said. "A 6 percent listing fee is no longer warranted in this business."

The Trent Family has a combined 60 years in real estate, beginning when Frank Trent first started Frank Trent Real Estate in 1956. Since then, the family has gone on to close tens of thousands of properties totaling billions of dollars in real estate sales.

STAR OF THE WEEK



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TRIBUTE TO REALTORS

Back Row: From left to right, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty's Chantha Bisher, Beckie Pasko, Haylie Snipes, Margaret Ceaser, Manya Goldstein, Linda Sherrer and Christy Budnick. Front Row: The Zona family representing Dreams Come True.

From left to right, siblings Rocco Zona, Arianna Zona, Chad Skinner, and Dreamer Devon Zona.

Photo courtesy of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty



Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR collects more than 1,000 backpacks for local children

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty collected a record 1,011 backpacks filled with school supplies for Northeast Florida children during its 17th Annual Backpack Challenge, beating out its previous record of 733 backpacks collected last year.

The backpacks and school supplies collected by the real estate firm during the campaign were donated to students across Northeast Florida via Dreams Come True, The Bridge of Northeast Florida, Community Connections of Jacksonville, Operation New Hope, Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM), the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Orange Park Junior High School and Charles E. Bennett Elementary School. In St. Augustine, the backpacks were donated to Catholic Charities and children attending St. Johns County schools.

"We are filled with gratitude to all of our Realtors, employees and clients for ensuring that so many local children have the supplies they need for educational success," said Linda Sherrer, Berkshire

Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty founder, president and CEO. "The Backpack Challenge is an event our team looks forward to participating in every year and we are very proud of their efforts."

During the campaign, backpacks and school supplies were collected at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty offices throughout Northeast Florida. The backpacks were purchased for students in kindergarten through grade 12, and filled with school supplies such as pens, pencils, paper and notebooks.

"Words cannot express how much we appreciate the numerous donations and generous support we received from our team members and the community during the Backpack Challenge," said Broker and Executive Vice President Christy Budnick. "We know that beginning the school year with a new backpack filled with supplies makes a difference in the lives of children living in our communities, and this effort helps us accomplish that goal."

promotions department in 2012. He has been working in programming with X102.9 since July 2015. Black adds programming responsibilities for 96.9 The Eagle that were previously held by Aaron Schachter, who is now the director of digital content for both CMG Orlando and Jacksonville.

"Cody is a great testament to what hard work, patience and leadership training can do for your career," said CMG Jacksonville Operations Manager Todd Shannon. "He started with us in 2010 and has learned many facets of our business in a very short amount of time. I am very excited to see Cody continue to make X102.9 one of the most respected Alternative stations in the

Golf courses anchor La Fontana at World Golf Village

When developers came up with the idea for a community designed around the international game of golf, they decided to use the design skills of four golfing greats and World Golf Hall of Fame members – Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Sam Snead and Gene Sarazen. The result was a pair of award-winning golf courses that anchor World Golf Village and one of the community's newest offerings, La Fontana.

Comprised of three- and four-bedroom condominium homes, La Fontana offers scenic frontage along the 8th hole of the Bobby Weed-designed Slammer & Squire Golf Course. When designing the Slammer & Squire, Weed collaborated with Snead and Sarazen to develop a course that showcases the landscape's natural beauty.

In addition to the golf course that is literally in their back yard, residents of La Fontana can also take advantage of the links and club amenities of the nearby King & Bear Golf Course – the world's only golf course co-designed by Palmer and Nicklaus. Featuring loblolly pines, oaks and indigenous coquina rocks, the King & Bear incorporates traditional Florida landscapes. The club's pool and lighted tennis courts are also available to La Fontana residents.

"This is a unique environment in which to live, and buyers who are drawn to La Fontana are thrilled with all World

Golf Village has to offer – one of the favorites being access to these amazing golf courses," said Michael Bugg, principal of The Condo Group. "This community attracts residents who appreciate the international flavor of World Golf Village but who also want to pursue their interests and activities in a peaceful residential setting."

Bugg said La Fontana is an ideal opportunity for buyers who wish to "right-size" or re-think the space they need, and still maintain their desired lifestyle and amenities. Residences in La Fontana offer the feel of a stand-alone home, he said, yet with a low-maintenance lifestyle. Homes feature gourmet kitchens, master suites, private detached garages and screened lanais with nature and golf course views. Entrance foyers, wood floors and flexible living and dining areas are also available.

Developed by WGV Residential Ventures I and longtime builder partner Gantt Builders, La Fontana homes are priced starting at \$280,000 and range from 1,915 square feet to 2,400 square feet. For more information, visit LaFontanaFL.com or call (904) 460-2938. La Fontana is located at 90 Champions Way, St. Augustine and its sales center is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.



Residents of La Fontana enjoy views of the 8th hole of the Bobby Weed-designed Slammer & Squire golf course.

Photo courtesy of La Fontana

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Cox names Black director of branding & programming



BLACK

Cox Media Group (CMG) Jacksonville has promoted **Cody Black** to director of branding and programming for both Alternative WXXJ/X102.9 and Classic Hits WJGL/96.9 The Eagle.

Black started at CMG Jacksonville in a part-time capacity in 2010 and was promoted to full time in the

country and add to the current success of 96.9 The Eagle."

Tuten named COO of Eagle View Windows & Doors



TUTEN

Eagle View Windows & Doors has named **Terry Tuten** chief operating officer. Tuten joined the company in October 2015 as the chief financial officer and was recently appointed to serve as both the COO and CFO.

He will be responsible for leading the team at Eagle View to ensure an effective and successful execution of the company's short-term operational requirements and the long-term strategic goals.

Tuten is a certified public accountant and a subject matter expert in corporate finance management and process improvement. He earned his Executive Master of Business

Administration from Jacksonville University, his Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting from Valdosta State University and his Bachelor of Business Administration in finance from Georgia Southern University.

Tuten has more than 30 years of corporate experience and most recently served as the chief financial consultant at Accretive Solutions, Inc. and as chief financial officer for Enterprise Integration, where he provided leadership and decision-making to propel the company from \$5 million to an annual \$30 million in revenue.

He also helped grow the company from 50 employees to 250 and was named one of the Top 250 IT Executives nationwide.

Dulles Designs expands to Ponte Vedra

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TRIBUTE TO REALTORS

Watson welcomes three new realtors to Nocatee office



BANKS

Watson Realty Corp.'s Nocatee office recently welcomed three new real estate agents to its team.

Jacksonville natives and real estate team Lee Banks and Lafayette Gross are among the new Realtors.

Prior to becoming a real estate professional, Lee owned a child care center in Jacksonville for 17 years. A U.S. Army veteran, he has also been in the fitness industry for more than 10 years and has earned the title of IFBB Pro Bodybuilder.

Lafayette is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran. She was licensed in North Carolina in 2006 and earned her graduate Realtor Institute designation in 2007.

She has a finance degree from George Mason University in Virginia and an MBA in Accounting from the University of Phoenix. Lafayette has more than 18 years

of federal government accounting experience.

Both Lee and Lafayette are members of the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors, the Florida Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors.

Marnie Miller has also joined the office. Miller comes to Watson with more than 20 years of sales, marketing and negotiating experience. She specializes in new homes, luxury properties, relocation, first time buyers and retirement. She is a Nocatee Certified Agent and is an active member of the National Association of Realtors, Florida Association of Realtors and Northeast Florida Association of Realtors.

Miller is originally from the New England area, where she earned her bachelor's degree at the University of New Hampshire.



GROSS



MILLER

MOVERS & SHAKERS

Continued from 38



DULLES

The custom engraving, wedding stationery and event calligraphy company will be based in Ponte Vedra and open by appointment. In addition, Dulles will spend six months out of each year meeting with clients at resorts, country clubs, islands and professional offices in Palm Beach, Charleston, Washington, New York and Boston.

"By taking printed samples and design look-books into three times as many

clients as before," Dulles said, "we have effectively tripled revenues allowing us to invest in more curated designs and graphic options, and lowered overhead costs by more than half."

Lahey joins Atlantic Coast Bank's Neptune Beach office



LAHEY

Rhett Lahey, a residential mortgage advisor for Atlantic Coast Bank, has joined the bank's Neptune Beach office located at 1425 Atlantic Blvd. Lahey can be reached at (904) 881-5519.

— Compiled by Jennifer Logue



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ACROSS

- 1. a.k.a. Myanmar
- 6. ** ____ Rescue" airing on Saturday Mornings
- 9. Eye affliction
- 13. Brown, Dartmouth and Yale, e.g.
- 14. Down Under bird
- 15. **Rangers" who first appeared on daytime TV
- 16. Lays in peace
- 17. 1960s altered state inducer
- 18. Spy name?
- 19. *Cooking TV personality
- 21. **The Price ____
- 23. Elton John's title
- 24. Leave in a bucket
- 25. Mason glass
- 28. Prospectors search for the mother one
- 30. Exotic furniture wood
- 35. Europe/Asia mountain divide
- 37. Not bright
- 39. Smooth
- 40. Lover of Aeneas
- 41. Fluorescent red dye
- 43. Beth Israel synagogue, e.g.
- 44. Capital increases
- 46. French novelist ... mile, 1840-1902
- 47. Be a snitch
- 48. Conundrum
- 50. Brooklyn basketballers
- 52. *Soap time
- 53. Ice, dark, and middle
- 55. Make a pigeon

DOWN

- 57. ** ____ Hospital"
- 61. *Female view
- 65. Smoke detector, e.g.
- 66. Anger management issue
- 68. Russian river
- 69. Be a slowpoke
- 70. Foot digit
- 71. T. S., poet
- 72. All is well that does this well
- 73. Even, to a poet
- 74. Cook with dry heat
- 1. Ethiopian currency
- 2. Iris holder
- 3. Reduced Instruction Set Computer
- 4. Illegal lab product, pl.
- 5. Attack
- 6. Exchange for money
- 7. Ambulance squad, acr.
- 8. A in AV
- 9. Prima donna's numbers
- 10. Nest material
- 11. Uh-huh
- 12. "Formerly," formerly
- 15. Inuits' wearable invention, pl.
- 20. Eat away
- 22. Pine juice
- 24. Frankie Valli's four
- 25. *Judy's daytime occupation
- 26. Like Hitler's ideal man
- 27. 2 halves of a diameter
- 29. *Controversial Mehmet
- 31. ____ Bowl of the

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- 1930s
- 32. What one did after one oohed
- 33. Throat dangler
- 34. *She's live
- 36. Like Yangtze River
- 38. Digestive aid
- 42. Naturally, in slang
- 45. Unctuous
- 49. Turkish military leader
- 51. What ____, or of any kind
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- 56. Convex molding
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- 62. Pelvic parts
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The San Diego Chargers got their first win of the season routing the winless Jacksonville Jaguars 38-14. Philip Rivers put up four TD on the day and the Chargers defense held the Jaguars scoreless through the first three quarters.

Photos By Rick Wilson/Jacksonville Jaguars



Chargers' Rivers carves up Jacksonville Jaguars in blowout

By Mike Bonts

From the start it wasn't pretty. The San Diego Chargers scorched Jacksonville for four touchdowns in the first half and cruised to a 38-14 blowout of the Jaguars Sunday at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego.

"Obviously not one of our better showings," Jacksonville Coach Gus Bradley said. "It felt like we came out here and in all three phases we didn't have rhythm on offense. We are built to stop the run. Eight man front defense. They did a good job running the ball. Give credit to them, very well coached, [they did] very well in their execution offensively, defensively, special teams, and we could just never get in the rhythm offensively."

Jacksonville (0-2) QB Bortles was 31 of 50 passes for 329 yards and threw TD passes of 4 and 15 yards to tight end Mercedes Lewis and running back Corey Grant in the final quarter to avert a shutout.

Tight end Julius Thomas caught four passes for 71 yards with a long reception of 24 yards. The Jaguars produced 388 yards and 20 first downs.

"Time of possession was a big factor for us going into the game," noted Bradley. "It felt like that was going to be key, obviously taking care of the ball, and we didn't do those two things along with stopping the run."

San Diego (1-1) QB Philip Rivers



Jacksonville Jaguars QB Blake Bortles found tight end Mercedes Lewis (89) for a 4-yard touchdown pass in Sunday's 38-14 loss to San Diego.

led his career high with four touchdown passes. Rivers was 17 of 24 for 220-yards and no picks. Running back Melvin Gordon recorded his first career 100-yard game, rushing for 102 yards on 24 attempts.

"We finished, that was the big thing," Chargers Coach Mike McCoy said. "We understood the situation we put ourselves in, but we had to move on."

San Diego outside linebacker Melvin Ingram sacked Bortles twice and forced a fumble. Bortles committed three turnovers. The Chargers outrushed the Jaguars 150-69. The hosts possessed the ball for over 30 minutes. The Jaguars were penalized 13 times for 93 yards.

"Pretty embarrassing," Bortles said.

"The majority of the locker room is sick and tired of this feeling. It's up to us to do something about it."

Bradley agreed.

"I think you have to put that on me," Bradley said. "When the team comes up and they don't have the rhythm that they need to be offensively and defensively, as a head coach too, I have to take a lot of responsibility in that."

Jaguars offensive tackle Kelvin Beachum was taken to a San Diego hospital, where he was evaluated for a concussion. The Jaguars announced that all tests were negative, but Beachum was kept overnight on Sunday for observation.

The Jaguars return home Sunday to face the Baltimore Ravens at 1 p.m.

Sharks bite Wolfpack 44-0

By Jerry Norton

The Ponte Vedra Sharks played host to conference foe Wolfson last Friday evening and treated their guests with little respect in posting a 44-0 win. It was a game that was over before the first half ended.

The Sharks scored 41 points in the first 24 minutes, then used the second half to give playing time to a multitude of backups.

Just how outclassed the Wolfpack was became clear immediately after the Sharks won the opening coin toss and elected to receive. Five plays after the kickoff, Ponte Vedra scored the first of five touchdowns. Long completions by Nick Tronti to Marshall Few and Jake Maguire put the Sharks inside the Wolfpack red zone immediately. The touchdown came on a 13-yard pass to Few who was wide open over the middle.

The Wolfson offense was no threat to the Sharks, as evidenced by a three and out possession in their opening series. A poor, partially blocked punt put Tronti back in business on the visitors' 30-yard line, where he handed off four straight times to Hal Swan to cover the distance to touchdown number two.

The Sharks were called for a roughing the punter penalty but even that didn't help the visitors make a first down. After Tronti and JD Piris teamed up for a 25-yard gain, the Sharks settled for a 26-yard Chris Howard field goal.

Minutes later, Jarrett Stepp's punt return to the Wolfpack 20 set up the Sharks' third TD. It came on a Tronti to Piris pass and gave Ponte Vedra a 24-0 lead with two minutes left in the first quarter.

The second quarter saw the Sharks score three times – one on a short 7-yard burst by Swan, a 48-yard Howard field goal, and a swing pass from Tronti to Swan covering 52 exciting yards.

Save for a 35-yard field goal by Ponte Vedra's backup kicker, Mitchell Levine, the second half turned out to be a scoreless standoff between the Wolfson subs and the Shark backups as both coaches emptied their benches. Levine took maximum advantage of his playing opportunity when he kicked off following his field goal, then recovered the ensuing

Web.com Tour Championship Oct. 6-9 at Atlantic Beach Country Club

By Mike Bonts

The Web.com Tour Championship will be played Oct. 6-9, 2016 at the Atlantic Beach Country Club. The par 71, 6,815-yard course was designed by architect Erik Larson.

The Web.com Tour Championship has produced an impressive list of winners, including major champions David Duval (1993) and Stewart Cink (1996), as well as recent PGA Tour winners Matt Every (2009), Chesson Hadley (2013) and Emil-

iano Grillo (2015).

The format for the four-day will feature 72-hole stroke-play competition, a 36-hole cut to low 65 and ties and a \$1 million total purse with a first prize of \$180,000.

“We are excited to put forth a number of affordable and VIP-level ticket options for golf fans in Northeast Florida,” said Web.com Tour President Bill Calfee. “The Web.com Tour Championship is the pinnacle of our season, and allows for the enjoyment of the game’s next generation of PGA TOUR stars, as well as vibrant social activities in a

location such as Atlantic Beach.”

To be broadcast on the Golf Channel, the Web.com Tour Championship is the culminating event of this year’s Web.com Tour tournament season and the four-event Web.com Tour Finals. Preceded by 21 regular season tournaments, the finals will feature the top 75 money winners at the end of the Web.com Tour’s regular season, as well as players who finish 126th to 200th at the end of Wyndham Championship on the PGA Tour and are not eligible to compete in the FedExCup

Playoffs.

The 25 leading money winners on the Web.com Tour after the WinCo Foods Portland Open will be guaranteed a PGA Tour card for 2016-17. An additional 25 players will earn tour cards for 2016-17 based solely on their play in the finals.

Tour ranking positions for all 50 players will be done on an alternating basis between the first set of 25 players using combined regular season and finals earnings, and the second set using finals earnings only.

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The Sharks' JD Piris makes a diving catch of a Tronti pass.



Photos by Chris and Jerry Norton

The Wolfson ball carrier has no chance as a trio of Sharks have him in their grasp. Shark tacklers are (left to right) Jacob Reeves, Trevor Rolison and Peter Merlini.

Sharks

Continued from 41

Wolfson fumble.

Tronti had another impressive game. In one half of action, the North Carolina Charlotte commit finished with 12 completions in 15 attempts good for 208 yards and three touchdowns. He threw to four different receivers, targeting Piris four times for 48 yards and one touchdown, Few five times for 37 yards and a score, Maguire three times for 67 yards and Swan three times for 58 yards and one TD.

In three wins thus far this season, the Shark offense has scored seven touchdowns passing and five rushing. Tronti boasts a record of 40 completions on 66 attempts good for 637 yards and seven touchdowns. The Sharks have four receivers—Few, Maguire, Swan and Piris – with more than 100 yards receiving. Swan leads the Sharks rushing with 243 yards on 42 carries for four touchdowns.

Ponte Vedra plays Menendez (1-3) in a non-conference game Sept. 23 at home at 7 p.m. and look to avenge last year's defeat at the hands of the Falcons.

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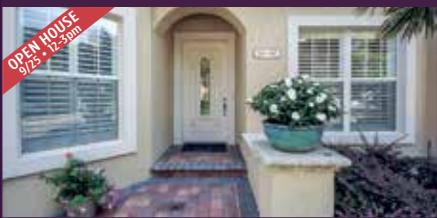
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The St. Johns County Board of Commissioners (BCC) should reject the land-use/zoning change to Residential D proposed by the developers of the Watermarke project (on the Vilano Beach site formerly known as the Beachcomber RV Park, now zoned Residential C). Residential C zoning permits reasonable-density, residential plus limited light commercial development. Residential D zoning would allow double the residential density plus allow wide-open major commercial development!

In fact, the BCC should take another critical action – they should reject any project that will add substantially to the existing traffic issues from Mickler Landing to the west end of May Street. Over the last few years, traffic has skyrocketed on A1A/Vilano Bridge/US 1 to the point of stagnation, and has killed the (now called “failed”) intersection at the west end of May Street by the carousel. As reported by the county at the Aug. 4, 2016 Planning & Zoning Commission meeting, the Vilano Bridge is at 98 percent capacity. While there is an effort to put in a unique road configuration to replace the “failed” intersection, its concept is unproven.

There should be a moratorium on building anything, other than single family residences, until such time as the new intersection configuration proves

itself. If it doesn't, the moratorium should be extended until a viable traffic solution is found.

Additionally, when we moved here in 2006, the A1A strip from Mickler Landing to the May Street carousel was “just right” – not overbuilt nor too remote/primitive with respect to being a place for enjoyable living.

Over the last 10 years, population increases have driven the area to the edge of sustainability. Major development like the Watermarke project will most certainly tip the area over the edge.

Finally, such a drastic change in land use designation would represent a breach of trust for taxpayers already living along this strip of land, who never would have bought into a community with such a monstrous commercial development.

Over many years, the county developed the Comprehensive Plan to recognize the needs and capacities of the land and its residents along this strip of A1A. The community along this strip has risen to oppose this zoning change (please see www.SaveOurVilano.com) just to enforce the existing Comprehensive Plan, which was always intended to provide a balanced blueprint for the community.

William Smith

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