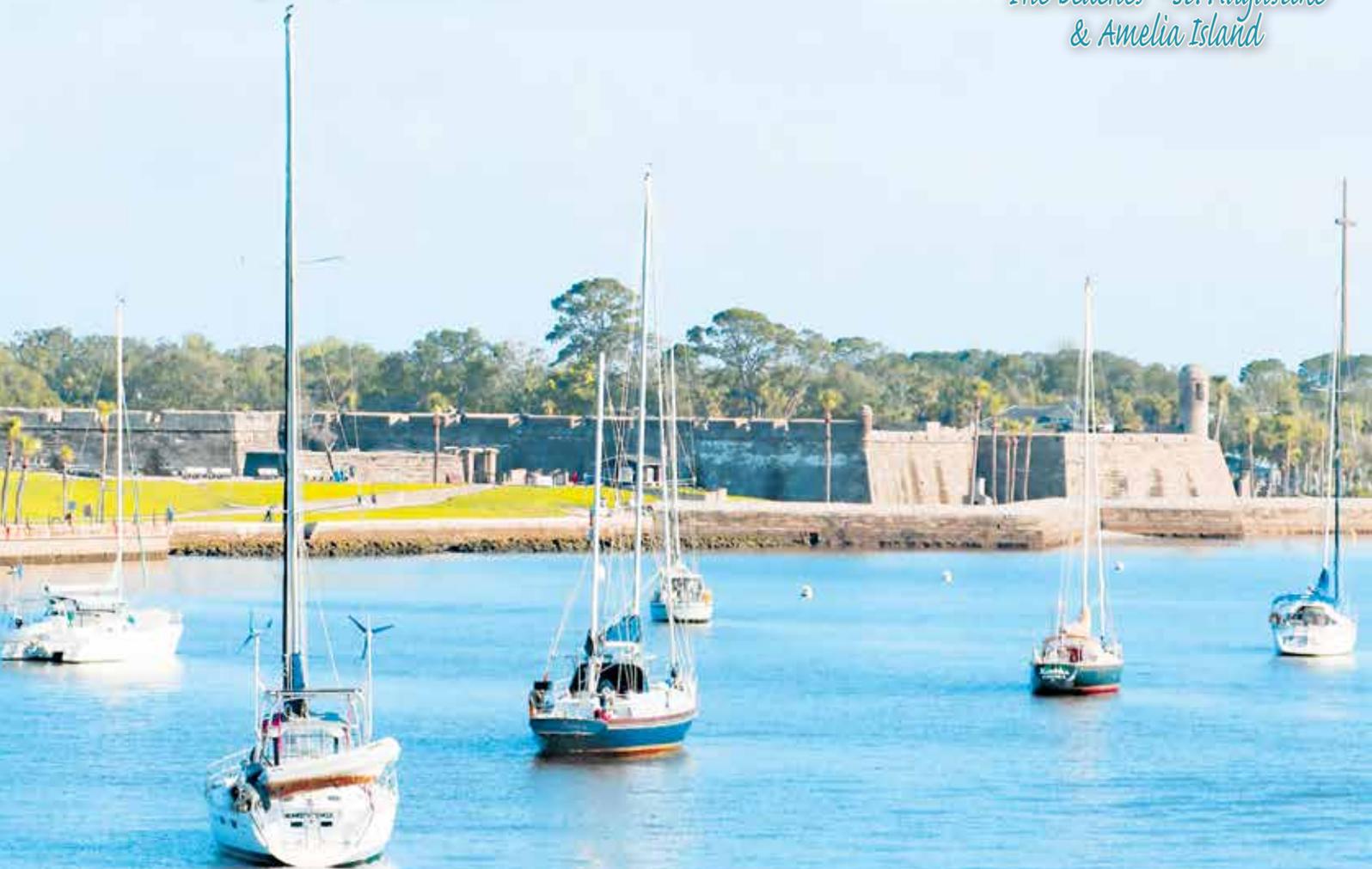


# *first coast* Register

*June - July 2018*  
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*& Amelia Island*



*A vintage  
surf shop*

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**Sophisticated European Inspired Marsh Landing Home**

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**Magnificent Mediterranean Style Home**

Boasts elegant features and upgrades throughout. Once you reach the custom made front door, you and your guests will be greeted by the splendor of this exquisite home. Love to cook? The stunning chef's kitchen with custom cabinetry and oversized island is the perfect setting for entertaining everything from large celebrations to simply enjoying intimate moments with family. **\$1,325,000**



**Sophisticated Coastal Living at its Best!**

The only home that sits atop the bluff next to the exquisite DuPont Mansion, this home shares the same breathtaking views of the formal gardens, the marina, & the St. Johns river. Wonderful & livable floorplan takes advantage of the home's premier location & offers river and garden views from almost every room. **\$1,395,000**



**Bring your designer and create your perfect dream home!**

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**Steps from Ponte Vedra Beaches**

Do you enjoy listening to the ocean waves while you relax with a glass of wine? This first floor unit is steps away from Ponte Vedra beaches as well as The Lodge & Club, an exceptional resort with dining, fitness, and several pools. **\$650,000**



**Most Desired Oceanfront Location in NE Florida**

Situated in the middle of the most desired oceanfront location in NE Florida. This first floor unit was totally renovated with the finest finishes and craftsmanship, 2br, 2bapls powder room, plus office have staurnia floors mahogany doors and built in custom cabinetry. **\$1,775,000**



**Luxurious Beach Residence on Ponte Vedra Blvd**

Enjoy the best of beach living in this recently updated interior, expansive 125' x 600' wooded lot with a spectacular natural environment and private beach access. Impeccably maintained home by award winning Benchmark luxury home builder with bright open plan perfect for entertaining large or intimate socials. **\$2,070,000**



**Sophisticated Coastal Living at its Best!**

This 5-bedroom, 4+ bath, home is the epitome of southern charm with over 8,400 sq. ft. that showcase spectacular ocean views. The open living areas, including large formal dining room with grand fireplace, lend themselves to entertaining everything from large celebrations or simply enjoying intimate moments near a roaring fireplace. **\$6,375,000**



**Exemplary Oceanfront Living on Ponte Vedra Blvd**

This oceanfront estate is built like a fortress with 2-story masonry construction. Set on 1.45 acres this home is designed with to capture expansive ocean views from almost every room. This is an exceptional opportunity for your most discerning buyer. **\$6,150,000**



**A Sophisticated and Luxurious Retreat on Ponte Vedra Blvd**

This impressive 4 bedroom and 5 full & 3 half baths oceanfront home reflects that magical merging of beach living and architecture. Situated on 220ft of Oceanfront and designed by Residential Designs by Kevin Gray, Inc and built by Elwood Collier, this estate is a masterpiece of design and craftsmanship. **\$8,750,000**



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## about this magazine

The First Coast Register is a bi-monthly general interest magazine published by The Ponte Vedra Recorder and OPC News, LLC. The magazine can be found throughout the upscale areas of greater Jacksonville. For advertising inquiries call 904.285.8831.

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### FIRST COAST REGISTER

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## on the cover

This First Coast Register features a group of boats moored in St. Augustine near the Castillo de San Marcos. Photo by Jon Blauvelt.



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# One of Us!

edited by JON BLAUVELT  
photos by JON BLAUVELT

## BERNARD DE RAAD

*Bernard de Raad has owned Cap's on the Water in St. Augustine for 20 years. He is also a co-owner of 3 Palms Grille in Ponte Vedra Beach.*

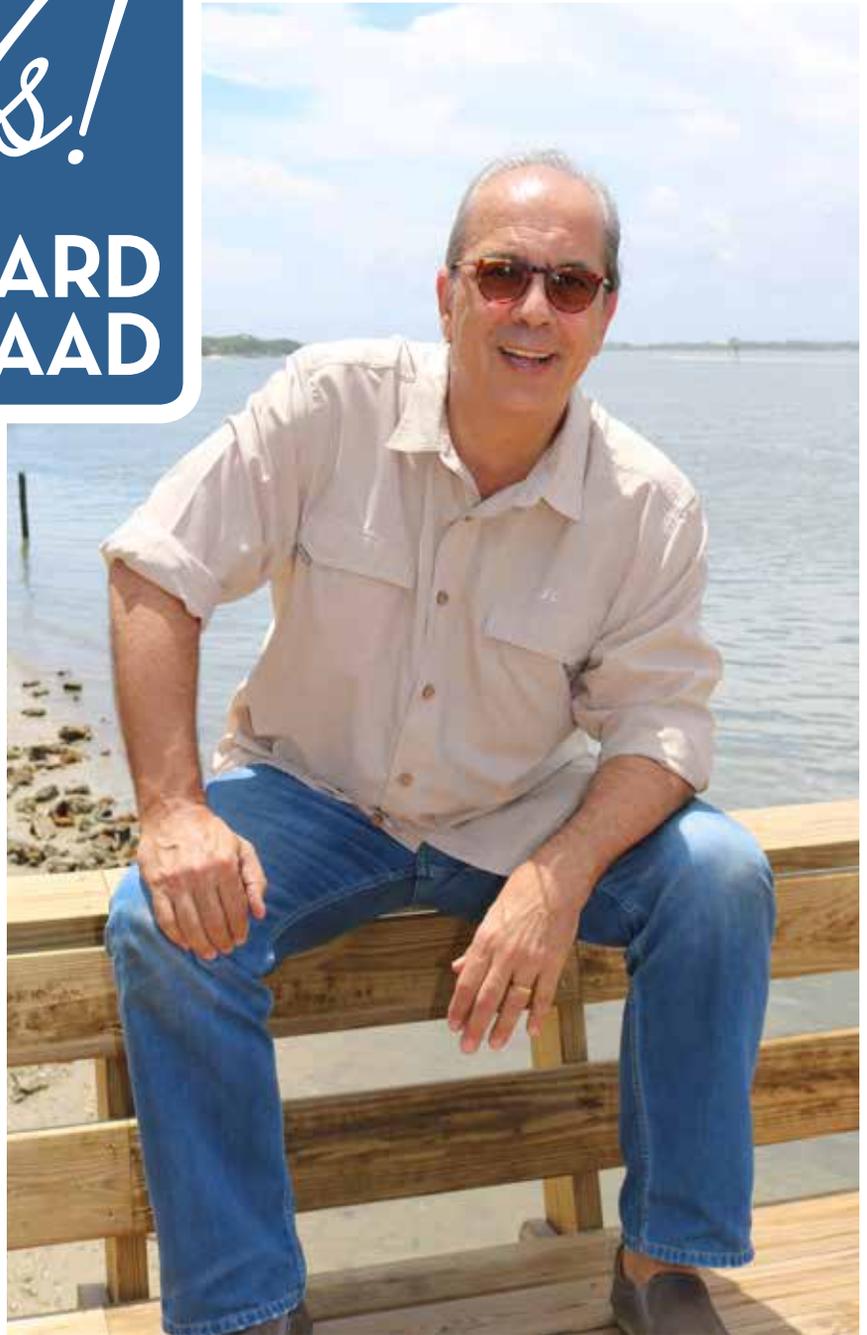
***Can you please briefly tell us about your background?***

I'm a Dutchman, born and raised in the Netherlands. My parents had a baking firm that started in 1830, so I was fifth-generation. But love broke the chain. I met a lovely American woman from Neptune Beach, which is the reason I went to the United States. Overall, I have a background in retail. I'm a baker at heart. I love good pastries, and I have that European taste that I think people look for here. I've now owned Cap's for 20 years.

***What makes Cap's different?***

It's still that same view when we bought it 20 years ago. Over time, what we've tried to do, by improving the servers, improving the food choices, having a stellar wine list and expanding the place, is really make this a white tablecloth, outdoor restaurant without tablecloths. That's the unique part of Cap's. That's why we're a destination.

In addition, there are very few restaurants in the area where you can go to by boat and enjoy the water view. If you live in Jacksonville Beach or Palm Valley, it may take a 45-minute trip to get here. But, it's worth it. We have that 100-foot floating dock where there is more room than ever. Overall, there are very few restaurants that are left on the water.





**How would you characterize the Cap's menu?**

I call my cuisine new coastal cuisine. Seafood is the focus of the menu ... fresh local seafood wherever possible. It's an artisan-style menu with some European influences that you can find in the sauces and preparations. Overall, it's a mixture of good old Southern food with some European finesse.

**What's your favorite dish on the menu?**

That's hard to say. I like everything on the menu, otherwise it would not be on the menu. I love our fried shrimp. I love our sesame-seared tuna. I love how we prepare our fresh catches and grilled octopus. There are so many different dishes, plus we add specials every week. We try to keep it interesting not only for the customers but for myself because we eat here three times a week as well.

**Can you tell us about your restaurant's wine program?**

My wife and I started traveling and visiting vineyards when we had this restaurant a few years. I was more of a beer drinker, but then I started getting into wine. Now at Cap's, we have a wide selection of more than 500 choices — very sought-after wines. We get recognized by Wine Spectator every year with two glasses for two reasons. The first is because of our selection. Also, if we buy a bottle for \$100, we price it up \$25. So, we sell it for \$125, while most other restaurants would sell at a two-and-a-half-time factor. So that bottle would be \$250 at a renowned steakhouse. So, you can come to Cap's and basically eat for free because you can buy a nice bottle of wine and save \$100.



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# FORT GEORGE

Fort George Surf Shop owners Jim and Debi Rodgers  
Photos by JON BLAUVELT

# Surf Shop

A proud First Coast staple for over 40 years

by JON BLAUVELT

In an age of big box retailers and ecommerce growth, Fort George Surf Shop is an anomaly and proud of it.

Located on Heckscher Drive a half-mile south of Huguenot Park and the popular Jetties surf spot, the vintage surf store encompasses a mere 1,000 square feet and employs just two people — business owners Jim and Debi Rodgers.

Yet, what the shop lacks in size and grandeur, it makes up for in 40-plus years of history and good old-fashioned customer service.

“That’s why I can stay in business against the Internet,” says Jim Rodgers. “The Internet can’t provide that. A big store can’t provide that. Here, it’s not that busy, so you always have time to interact.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 ■



# STARS OF THE WATERFRONT



## DELIGHTFUL DUVAL DRIVE

Exuding classic beach house charm, this 4br oceanfront was constructed in 2003. Standing seam metal roof, warm wood floors, high ceilings and balconies to enjoy the beach views!

**\$3,995,000**



## THE LANDMARK

Jacksonville Beach has one very exclusive condominium with the best views, private oceanfront pool and secured parking, The Landmark. This offering is the best of the best: the southeast penthouse. Filled with light, finished with the highest quality, with the feeling of a private home.

**\$1,795,000**



## MARSH LANDING

Magnificent location between #17 green and the 18th hole of Marsh Landing Country Club. These original owners custom-designed this home for their children and mother-in-law to each have their own spaces. It's also a fantastic entertaining home!

**\$996,000**



## OCEANFRONT

Ponte Vedra Beach estate on a magnificent 200-foot estate lot, fronting the ocean with decks. This home's stunning kitchen/family room/bar features incredible storage and fine appliances. Beautiful recently updated master suite and garages for six cars!

**\$6,900,000** furnished  
(\$6,800,000 unfurnished)



## PONTE VEDRA BY-THE-SEA

It's vacation every day in this mostly one-story custom home close to beach access! It features high ceilings, a fenced back yard on the pond, and a Five Star gas range PLUS outdoor grille!

**\$724,900**



## PONTE VEDRA CARLYLE

Very desirable 3-bedroom, south corner location with views of the headwaters of the Guana River and the "back yard" of The Carlyle. Very light and bright! This plan offers two owners' suites and a kitchen with room for dining.

Garage parking for 2 cars!

**\$748,000**



## WATERSEdge

Nothing like this exists in Northeast Florida except on peaceful Harbortown Marina in the Atlantic Beach area... your own 4-story townhome (with elevator, of course) commands the harbor and Intracoastal Waterway views. Irreplaceable at this price!

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Fort George Surf Shop is located at 10030 Heckscher Drive in Jacksonville.

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

### *A good old boy's surf shop*

A Brentwood Projects native, Jim grew up hitchhiking with his friends to surf the Jetties.

After falling in love with Fort George Island and becoming tired of his hitchhiking ways, he decided to start a business in the area to move closer to his favorite surf spot and stay afloat financially. The humble beginnings of Fort George Surf Shop were born, with the business opening in 1974 in the island's original post office and a former World War II Army barracks.

"It was a good old boy's surf shop," laughs Jim, who bought the building for \$11,000. "We were basically just surfer guys who came to the Jetties. The Jetties was a basic surf crew. It was no man's land. ... Back then, we were the 'Redneck Riviera.'"

The shop experienced its ups and downs over the next 40-some years, says Jim. At the onset, he and his former partner built up the business together. They would run the shop during the summer and work as laborers and carpenters in the offseason in Amelia Island, learning skills that helped them invest more into the surf shop.

In the 1990s, tragedy hit when the shop burnt down due to arson. Jim and company rebuilt the business in 60 days. Later, he sold the business to a new owner who relocated it. Jim bought it back in 2015 and returned it to its original location on Heckscher Drive.



The vintage surf shop features surfboard leashes and wax, among several other items.





Fort George Surf Shop is home to surfboards, stand up paddleboards, kayaks and more.

Now in 2018, Fort George Surf Shop reflects the business' journey, with pieces of its 44-year history found throughout the shop. Surfboards from the 1960s and 1970s line the ceiling, and photos of Jim, the Jetties crew and the original shop decorate the walls. Customers yearning for more history can look through a photo album that's readily available for viewing, while tracks from the Eagles, Beatles and other classic rock fixtures play overhead. Also at the ready for Jim is a list of the shop's thousands of loyal customers who receive discounts for their consistent business over the years.

Simultaneously, the store is home to the latest in surf industry trends. The shop's 60 by 12-foot boutique room features men's and women's apparel, surfboard leashes and wax, sunglasses and more. Its adjacent storage areas hold up to 150 surfboards, 15 stand up paddleboards and a handful of kayaks. The business is also home to a website, [ftgeorgesurfshop.com](http://ftgeorgesurfshop.com), that includes information about the shop and a surf forecast.

"This is what I had in mind all these years," says Jim as he glances around the shop. "It's just taken a while to get here."



## Welcome Home to Ponte Vedra Beach

### 128 CARRIAGE LAMP WAY



Gracious 5 BD, 4.5 BA pool home with over 4,400 SF. You'll love the screened lanai! The unique lot offers incredible privacy and stunning views of the golf course, marsh tidal creek and private dock with deep water access. **MLS#924101 / \$1,115,000**

### 13759 WINGFIELD PLACE



Come home to Pablo Bay! This gorgeous home offers 5BD, 3BA and almost 3,000 SF. You'll love the HUGE fenced backyard! Recently painted and terrific floor plan! **MLS# 9920543 / \$450,000**

### 209 CHARLEMAGNE CIRCLE



Completely remodeled 4 BD, 2.5 BA home in Fiddlers Marsh. Open floor plan, new hardwood flooring, kitchen cabinets and granite counters PLUS a BRAND NEW ROOF. With all these wonderful updates, it feels like a new home! **MLS# 939741 / \$424,900**

### 538 MORNING SIDE DRIVE



This lovely 3BD, 2BA pool home is situated on a quiet corner lot with fresh exterior paint, new windows and contemporary updates. The outdoor living spaces are awesome with decks surrounding the pool and two side yards. **MLS# 932254 / \$734,900**



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Beachgoers learn about sea turtles at the YMCA's June 2 event at Mickler's. Photos by JON BLAUVELT

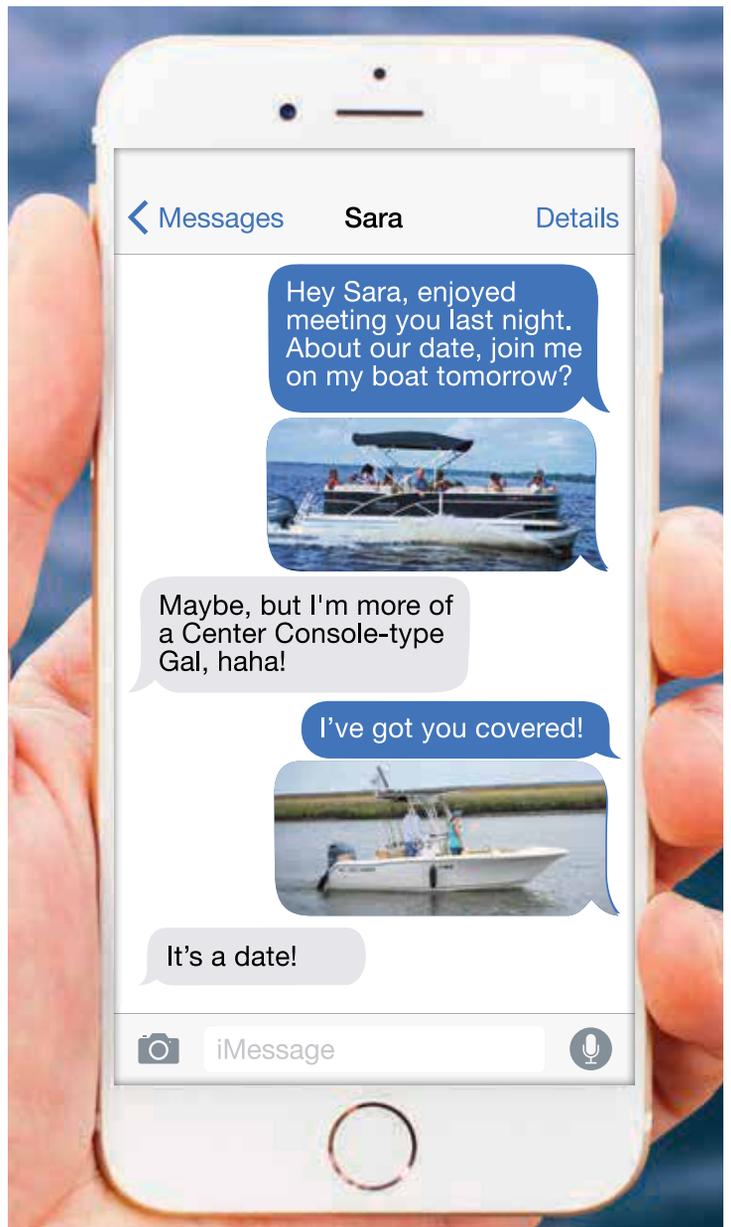
The event also included education on sun safety, with a representative from Baptist Healthy Living Center giving out sunglasses and sunscreen. In addition, a representative from the Mickler's Landing Sea Turtle Patrol attended to discuss sea turtles, and attendees enjoyed a shark tooth contest.



Jonathon, Jansen and Jocelyn Shelhamer



Shelby and Vanessa Heubner



Messages Sara Details

Hey Sara, enjoyed meeting you last night. About our date, join me on my boat tomorrow?



Maybe, but I'm more of a Center Console-type Gal, haha!

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# Nemours launches *'Our Promise'* campaign to support patients and families in Jacksonville

Nemours Children's Specialty Care, Jacksonville announced the public phase of its first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign to support Northeast Florida patients and families, called "Our Promise" – A Campaign for Children's Health, at an event held on its campus April 26.

Nemours' stated mission is to provide leadership, institutions and services to restore and improve the health of children through care and programs not readily available, regardless of the recipient's ability to pay. In 2017, Nemours Children's Specialty Care, Jacksonville provided uncompensated care in excess of \$24 million to children in Northeast Florida, many of whom were uninsured or underinsured. With its new campaign, the nonprofit seeks to raise a total of \$7 million in contributions from the community, including individual and corporate donors.

One hundred percent of funds raised through the "Our Promise" campaign will benefit Northeast Florida children. During the first phase of the campaign, funds raised will support the Nemours Hearing Loss Program to fund speech therapy services (not covered by insurance) for children with hearing loss, summer camp for children with cochlear implants, updated screening equipment and replenishments for the cochlear implant and hearing aid loaner bank. In addition, the campaign will benefit the Nemours Center for Cancer & Blood Disorders to fund non-medical enrichment programs, which support more than 300 oncology patients annually who are dealing with cancer diagnoses and treatments. Such programs include art and music therapies, research studies, medical education for the next generation of specialists and community-based programming.



THE PLAYERS Championship pledges \$500,000 as a Challenge Grant toward the "Our Promise" campaign of Nemours Children's Specialty Care, Jacksonville, to support patients and families in Jacksonville. Photos courtesy of SUSAN MASUCCI



Barry and Megan Sproles with daughter and Nemours patient Norah



Brenda and Steve Jones with Nemours patient Riley



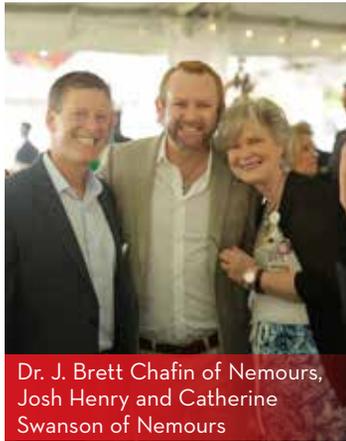
Malcolm Jones, "Our Promise" campaign chair, and Dr. Gary Josephson, chief medical officer for Nemours Children's Specialty Care, Jacksonville, raise a toast.



Rita Malie and Kelli Coughlin of the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund with Helena Gutierrez, LSW and Amanda Lochrie, PhD of Nemours



Troy Smith and Matt Welch of THE PLAYERS Championship with Azaryah and her mom Arzra MacNeal



Dr. J. Brett Chafin of Nemours, Josh Henry and Catherine Swanson of Nemours

Funds raised will also go toward a lobby transformation for Nemours' Jacksonville location, which has not had any major updates in more than 30 years. The transformation will include a comprehensive café with indoor/outdoor seating, other areas for families to seek respite, an updated welcome/information center and children's library, as well as spaces for Nemours and its volunteers to provide entertainment and patient education.

Many individual donors and organizations have made pledges toward the campaign during its "quiet phase," including the Delores Barr Weaver Fund through The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida and THE PLAYERS, which has pledged \$500,000 as a Challenge Grant to the community and will match funds raised in the community dollar-for-dollar.

"Giving back to the community is at the heart of THE PLAYERS Championship," said Jared Rice, executive director of THE PLAYERS. "The ultimate goal of THE PLAYERS is to have a continued impact on Northeast Florida. The support that we receive from area fans and businesses is directly reflected in the millions we are able to give back to deserving charities like Nemours."

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# GATSBY'S LOST GENERATION

by JON BLAUVELT

The Lightner Museum in Downtown St. Augustine opened its doors to flappers, mob bosses and others from the Roaring '20s on April 28, when Volkswagen of St. Augustine hosted its fifth annual Gatsby-inspired charity event.

Over 500 guests attended the occasion, which featured a theme of "Gatsby's Lost Generation" and raised over \$25,000 for the St. Johns Cultural Council (SJCC). Themed characters such as Ernest Hemingway, Pablo Picasso, Josephine Baker and Jay Gatsby himself joined the festivities, wearing costumes designed by Volkswagen of St. Augustine co-owner Sway DiFeo. Live music was provided by local musicians Amy Hendrickson, Chelsea Saddler and Mama Blue. Even Volkswagen of St. Augustine's General Manager, Joe DiFeo, joined in by playing piano.

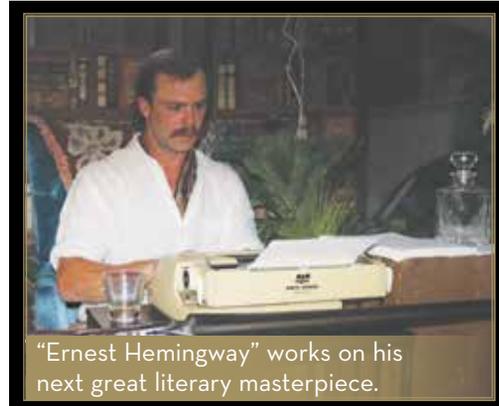
The event featured a blackjack table, candy bar station and a 1929 Willys-Knight Deluxe Roadster and a 1930 Lincoln Deluxe Roadster on display. The Lightner Museum also kept a wing of the museum open for guests to discover some of its ancient artifacts. In addition to a champagne "bubbly bar," craft cocktails and moonshine infused in mason jars, all craft beers were provided by Ancient City Brewing Company. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres were also provided throughout the night by Café Alcazar.



Greg and Shannon Mergel, Christina and Philip Benjamin and Jay and Terese Hopkins



"Josephine Baker" poses for a photo.  
Photos by JON BLAUVELT



"Ernest Hemingway" works on his next great literary masterpiece.



Christine Gilmer, Amy Rupert-Secol and Sophia Janson



"Jay Gatsby" makes an appearance



Tanya Dostlar and Diana Kandle



Barbara and Bill McNeese



Adrienne, Tim, Katy and Andy Gillis



"Pablo Picasso" paints for his fans at the charity event.

Since opening its doors in December 2013, Volkswagen of St. Augustine has contributed over \$200,000 to local charities and continues to allocate an annual budget for community support and sponsorships. More information regarding this annual charity event and sponsorship opportunities can be found at [www.GatsbyForCharity.com](http://www.GatsbyForCharity.com).

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Thousands gather at Jacksonville Zoo to support

# HEAL FOUNDATION

The cause of the Ponte Vedra Beach-based HEAL (Helping Enrich Autistic Lives) Foundation brought local families out to the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens on April 29 for the HEAL Autism Walk at the Zoo.

Proceeds of the event benefited the foundation's efforts to support individuals with autism spectrum disorder through funding grants to local schools, programs, camps and educators.

"The HEAL Autism Walk at the Zoo was a great success," said Jason Gurka, executive director of the HEAL Foundation. "(There were) over 2,000 participants, 25 vendors at the HEAL after-party, and over \$50,000 was raised."



Photos courtesy of the HEAL FOUNDATION



Luxury Full Service Interior Design

Photo by: Jessie Preza

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Hosted by Jordan Price and DJ Vic Micolucci, the after-party included music, a bounce house, face painting and a rock climbing wall.

Through fundraising events like the Walk at the Zoo and donations of private and corporate donors, HEAL has contributed more than \$2 million in grants to local autism-related camps, support groups, seminars, organizations and schools. HEAL's latest initiative, iHEAL — iPads Helping Enrich Autistic Lives — donates iPads to special needs classrooms to enhance communication for nonverbal students. To date, more than 350 iPads have been distributed to local classrooms, and last year's walk attracted 2,000 participants and raised more than \$70,000.

For more information about the HEAL Foundation, visit [www.healautismnow.org](http://www.healautismnow.org).



# POWERBOAT P1 SUPERSTOCK

## hosts media day in Jacksonville



Powerboat P1 Head of Sponsorship and Marketing Lara Johnston poses for a photo with Marketing Coordinator Marissa Thompson near a poster for the June 2 Powerboat P1 race in Jacksonville. Photos by BENJAMIN NAIM

Powerboat P1 SuperStock CEO Azam Rangoonwala, head of sponsorship Lara Johnston, marketing coordinator Marissa Thompson, Visit Jacksonville-sponsored driver George Ivey and City of Jacksonville officials attended a media event on May 29 at Metropolitan Park to share information on the PowerBoat series.

Over the last five years, Powerboat P1 SuperStock racing has grown into a global draw that is broadcast in 153 countries with a reach of over 500 million people. There are 18 events in seven nations, garnering \$170 million in brand exposure, 62 million social impressions and 10 million video views. Fox Sports Florida covers the races locally.

“People globally follow it,” noted Rangoonwala, who was in town for the Jacksonville Grand Prix on June 2. “We appeal to a global marine audience and people who enjoy the water, who enjoy the racing and especially boat racing.”



Powerboat P1 CEO Azam Rangoonwala answers questions from a local media outlet.



George Ivey, who drives a Visit Jacksonville-sponsored speedboat, poses for a photo near his boat at the Powerboat P1 media day event on May 29 at Metropolitan Park.

Ragoonwala, who has experience with boat racing, described the sport as “something different that you don’t see every day.”

“We talk about activating the river and activating the waterway and that’s exactly what we’re doing and it’s providing action,” he said. “Not only is it the fun of watching the racing, but it’s a great day to spend out on the water too.”

Powerboat P1 drivers are flanked by navigators who guide them through blind spots as they fly through the course at an average of 70 miles per hour. Ragoonwala said the driver relies on the navigator for situational awareness.

“Your focus needs to be on literally what’s right in front of you in your vision,” he said. “You’re relying on your navigator to tell you how far to the left is one guy, how far to the right is the other guy, how far behind is he? You don’t have spotters on land like you do in the racing car series; it’s all dependent on your navigator.”

The P1 SuperStock race season started on April 20-22 in Miami and wraps up on July 1 in Sarasota. For more information on Powerboat P1 SuperStock racing, visit [www.powerboatp1.com](http://www.powerboatp1.com).

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# *A Day by the Waves*

## Waterfront activities for your First Coast getaway

compiled by SAMANTHA LOGUE

Whether it's for the first time or just a return trip, a visit to the First Coast is never complete without experiencing the wonders of its waterways. From the Intracoastal Waterway to the Atlantic Ocean, there are countless adventures and experiences just waiting to be had on and along the waves.



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At the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum, visitors can learn about marine science and the history behind the city's oldest surviving brick structure, as well as see for themselves if the ghostly rumors surrounding it are true. Then, after sipping from the Fountain of Youth and taking in the shops of St. George Street, visitors can also explore the Castillo de San Marcos, the oldest masonry fortress in the United States, or hop aboard the Pirate Ship Black Raven and learn about St. Augustine's rich pirate history as they sail down the Matanzas River.




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## Adventure Amelia

Visitors to Amelia Island will love the many opportunities the island offers for appreciating the natural beauty of the First Coast. Couples can spend a romantic evening riding horseback along the beach, or they can rent a kayak and paddle down the scenic Amelia River and the surrounding creeks. Thrill-seekers will love activities such as jet skiing and surfing, meanwhile others can enjoy a peaceful day of fishing.

## Dine on the Intracoastal

When traveling down the Intracoastal Waterway in Palm Valley, there are multiple restaurants for the hungry sailor to choose from. For a casual seafood lunch with friends, dock your boat at Palm Valley Outdoors Bar & Grill, or outside Palm Valley Fish Camp to the north. Then again, if Southern cuisine is what you're craving, you can stop by Valley Smoke BBQ for some brisket and pulled pork or head over to Barbara Jean's for an authentic, down-home country meal. With so many options to choose from, this stretch of waterfront eateries is sure to satisfy.



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STY: JACOBSON

# Orlando Magic's Bismack Biyombo hosts

# FIRST COAST FUNDRAISER

## to support project in the Congo



MATTER President Quenton Marty, Modular Life Solutions CEO Doug Recker and Orlando Magic player Bismack Biyombo gather April 13 at a fundraising event in Jacksonville benefiting a medical project that Biyombo is leading in the Congo.

Photos by BENJAMIN NAIM

by BENJAMIN NAIM

Orlando Magic center Bismack Biyombo visited Jacksonville on April 13, when his foundation partnered with Modular Life Solutions and MATTER to host a fundraising event in support of a medical project for the Democratic Republic of Congo.

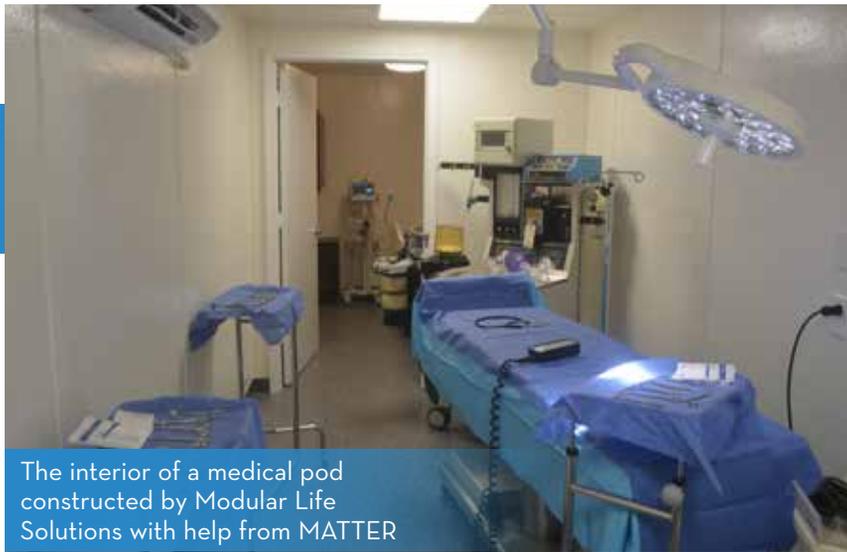
Biyombo, a Congolese native, is leading a project aimed at expanding access to medical care in the Congo through medical pods made from reconstructed shipping containers. The Bismack Biyombo Foundation has joined with Modular Life Solutions and MATTER to execute Biyombo's mission, called The Bismack Project. Modular Life Solutions offers single unit, multi-function environments providing clean water, power and other basic needs to Third World countries. MATTER is a Minnesota-based international nonprofit organization that provides sustainable, healthy food and long-term healthcare solutions.

"I really appreciate this," said Biyombo during the event, which was held at a Modular Life Solutions warehouse in Jacksonville. "When I first started going back home, it was my rookie year; I started by helping 25 kids. When I came back after helping these kids, I realized I had to do more for them. Two years later, I went from 25 to 1,000 kids."

Biyombo asserted the project will make a significant impact and change the lives of struggling locals.

"In life, there's a bigger picture than just ourselves," he said. "I think this is going to take us really far. When this (medical pod) is delivered, hopefully we'll have enough cameras there because people in the community will cry."

Doug Recker, the founder and CEO of Modular Life Solutions, said he formed his organization after selling an old business that utilized containers and solar panels to supply servers with power.



The interior of a medical pod constructed by Modular Life Solutions with help from MATTER



Orlando Magic memorabilia was auctioned off at the fundraising event.



Biyombo discusses his foundation's efforts.

"I owned and operated data centers," said Recker. "The main thing is power with data centers, so I developed a box that preserved and stored power in case JEA went out. Then it would actually take over and supply power to the servers so it would never go down."

After selling his business, Recker came up with the idea of using the leftover containers to provide essentials for those in need. Today, Modular Life Solutions produces different types of pods that address a specific necessity. Biyombo's Congo project will utilize medical pods created with help from MATTER to offer healthcare for Africans.

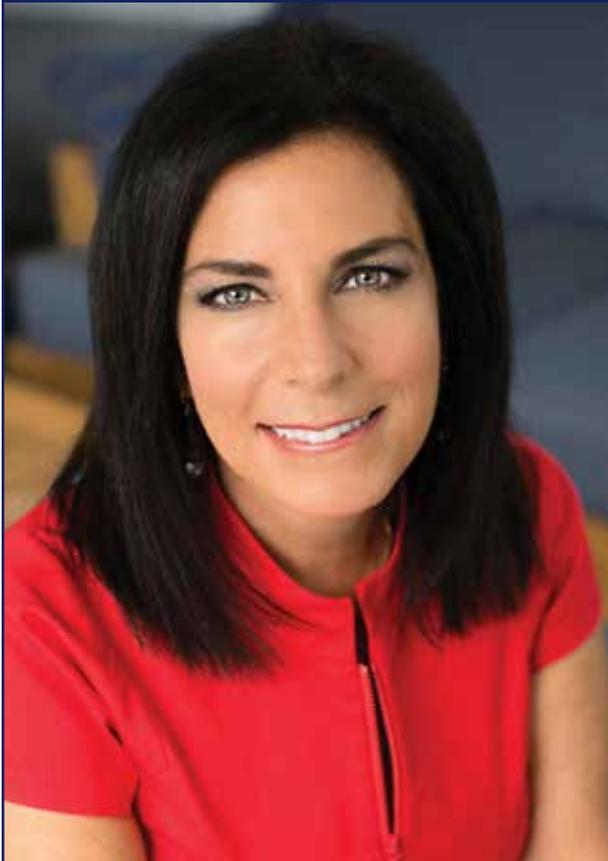
"You'll see an immediate impact," said Recker. "This pod that's going to Congo is the best in the country. The medical equipment was donated from hospitals through MATTER. I build the components and they put the actual equipment inside."

The pods are insulated like refrigerators to protect them from severe weather changes, Recker noted. They're also waterproof and mold-resistant.

Visit [www.bismackbiyombo.org](http://www.bismackbiyombo.org) to learn more about the Bismack Biyombo Foundation. Check out [www.modularlifesolutions.com](http://www.modularlifesolutions.com) or [www.matter.ngo](http://www.matter.ngo) for more information on Modular Life Solutions and MATTER, respectively.

## Janet E. Johnson, P.A.

## *Criminal Defense Attorney*



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

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# Comedy

## FOR A CAUSE

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset held its second annual comedy fundraiser, Comedy for a Cause, on April 21. The event raised more funds this year than last year for several Northeast Florida charities.

Held at the University of North Florida's Robinson Theater, the event featured hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, 50/50 raffle and silent auction including more than 50 items, such as restaurant gift certificates, golf packages, unique artisan items and more.

Danny Johnson, a Northeast Florida award-winning comedian, headlined the evening. He has starred on Comedy Central's Laugh Riots and shared the stage with a host of comedic celebrities, such as Chris Rock, Bob Saget, Billy Gardell, Richard Lewis and many others. Johnson was joined by fellow comedians Wes Johnson, Christina Schriver and Joey Nickel.



Comedian Danny Johnson entertains the crowd at the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset's Comedy for a Cause fundraiser on April 21 at UNF's Robinson Theater. Photos by SUSAN GRIFFIN

"It was wildly successful for us," said Cyndi King, president of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset. "Those in attendance had a very enjoyable time. Many who attended last year enjoyed it just as much this year and are looking forward to attending next year."



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Janeene Hart and Cyndi King of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset address the crowd at the Comedy for a Cause fundraiser.



Comedian Wes Johnson entertains the crowd



Kerry Ann Kirkland, Tony Kirkland, Robin Kirkland and Brian Bang gather at Comedy for a Cause.



Comedian Joey Nickel

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# Springing the Blues



Photos courtesy of  
SURFDOG PHOTOGRAPHY

The 28th annual Springing the Blues Festival was held in Jacksonville Beach April 6-8.

Twenty-one artists shared their love of blues music on two stages during the three-day festival at the Seawalk Pavilion. The line-up was a Who's Who of Blues Music Award (BMA) winners and nominees.

"Our 2018 line-up may very well be our most prolific presentation of blues music ever," said Sam Veal, executive director of Jax Beach Festivals.

The festival opened Friday night with Markey Blue on the Pavilion Stage and Selwyn Birchwood, 2018 BMA nominee for Contemporary Blues Album and Male Artist, on the intimate Blues Lounge Stage. The night continued with the Parker Urban Trio and was topped off by Larkin Poe, BMA nominee for Best Emerging Artist and Eric Gales.

The excitement continued Saturday beginning and ending with Jacksonville locals Kim Reteguiz & the Black Cat Bones and Heather Gillis. Saturday's artists also included the Cat McWilliams Band, teen artist David Julia, Smokestack, Band of Friends, JP Soars & the Red Hots and The Corbitt Brothers. Saturday night's headliner, Sugaray Rayford, was nominated for four BMA awards, including Band of the Year, B.B. King Entertainer of the Year and Soul Blues Album of the Year for "The World that We Live In."



The Sugaray Rayford Band

Sunday fans saw the Prestage Brothers, N.W. Izzard, local Mama Blue, Jonn Del Tor Richardson and the Tommy Z Band. The Festival concluded with Victor Wainwright.

In addition to music, the festival featured a food court, artisan marketplace and kids area that attracts an estimated 125,000 fans each year.



The Selwyn Birchwood Band



Fans enjoy the Springing the Blues festival in Jacksonville Beach.



Larkin Poe

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# Marineland Dolphin Adventure celebrates



## 80th anniversary

Marineland Dolphin Adventure is celebrating its historic 80th anniversary with a month of special events and activities.

The festivities began with the reopening ceremony for Marineland's renovated arch on May 31, and will continue throughout June. From family fun and Hollywood magic, to a special Florida Gator event with Steve Spurrier, the month-long celebration will feature a wide range of activities for guests of all ages.

"We're excited to present a number of family-fun events to celebrate 80 years of welcoming guests from across the world and our ongoing mission to preserve Our World Ocean," said Gary Inks, vice president/general manager of Marineland Dolphin Adventure.

Highlights of the upcoming anniversary events include:

- **Meet Our Trainers:** Twice daily in June, guests can learn about Marineland's dolphin family and see trainers interact with our dolphins.
- **Farmers Market:** Each Sunday in June with live entertainment.
- **80 Years of Animal Love and Care:** This will be a special evening event every Saturday in June with a movie filmed at Marineland, guided tours, live music, a free souvenir booklet,



Photos courtesy  
of MARINELAND

the chance to meet 15 dolphins and more from 7 to 9:30 p.m. (\$35 for adults/\$15 for children). Food will be offered by Rype & Readi for an additional charge. (Special ecotours and discounted docking at the Town of Marineland Marina are also available.)



• **Official Anniversary**

**Celebration Day:** Marineland's official anniversary will be celebrated June 23, with the event featuring special guests, proclamations, food and beverages, a silent auction and a free souvenir booklet for those in attendance.

Marineland Dolphin Adventure opened as Marine Studies in June 1938. Over 30,000 guests visited on opening day, and the park quickly became known as the world's first oceanarium. Marineland's three founders — Douglas Burden, C.V. Whitney, and Ilia Tolstoy (the grandson of author Leo Tolstoy) — were each involved in the motion-picture industry, and it became a premier facility for shooting underwater footage for both feature films and newsreels.

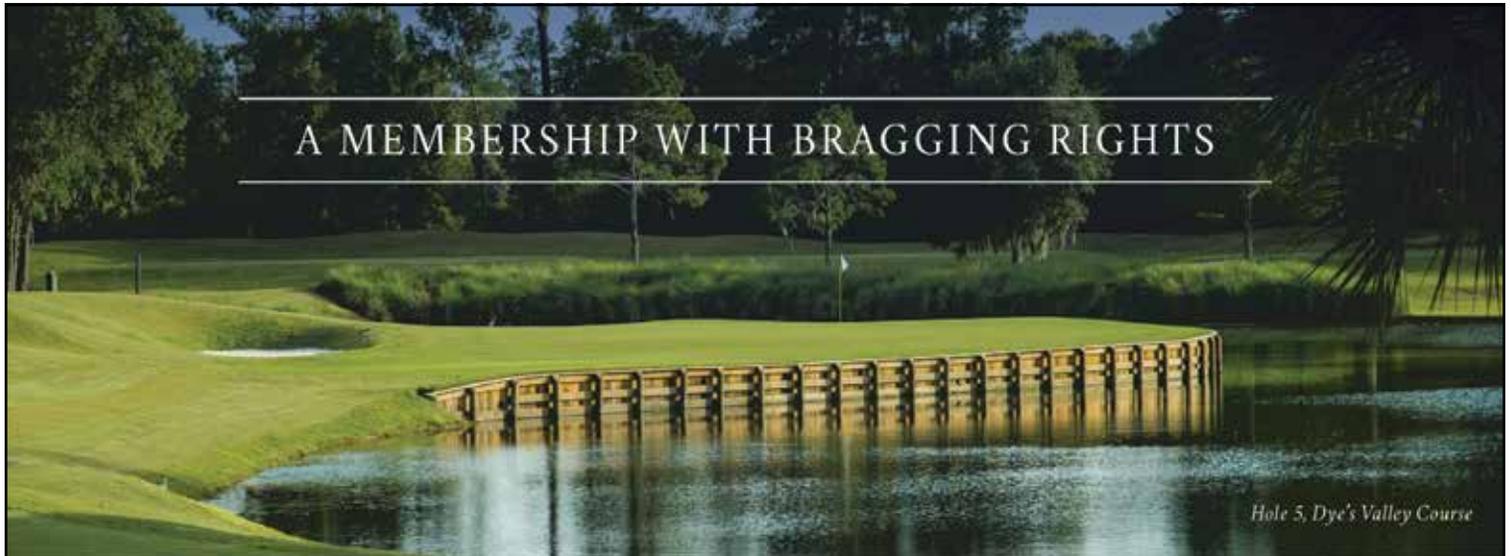
More information about Marineland Dolphin Adventure and its 80th anniversary celebration is available at [www.Marineland.net](http://www.Marineland.net), or by calling (877) 933-3402.

• **Family Sunday Fundays:** Each Sunday in June, enjoy children's events, games and education programs, plus admission for two kids free with one paid adult.

• **BOGO Mondays:** Buy one, get one free for general admission and Marineland's Behind the Seas Tours in June.

• **Gratitude America 5k Run:** This is a special run starting at Marineland at 8 a.m. on June 16 and benefiting U.S. veterans.

• **Gator Night at Marineland:** On June 16, Steve Spurrier will feed dolphins and re-enact the experience he had at Marineland in the 1960s.



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# Churchmen Spring Fling

by JON BLAUVELT

Members of the Churchmen gathered at Ponte Vedra Beach's Sawgrass Beach Club on April 12 with their spouses and significant others for the annual Churchmen Spring Fling.

Sixty couples attended, enjoying hors d'oeuvres and cocktails followed by dinner and dancing. The Steve Chapman Trio provided entertainment for the evening.

The occasion is the organization's only event of the year at which members bring dates. As a result, the Spring Fling provides couples the opportunity to meet and mingle with one another.

According to Chairman John Flynn, the Churchmen currently has 170 members who meet several times throughout the year for lunch and interesting speakers.

The all-male organization was founded in 1977 by a group of gentlemen at Christ Episcopal Church with the purpose of building and fostering relationships within the Ponte Vedra community. Forty years later, it has become a non-sectarian institution that embraces all faiths.



Marilyn McAfee, Kirkland Clarkson and Winkie Chalfant



**ABOVE:** The Steve Chapman Trio entertains Spring Fling attendees.



**TOP RIGHT:** Carol Travis and Margie Stuart



**MIDDLE RIGHT:** Ed Chalfant and David Gleason



**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Lyn and Guy Nix



**ABOVE:** Len Cook, Lennox Stuart and Bill Murdock

**RIGHT:** Bob Sleeker and Roger Elsas



Photos by  
JON BLAUVELT

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# Fantasy Farms holds

## *Tropical Fantasy Night*

### fundraiser



Horses at the animal preserve at Fantasy Farms  
Photos by BENJAMIN NAIM

by BENJAMIN NAIM

Fantasy Farms Exotic and Domestic Animal Preserve hosted a fundraiser with live music, food, drinks, dancing and more at its Tropical Fantasy Night event on April 14.

Joanna Ursal's dance troupe attended the event and performed around the farm with calypso rhythms. The evening featured tropical drinks, wine, beer and non-alcoholic beverages. Guests also observed various animals located at the preserve, including parrots, horses, donkeys, sheep, turtles, peacocks and more.

Additionally, visitors mingled at Roscoe's party house, which is also located at the preserve, and danced the night away on The Patio. Roscoe's hosted a silent auction with autographed sports memorabilia, such as a 1990 Miami Heat game basketball with 14 signatures, gift cards and baskets from various Ponte Vedra merchants and restaurants, an authentic blossom necklace and other items.

Fantasy Farms is a 501 (C) (3) nonprofit organization that hosts charitable, corporate, wedding and other pres-



Carl and Kathleen Kraus enjoy the Tropical Fantasy Night fundraiser at Fantasy Farms on April 14.

tige events while providing a sanctuary for animals. The facility is suitable for a wide variety of events, from parties to animal education activities. For more information or to book an event, visit [www.fantasyfarms.org](http://www.fantasyfarms.org) or call (203) 417-2996.

A classic car on display at the garage at Fantasy Farms



Mike and Sharon Koppenhafer



A small goat greets visitors at the animal preserve at Fantasy Farms.



Dinner is served at the Tropical Fantasy Night.



One of the animals at the preserve at Fantasy Farms poses for a photo.



# 55th annual ISLE OF EIGHT FLAGS Shrimp Festival

The 55th annual Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival was held May 4-6 in Fernandina Beach.

After the Pirate Parade on May 3 and opening ceremonies on May 4, the event kicked off with the Miss Shrimp Festival Scholarship Pageant, which was won by Emily Colson. Olivia Liliskis was the first runner-up, while Taylor Alvare was the second runner-up. Arriell Drayton was named Miss Congeniality. The rest of the evening featured the Pirate Parade Awards, fireworks and more.

The second day of the shrimp festival featured the 24th Annual Shrimp Festival 5K Run/Walk, and performances by the Fernandina Beach High School Jazz Ensemble and the Sean McCarthy Band, among others. The event was highlighted by an end-of-day concert including John Elefante, the former lead singer of Kansas, Randall Hall, formerly of Lynyrd Skynyrd, and Jimmy Hall of Wet Willie and formerly of the Jeff Beck Group.

The third day of the festival on May 6 included additional performances, as well as the Blessing of the Fleet, the Laying of the Wreath and the Decorated Shrimp Boat Parade and Contest.

Throughout the weekend, families also enjoyed the Kids Fun Zone and an abundance of seafood and other treats.

Visit [www.shrimpfestival.com](http://www.shrimpfestival.com) for more information.



**ABOVE:** The 55th annual Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival featured the Miss Shrimp Festival Scholarship Pageant, among several other events. Pictured are Miss Congeniality Arriell Drayton, second runner-up Taylor Alvare, first runner-up Olivia Liliskis and Miss Shrimp Festival Pageant winner Emily Colson.



**LEFT:** Shrimp Festival attendees enjoy a plate of seafood.

Photos courtesy of ISLE OF EIGHT FLAGS SHRIMP FESTIVAL

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w/ PETER FRAMPTON
- JUL. 21 VIOLENT FEMMES AND ECHO & THE BUNNYMEN**
- JUL. 29 DISPATCH**  
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- AUG. 18 UMPHREY'S MCGEE**  
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# Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville celebrates

## 30-year anniversary

### with McGala fundraising event

More than 500 attendees celebrated Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville's 30-year anniversary with a Caribbean Nights-themed McGala fundraising event on May 19 at Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa in Ponte Vedra Beach.

McGala presented by Joe and Nan Ferrara highlighted the stories of families served at the Ronald McDonald House, as well as the Ronald McDonald Family Room located inside Wolfson Children's Hospital. McGala raised more than \$300,000 to support the families of critically ill children.

At the start of the event, attendees were welcomed with an explosion of vibrant colors, tikis and palm trees, island-inspired hors d'oeuvres and a live steel drum performance during the Martinique Cocktail Reception. During the program, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville's Executive Director Diane Boyle spoke to the importance of the mission of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville and the evening's theme.

"Tonight's theme pays tribute to the many families who over the years have come to us from the Caribbean," said Boyle. "They come to us from Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Barbados, Mexico, the Bahamas and most recently a number of families from Puerto Rico. They seek the best healthcare for their sick child here in Jacksonville. As you can imagine, coming to Jacksonville from the Caribbean is not easy. It's not easy physically, emotionally or financially. This is why our mission is so important."



Dr. Tanner Wright with mom Cheryl Wright and Ronald McDonald House of Jacksonville's Executive Director Diane Boyle.

To add to the celebration, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville welcomed back one of the first families to enter its doors when the first house opened in 1988. An infant at the time, Tanner Wright, along with his mother, Cheryl Wright, stayed at the first house that was located on Jefferson Street. Today, Tanner is a resident serving in pediatrics at Tampa General Hospital. While addressing the crowd, Dr. Wright explained how his experience at the Ronald McDonald House helped shape him throughout his residency saying, "I now understand its role — it is one of healing."

McGala also recognized honorary chairs Peter and Meg Kuchar of Ponte Vedra Beach for their ongoing support of McGala and the children and families of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville.



**ABOVE:** McGala Honorary Chairs Peter & Meg Kuchar, with Boyle.

**RIGHT:** McGala Presenting Sponsor Nan Ferrara speaks during the program.

Photos courtesy of  
RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE  
CHARITIES OF JACKSONVILLE

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NinoRossi Handbags offers

# DISTINCTIVE STYLE

by SAMANTHA LOGUE

at an affordable price

Finding a high-quality and uniquely beautiful handbag isn't always easy to do on a budget. From color and style to comfort and versatility, there are so many factors that can come into play when seeking out the perfect purse. So, when cost is added to that already extensive list, the task can become a true challenge. Recognizing a need in the market for more options, Jacksonville resident Zeina Ossi has launched NinoRossi Handbags, a new line of luxurious, yet affordable handbags.



Zeina Ossi, co-founder of NinoRossi Handbags

"The handbag market is saturated," says Ossi. "It's got all kinds of handbags, from cheap and unimaginative to very expensive and highly creative, and what we found is there's a huge gap in that price range where you really can't find some exciting and exclusive designs at an affordable price. Our business model is basically to bridge that gap, offering distinguished designs and luxurious quality at reasonable prices, starting at about \$249."

Naming the business after her three children, Ossi and her father launched NinoRossi in October 2017. The line includes a total of 21 handbags in three collections, and each bag is made with European embossed leather in Beirut.



The "Cedars" Panache Tote \$439



A handbag is made using the French Tresse weaving pattern. Photos courtesy of NINOROSI HANDBAGS

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**  
**Riverwood Women's Club raises more than \$7,400 for Alpha-Omega Miracle Home**  
The Riverwood Women's Club in the Village of Ponte Vedra at Riverwood held a luncheon and raffle on May 18 at the Atlantic Club to benefit the Alpha Omega Miracle Home.

**Ponte Vedra resident's book on experiences with music stars picks up steam**  
Dr. Francis "Bugs" Bunker — a Boston-based composer, pianist, conductor, producer and recipient of three Grammy Awards — is a 91-year-old Ponte Vedra resident and author of the musical memoir "Bugs Bunker: A Life in Music." The book, "Three Stripes About Sixty People," is a result of his experiences working with famous white-walkers on Long Beach and in the film, and now it's being distributed around the U.S.

**Local organizations work to eliminate illegal gambling games in St. Johns County**  
St. Johns County Mayor Gordon's going away the meetings in honor of Father Day

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**SPORTS**  
**Jaguars win first playoff game in 10 years, advance to divisional round against Steelers**  
The Jacksonville Jaguars are on their way to a playoff game for the first time in 10 years and will play the Pittsburgh Steelers this Sunday at 1:00 p.m. in the divisional round of the NFL playoffs.

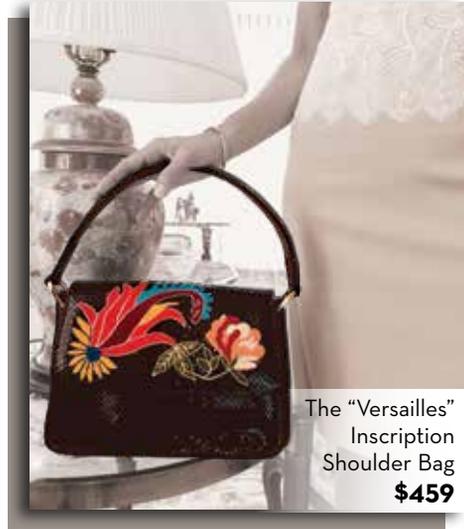


The "Monaco"  
Panache Clutch  
**\$289**

"Our first collection is called the Signature Collection, and we used these leathers to create a very classic line of beautiful and timeless pieces," says Ossi. "Our second collection is the Panache Collection, where we use colorful strips of leather that are handwoven in a method referred to by the original French name called 'Tresse' ... and our last collection is the Inscription, and that's probably the most authentic. We use a centuries-old method of embroidery called 'Aghabani.'"

According to Ossi, who immigrated to the United States from Lebanon in 1980, Aghabani is a method that was used in Lebanon for embroidering onto cloth by hand.

"What we've done is evolve this process by using the more sophisticated method of a hand-and-foot-led machine to embroider beautiful, colorful French silk thread directly onto the leather, creating a very authentic, very artistic handbag," she says.



The "Versailles"  
Inscription  
Shoulder Bag  
**\$459**



The "Como" Signature  
Evening Bag  
**\$249**

Each of the NinoRossi collections includes handbags in seven different body styles, ranging from evening bags and clutches to hobos and totes, and a portion of the proceeds from every purchase is donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

"My mother passed away of cancer seven years ago, and while we were battling with that, we started getting involved with St. Jude," says Ossi. "It was something really close to her heart, so it's just wonderful to see all this come together for me, because with every sale that we make we donate to St. Jude."

To learn more about NinoRossi Handbags and view the company's entire collection, visit [www.ninorossi.com](http://www.ninorossi.com).

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## Oceanfront home in Ponte Vedra Beach

by KIM MARTIN-FISHER  
Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty

As we move from spring into summer, it is becoming apparent the warm weather is being accompanied by a movement of a different kind. Real estate in the Greater Jacksonville area is getting hotter by the day.

According to a recent Coldwell Banker blog, “Trulia names Jacksonville the hottest real estate market in the country for its impressive population growth, long-term economic stability plus great schools, fantastic weather and proximity to the ocean.” Coastal Living taps our area “as the hottest seaside market, where buyers can purchase their dream home coastal escape.”

Oceanfront sales in Ponte Vedra are proof. We have sold or have currently under contract nine oceanfront homes since January. The property that’s turning heads right now is 723 Ponte Vedra



Photos courtesy of  
KIM MARTIN-FISHER

Blvd. The quality of construction and the attention to detail in this oceanfront estate is testament to its popularity. Built just three years ago, this magnificent home nearly qualifies as new construction.

Love is in the details from ceiling to floor. It offers a pleasing touch of antiquity (an antique mantle from Yale University) to European designed whispering bells lighting.

TURNING HEADS



The kitchen is simply stunning and immense. It effortlessly combines a coastal theme with commercial and European design. There's a certain upscale European feeling with beamed and tongue and groove wood ceilings. The centerpiece is the oversized island

with a white quartz top by Cesarstone that seats 10. The Bertazzoni range was imported from Italy. Even the cabinets are a marvel. They are all glass-painted from the inside and topped by yards of stainless steel, and the doors to the huge

pantry are Belgian from the 1700s. The faux-painted white oak hardwood floors throughout are coated with a special sealant to repel scratches.

Nearly every room in this home has an expansive oceanfront view. Open the doors and the salt-scented sea breeze fills the house.

Upstairs, there's a special room for little ones. Bunk beds that sleep 12 were cleverly built into the décor. Outside is an oceanfront paradise with a covered lanai, a large pool with a tanning ledge, fountains, LED lights and a spa that seats 12 people.

Overall, the house features six bedrooms, five-and-a-half baths and 5,041 square feet on a 100-foot oceanfront lot with a private beach walkover.

This property is represented by Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty, listed by Kim Martin-Fisher and Jennifer Martin Faulkner and offered at \$5,925,000.

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**Publication Date:**

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# ROSCOLUSA FESTIVAL

brings Nashville songwriters to  
Nocatee for one-night music event



by BENJAMIN NAIM

Photos by  
BENJAMIN NAIM

The seventh annual Roscolusa Songwriters Festival — featuring musicians Maggie Rose, Jeffrey Steele, Earl Bud Lee and others — took place April 28 in Nocatee.

Festival attendees enjoyed live music, food, drinks, kids' activities and more. Started in 2012, the one-night event brings songwriters from Nashville to Ponte Vedra to share the stories behind popular songs and perform them live on stage. A portion of the proceeds benefit the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund, a nonprofit organization helping local families tackle childhood cancer.

"It's all the people that have written all of the top radio songs and all the music artists that you hear on the radio," volunteer coordinator Meagan Dubberly said. "These are the guys that got to sit down and write it and pitch it to the singers who then produce it. They come here, and they get to sit down and do a small 'writers round.' It's pretty intimate, and they get to tell the story behind the song and tell us how it came about, what made them write it."

For more information on past Roscolusa events, visit the festival's official website at [www.roscolusa.com](http://www.roscolusa.com).



Kandace Mitchell, Kyle Mitchell, Penny Mitchell, Danielle Hounert and Tyler Whalen



Todd and Mandy Kowalski take in the festival with their children.



Songwriters share their stories and perform popular songs on-stage at the 2018 Roscolusa Songwriters Festival.



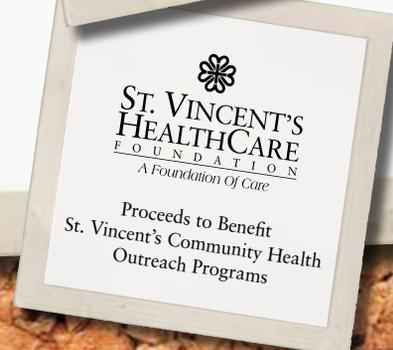
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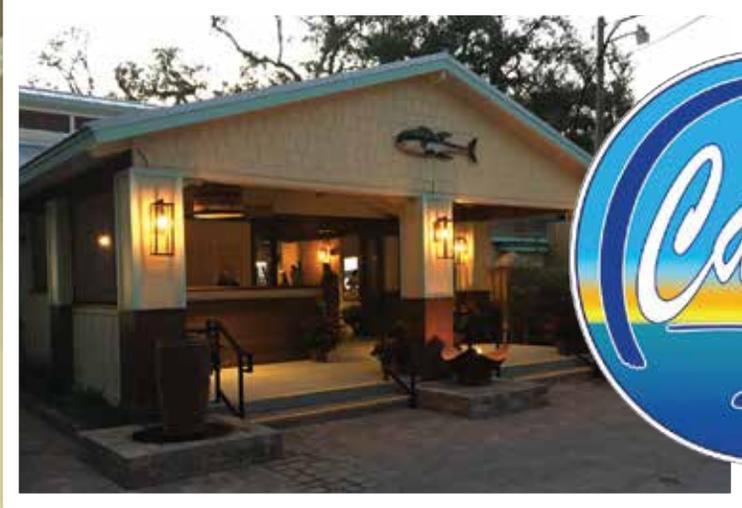
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