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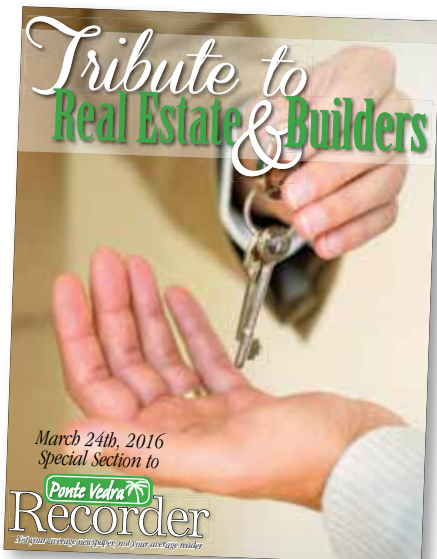
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Living Here

Your guide to life and fun on the First Coast

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Tribute to Real Estate & Builders

New communities, improvements and more

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Hippity, hoppity, Easter's on its way!

Christ Episcopal Church's annual Easter parade brings cute creativity.

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Easter Celebration

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INSIDE

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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.**



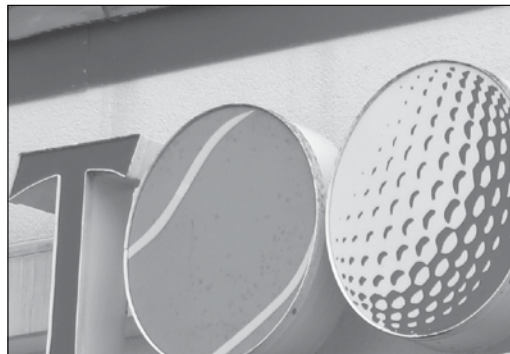
Visit our brand new website at www.pontevedrarecorder.com

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

Correction

In the March 17, 2016, Ponte Vedra Recorder on pages 39 and 40, the incorrect date and contact numbers were listed for the Monique Burr Foundation's A Night at Roy's event. A Night at Roy's will be hosted on Tuesday, April 19, 2016. For more information, call (904) 642-0210.

What's this?



Do you know what this is?

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

We'll throw all the correct answers in a hat and choose the winner with a random drawing. If we receive no correct answers, we'll award four Jacksonville Zoo tickets (two adults, two children) to the best wrong answer we receive.

Daniela was the only person this week to correctly identify the Lazzara Orthodontics sign this week. Daniela, please pick up your zoo tickets!

Better luck this week, guessers! And don't forget — incorrect but entertaining guesses might also be rewarded with a trip to the zoo.



Adoptable pets at the St. Johns County Pet Center

CAT OF THE WEEK

Hi there! My name is MaMa and I am the sweetest snuggly 2 year old female cat you'll ever meet. I was given up by my family and left here at the Pet Center. I love to rub against you while you tell me how pretty of a kitty I am, and nothing makes me purr louder than having someone itch behind my ears and under my chin! 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. Come visit us today here at the Pet Center! #30857



DOG OF THE WEEK

Hi there! My name is Daisy and I am a 12 week old female puppy who just wants to find that new loving home to call my own. I was abandoned and brought to the Pet Center as a stray. I love to go outside on long walks and smell all the new smells as I get used to walking on a leash. As this animal was a stray there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. 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. Come visit us today here at the Pet Center! #30931

All cat adoptions at the Pet Center are \$20 for males and \$30 for females. Dog adoptions are \$35 for males and \$50 for females. The fee includes neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The Pet Center is located at 130 N. Stratton Road. Hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. **For more information, call (904) 209-6190.**

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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St. Johns County ranked healthiest county in Florida

County Health Rankings, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation program, announced earlier this month that St. Johns County tops the list of the healthiest counties in the state. This year marks the seventh release of rankings by state. New measures implemented this year include frequent physical distress, frequent mental distress, drug overdose deaths, insufficient sleep and residential segregation for black/white and non-white/white populations.

The rankings system designated three areas where the county could improve: adult smoking (at 14 percent), adult obesity (23 percent) and excessive drinking (21 percent).

Of Florida's 67 counties, neighboring county Duval ranked 48, while Clay and Nassau also placed in the top 10. Gadsden County, located in Florida's Panhandle, was ranked last.

County water 'best tasting drinking water in Northeast Florida'

The St. Johns County Utility Department was recently awarded "Best Tasting Drinking Water" in Northeast Florida by the American Water Works Association. The award is based on clarity, taste and other objective criteria. The county's water will now represent the region in a statewide contest at the Florida Water Resource Conference in April. For more information on St. Johns County Utilities,

visit www.sjcf.us/Utilities.

Legacy Trust names new CFO

Ponte Vedra-based Legacy Trust announced last week that it has hired Kristi M. Quick as Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Quick is a seasoned executive with experience overseeing the finance organization for high-growth companies, most recently serving as VP of Finance for Taylor Foundation Services and CFO for American Sleep Medicine, LLC. A trained CPA, Quick started her career with Deloitte and spent 18 years in ever increasing roles with the finance and operations leadership at Vicar's Landing.

As CFO for Legacy Trust, Quick will be responsible for ensuring that the company continues to drive growth, capitalizing on the sector's demand for more personalized financial guidance among the area's wealthier families. Quick will also manage legal compliance and risk management across the spectrum of financial operations, and be responsible for internal policies as they pertain to human resources, Board governance and shareholder relations.

Quick is a longtime Jacksonville/Ponte Vedra Beach resident. She received her BA in Accounting and her MBA from the University of North Florida. She resides in Ponte Vedra Beach with husband, Charlie, and Thomas, the last of four children at home. For information, call (904) 280-9100 or visit www.legacytrust.com.

First Florida Credit Union proposes merger with Florida Baptist

Jacksonville-based First Florida Credit Union has proposed a new partnership with Florida Baptist Credit Union. If approved, the partnership would mark First Florida's second merger within two years and provide Florida Baptist Credit Union members with access to the resources of one of Florida's largest and fastest-growing member-owned financial institutions. First Florida and Florida Baptist Credit Union recently signed an intent to merge agreement.

According to 2015 data from the Credit Union National Association (CUNA), the number of such credit union mergers is anticipated to increase over the next few years due to greater regulatory

compliance burdens from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which pose greater challenges for smaller credit unions. In fact, during the first quarter of 2015, there were 89 fewer credit unions nationwide – the most rapid decline since the first quarter of 2002.

The proposed merger requires approval from the Office of Financial Regulation, the National Credit Union Administration and the members of Florida Baptist Credit Union. The membership vote is tentatively scheduled for April, and credit union leadership anticipates finalizing the merger in May. The combined credit union would serve residents in 20 counties, including Duval, St. Johns, Nassau and Clay.

— Kelly H. McDermott

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<p>JOIN DR. WINSTON TAN, MD from Mayo Clinic of Jacksonville as he discusses the latest research towards kidney cancer treatment and answers questions regarding the causes and dangers of cancer.</p>	<p>PREVIEW ARTWORK BY LOCAL CHILDREN who won the Art for Hope contest, <i>art inspiring hope for a cure for kidney cancer</i>, before they go on display at Mayo Clinic of Jacksonville.</p>	
<p>EVERYONE WELCOME! REFRESHMENTS TO BE SERVED.</p>		
<p>*Take action today by visiting JudyNicholsonFoundation.org or texting JNF to 41444 to make a donation.</p>		<p>LINDA OSTOSKI REALTOR® President of the Judy Nicholson Kidney Cancer Foundation (904) 422-1098 LindaOstoski@WatsonRealtyCorp.com</p>

PV resident named Trustee Emeritus at Episcopal School

Episcopal School of Jacksonville celebrated its 50th anniversary last week with a special Chapel service and Founders' Day celebration, held at the Dale D. Regan Plaza on campus. The service included a proclamation from



ZAMBETTI

Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry, remarks from Episcopal Founder David W. Foerster and keynote speaker Sherry Magill, president of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund.

The ceremony also included the induction of new Honorary Trustees and Trustees Emeriti by Rob Clements, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Trustees Emeriti inducted this year included Thad McNulty and Ponte Vedra resident Kay Zambetti. Rick Jones was named an Honorary Trustee.

"Each of these inductees has long contributed to the success and well-being of Episcopal," said Head of School Charles F. Zimmer. "From their involvement in multi-million dollar campaigns to ensure the success of the School to the gift of their time and talents, Episcopal is extremely grateful for all that Rick, Thad and Kay have contributed to our community over many, many years. As we honor our Founders on our 50th anniversary, it is clear to me that Rick, Thad and Kay personify for us today the Founders' intent in ensuring the long-term viability of the mission of the School."

Zambetti is the parent of three alumni (Mike '80, Kaki '82, Kirk '86) and grandparent of Sarah '08 and Emily '10. Zambetti was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1985-1993. Her leadership roles while on the Board of Trustees in-



Ponte Vedra resident Kay Zambetti was inducted as a Trustee Emeritus this month at Episcopal School of Jacksonville

cluded the Head of School search committee, buildings and grounds, athletics, advancement, finance personnel policy, strategic planning, admissions, endowment and library planning.

Zambetti also was Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees from 1986-1989 (at the time, the Dean of St. John's Ca-

thedral was automatically the chair). Zambetti also served on the steering committee for the Journey to Greatness capital campaign that helped build the Munnerlyn Center for Worship and Fine Arts. Episcopal honored Zambetti in 1989 for National Philanthropy Day.

She has given to Episcopal for more

than 30 consecutive years and is a member of the 50 by Fifty Society of lifetime leadership donors, as well as the Mary Packer Cummings Society. Zambetti was named an Honorary Trustee in 1995.

— Kelly H. McDermott

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Connecting the dots to prevent child abuse

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Across Jacksonville and Northeast Florida, organizations work diligently to stop child abuse and to help children and families make it through and overcome abuse. As I take the reins as incoming Board President for The Exchange Club Family Center of Northeast Florida (ECFC), I want to highlight their efforts to stop child abuse in Northeast Florida in the best way possible - by preventing it from happening.

For 23 years, The Exchange Club Family Center of Northeast Florida has provided in-home, Parent Aide services to families that are at risk of child abuse. Families are identified as at-risk by the Florida Department Of Children

& Families, and are then referred to our program. Our social workers meet one-on-one with parents to teach them non-violent, nurturing parenting skills. And they work with the parents until those skills are second nature and children are out of potential danger.

I must mention that the efforts of The Exchange Club Family Center would not be possible without the work and determination of our outgoing Board President, Jack Morison, a Ponte Vedra resident. During his tenure, Jack headed up efforts to raise money and donations to make our organization run. With Jack's help and guidance, The Exchange Club Family Center of Northeast Florida has been

able to help thousands of families in Northeast Florida.

On Wednesday, April 20, 2016, we will host our 23rd Annual Child Abuse Prevention Luncheon & Conference at the Jacksonville Marriott, Salisbury Road. The Connecting The Dots To Prevent Child Abuse will focus on child abuse and human trafficking prevention in Northeast Florida. Organizations and non-profits on the front lines of prevention will come together to share what they are doing to fight both. (Visit www.exchangeclubfamilycenter.com for ticket information and details on speakers and panels.)

We hope you will join us to learn more about what is being done here in

Jacksonville to prevent child abuse. We also hope you will help recognize the many organizations here in Jacksonville who help prevent child abuse and human trafficking, including: Florida Department of Children & Families, Family Support Services, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Child Guidance Center, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Her Song, Rethreaded, and many more! Without their efforts, many children would suffer needlessly.

Sincerely,
Amanda Rolfe
President

Exchange Club Family Center
of Northeast Florida
www.ExchangeClubFamilyCenter.com

Nocatee 'Littlebits' seller matched with military family buyer

By Kelly H. McDermott
The Recorder

Julie Morgan Brigman, Senior Advisor for Transworld Business Advisors, describes her job as matching up “the perfect buyer for the perfect seller” — and she found just that in the recently completed business sale transaction of Littlebits Children’s Resale, a children’s clothing resale business at 12226 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville.

According to Brigman, the sale process started in August 2015 when Nocatee resident Katy Scott, the seller, contacted Transworld saying she had listed Littlebits with another agency with little activity for an entire year. The listing agreement had expired and Brigman was recommended to Scott by a local networking organization.

At first, Brigman did not expect much from Littlebits Children’s Resale as a viable sale. However, when she went to the store, she said she was impressed at the professional and polished business, which also had attractive merchandising and an aggressive e-commerce presence. The store featured high-quality, afford-

ably priced, clean and abundant inventory, including baby strollers and furniture and maternity clothes.

“They had really worked on their brand and their website was upscale and up to date,” Brigman said.

Initially, the potential buyers, Miranda and Josh Owen of Jacksonville searched on the Internet for businesses for sale in Jacksonville. They located and interviewed Brigman who recognized and advised them that Littlebits was located in an active, growing location for young families, grandparents, and military families.

Ultimately, Littlebits looked like a great starter business for the young ambitious family. Most importantly, Josh Owen is honorably discharged from military service as a U.S. Army Ranger and was based in Georgia. He served twice in Afghanistan in a period of three years. Josh was looking for a sound business opportunity during the next phase of his career. He and his family wanted to stay in Jacksonville, their hometown, and where the couple met as childhood sweethearts.

“I just took a huge interest in this one

because of the buyer,” Brigman said. “Once the buyer stepped up to the plate, I knew he and his wife were perfect. Our big problem was just getting financing.”

Since seller Katy Scott was pregnant with her second child, the transaction was on a deadline. She wanted her business to go to a person as passionate about kids and helping young families as she was.

During this time, the Owen family began seriously looking at Littlebits with Brigman’s guidance. The couple had no direct, hands on, business experience — and not much money.

“Miranda was not working and Josh was out of the military and jobless — it didn’t look good for them,” said Brigman. “It is not easy being knocked down over and over and over, especially when you have served your country for so long and so hard. No one would take a chance on him, and the rejections just kept coming. I watched Josh never give up or become defeated. He never thought for one minute that he wouldn’t prevail, and he never got angry. He was always focused.”

After that, Brigman said the transaction

became a personal mission.

“I was going to get in him in that store no matter what,” she said.

All parties negotiated a financial plan to secure the sale of the business. Now, the Owen family is thriving with Miranda running Littlebits and Josh is involved in a business he loves. Their plans are to open additional store locations. Most importantly, the buyers and sellers are good friends and will continue their relationship as store owners and customers as Katy Scott recently gave birth to her second child.

“This is how it was when the soldiers came back from World War II. Americans were helping the returning warriors and their families to make our country great again, and without hand-outs,” said Brigman.

Transworld Business Advisors specializes in the sale of businesses and helps thousands of clients in buying and selling their companies with an award-winning sales force of more than 60 professionals in Florida including Broward, Duval, Hillsborough, Lee, Miami-Dade, Orange, and St. Lucie counties. Visit the website at www.tworld.com.

New interiors and flooring showroom in Nocatee

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce added a new member last week, and Nocatee has added to its growing list of retail outlets.

Donna Mancini Interiors and Flooring hosted a ribbon cutting on March 10. The new showroom is located at 141 Hilden Rd., Ste. 202 in Ponte Vedra.

Donna Mancini Interiors and Flooring showroom features fine home furnishings and a talented team providing consultative design for interiors and flooring with project management services. The showroom is a destination for current flooring trends and contemporary furniture, fabrics, lighting, artwork and rugs.

The showroom is open Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.donnamanciniinteriorsandflooring.com.

—Kelly H. McDermott



Photo by Susan Griffin

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Julie Morgan Brigman is Senior Advisor for Transworld Business Advisors – but many from the area may recognize her as the 15-year owner of Pet Emporium in South Beach Regional shopping center. Brigman, who lives on the Intracoastal Waterway with her husband, has worn many different hats during her career – but has always been her own boss. After a three-year stint in a corporate environment, Brigman decided she would never work for anyone else again.

“I found out pretty quickly that corporate life is not for me,” Brigman said. “I’m too entrepreneurial. I have to have my own business – have to do it my way. And now [other entrepreneurs] are the people that I try to help.”

At Transworld Business Advisors, Brigman works to match business sellers with appropriate buyers. Usually the transactions aren’t local and aren’t hands on, but recently Brigman took a personal interest in the sale of Littlebits resale store from a Nocatee family to a Jacksonville family (full story page 5). For more about Transworld, visit www.tworld.com.

— Kelly H. McDermott/ The Recorder

Tell me about where you’re from and your time on the First Coast.

I’ve been in Jacksonville since 1964, but I was born in Idaho of all places. My dad worked for 3M Company and he was transferred here. My mom and I also owned the Pet Emporium in South Beach Regional for 15 years, one of four pet shops at the Beach. We sold that one in 2000. The broker that sold Pet Emporium hired me – he thought that I’d be a good business broker. And I’ve been doing it ever since.

What does a business broker do?

A business broker is kind of like a marriage counselor or dating service. We are an intermediary and we have to find the perfect buyer for the perfect seller. It’s different than buying a home – every buyer has different skills and abilities, while every business is completely different.

We have to make sure that they match. They have to like each other. They have to be interested in the same things. They have to hit it off for the sale to go smoothly.

Every day is different. We screen a lot – responding to potential buyers. Every morning I may have 20-30 buyer inquiries, and I have to send out confidentiality agreements because the businesses are all listed generically. Out of all the buyers that fill out the confidentiality agreements, maybe one or two percent are ready, willing and able to purchase a business.

What do you enjoy outside of work?

I enjoy my pets of course. My husband and I go boating, and because we live on the Intracoastal Waterway, it’s easy for us to do. I’m also a runner. But most of all I like to work! I love making new people entrepreneurs.

How did you originally get into the pet shop business?

I was in college and my dad died suddenly. My mom and I knew that we had to hit the ground running, financially. We just didn’t know what to do – but we had to do something, and we both loved animals. We opened the pet stores and we became very successful.

Your love for animals extends to horses, too?

I ride horses and work in a networking organization with horse lovers all over the United States to rescue horses. You’ll get a call and it will often be confidential, telling you that there’s a horse in trouble, not being fed or wandering somewhere. We get on the phone or on Facebook to gather everybody and make the rescue.

We try to work with the owner, and often we’ll place the horses. When we had the downturn in the economy, often owners just couldn’t feed their horses. We’d end up taking them to the rescue and then finding better homes for them – with the permission of the owner. We also have people all over the country that go to what they call “kill pens” and pick out horses they can save, that they eventually find homes for.

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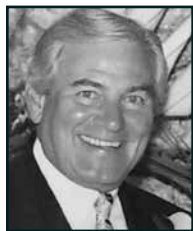
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IN REMEMBRANCE

**FRANK W. BROWER, JR**

Frank W. Brower Jr. "Bud" died peacefully on March 9, 2016 having been surrounded during the last few weeks

of his life by all of his children, their spouses, his grandchildren, and adoring wife, Karen. He loved well and was loved fully! The son of Frank W. Brower, Sr. and Marion Merrick Brower of Price, MD, and brother of Ann Dudley Brower Turner of Raleigh, NC, he entered this world on October 26, 1929 during the Great Depression.

He was modest, honest, compassionate, and certainly had a bent for spreading fun and laughter with his jokes and long stories. It became his mission to handle life's trials with his infectious sense of humor. It was not uncommon to hear peels of laughter at a cocktail party, only to find Frank at the center reciting one of his many hysterically funny jokes. Anyone who knew him will never be able to hear the word "Timbuktu" again without a knowing grin spreading across their faces.

Like his father, major league baseball Hall-of-famer, Frank "Turkeyfoot" Brower, Frank Jr was an incredible athlete. At Washington College, He was an All-American baseball and soccer player. After graduating Magna Cum Laude he turned down the opportunity to play baseball for the Washington

Senators and instead entered the US Navy as an officer where he served his country honorably. Following his time in the Service, Frank went on to a successful career in medical equipment sales at Narco Medical and then formed his own medical supply business, Mission Companies in the late 70's. Frank was blessed with the skill to achieve anything he set his mind to and he always lived life with a mission and purpose.

Based on both his movie star good looks and winning personality, he was unavoidably lovable and huggable. No wonder he was "twice blessed" with over-the-moon, loving marriages. The first to Mason Darby Brower of Jacksonville, FL. They were happily married for 43 years and raised 4 lucky sons: Tripp, Darby, Hamilton and Christopher who brought him 3 beautiful daughters-in-law: Sheri, Jennifer and Kimberly. After Mason's death in 1998, Frank was blessed with love a second time marrying Karen Webster Brower of Southport, ME in 2002. Karen brought more blessings to the growing Brower household with her 3 children Christin Gillooly, Jennie Hartley, and Daniel Webster, and their spouses Pat, Matt, and Trina. Combined, Frank & Karen share the lives of 17 grandchildren and their menagerie of spoiled golden retrievers and a Maine Coon cat.

Every one of his grandchildren, who affectionately know him as "Poppy," warmly remembers the many life les-

sons that he imparted and how much of a difference he made by his example, love and interest. He made a huge effort to be a part of their lives and he succeeded in spades! Life as a grandfather was filled-to-the-brim with fun, support and love, whether in Ponte Vedra, FL or at "Camp Chaos" on Pratt's Island, in Southport, ME.

Frank's charm extended beyond family and touched all the lives of those he met. All who knew him will never forget his booming voice, memorable hugs or the lingering smile. A well-intentioned soul, he cared deeply about others and more importantly, he let them know it! He lived a mission-driven life and taught his family to be goal-oriented, to make an effort to leave something of value behind, and to impact others positively.

Frank was a passionate golfer and succeeded in shooting below his age. He loved the strategy, challenge and camaraderie of the sport. He had a successful round on most days, but, when he didn't, we all knew it! Frank was an avid sports fan and stellar athlete. Whether practicing his golf swing, throwing a baseball or football, fishing for stripers, or keeping up with his sons and grandchildren, he lived his life on the move. A world traveler, he circumnavigated the globe on a 5 month trip-of-his-lifetime in 2000 with his son Hamilton. He loved his sailing trips with family and friends, whether in Maine, the BVIs, or on the Chesapeake. He was a man of faith and

always involved in his church community. He was usually surrounded by his 2 golden retrievers or at least covered with their fur. He could often be found doing a crossword, reading a great thriller or a mystery. More than anything he especially enjoyed sitting with a drink to watch the setting sun during the summers in Maine with all of his loves by his side: wife, dogs, kids, grandkids and friends. To him, that was truly heaven on earth.

His family invites those who loved him to join in celebration his life. Laughter encouraged!

ARRANGEMENTS: A celebration of life and reception will be held Sunday, April 3, 2016, 5 PM in The Players Club at TPC Sawgrass, 110 Championship Way; Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Service in The Blue Heron Room followed by a reception in The Sunset Room.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to one of Frank's favorite charities: The Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, PO Box 234, Boothbay, ME 04537. Donations may be made to the "CMBG Frank W Brower Jr Memorial Fund."

Services under the direction and care of Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.



A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre
3600 Third Street South (904)249-1100

MARY CORDES (MIMI) KELLEY

Mimi Kelley, 97, died Sunday, March 13, 2016. She was born in Greenville, SC, and she grew up in Braintree, MA, and Decatur, GA. She moved to Lithonia, GA, in 1948 and was married to James W. Kelley in 1949. She has lived in the Sawgrass community since 1987.

Mimi graduated from Wesleyan College in 1939. She served as a Chemical Warfare Inspector, throughout WWII.

After the war, she received her MEd. from Emory University in Decatur, GA. She taught English, Geography, and History in the DeKalb County School System for 25+ years, primarily at Lithonia High School.

Along the way, she became Chairman of the DeKalb County English Department and won a Freedoms Foundation Valley Forge Teacher Award for writing and producing a pageant about Americans' Twelve Freedoms.

Upon retirement in 1975, she traveled and took up golf. When both her mother and husband died, she decided to move to Ponte Vedra Beach.

She was very active in the community, helping to develop the women's golf program at Sawgrass Country Club, volunteering during the Players Championship, working at Seymour's Bookshop in the Ponte Vedra - Palm Valley Library, reading to the PV-PV Elementary School second graders, singing with the Sawgrass Singers, and writing, producing, and acting in plays for Talent Limited.

She was a published poet as well. She remained active by swimming, hitting golf balls, working out at the fitness center, reading, and playing bridge until just before her death.

Mimi was preceded in death by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Cordes, her husband, James W. Kelley, her daughter, Margaret K. Sanderson, and her four younger

brothers. She is survived by her son, Michael R. Kelley (Theresa) of Roswell, GA.

A celebration of Mimi's life will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2016, from 1pm-3pm, in the Atrium of the Sawgrass Country Club golf clubhouse.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Wesleyan College, Attn: Advancement Office - Susan Allen, 4760 Forsyth Rd, Macon, GA 31210-4462; Community Hospice Foundation of NE Florida, 4266 Sunbeam Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32257; or Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Dr., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082.

Services under the direction and care of Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.



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RAYMOND JOSEPH COONEY

Raymond Joseph Cooney, 89, passed away March 15, 2016 peacefully in his home.

He was born in Bayonne, NJ on Oct. 15, 1926 and moved to Ponte Vedra Beach in 1972.

Family members include 2 sons, Raymond (Victoria) and Robert (Wendy); 3 daughters, Mary McKeown (Christopher), Jane Cooney and Kathleen Hawkins (Steven); and 12 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Ed and his sister, Margaret.

A Memorial Mass was celebrated at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 23, in Our Lady Star of The Sea Catholic Church of Ponte Vedra Beach.

Services under the direction and care of Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.



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Thursday, March 24	Friday, March 25	Saturday, March 26	Sunday, March 27
<p>Arbor Terrace Life Enrichment Group The Life Enrichment Group Day Program takes place every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m.-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>Live Music at Table 1 Table 1 at 330 A1A N will host the Gary Starling Jazz Band live starting at 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Whistle Talk The Beaches Museum presents Ann Browning Masters Thursday, March 24 at 5:30 p.m. as part of the Museum's Whistle Talk series. Masters will be discussing her book "Floridanos, Menorcans, Cattle-Whip Crackers: Poetry of St. Augustine" which describes a rich slice of Americana from after the Civil War through the Civil Rights Movement in St. Augustine. The Whistle Talk is free to Museum members and a suggested donation of \$5 for non-Museum members. This talk will be held in the Museum's Dickinson Gallery. For more information, email info@beachesmuseum.org or call (904) 241-5657. The Beaches Museum is located at 381 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Adult Coloring Club The next meeting of the Adult Coloring Club is Thursday, March 24 from 1-4 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd. Have you heard about this new craze? Many adults are finding that coloring clubs for adults are a great way to reduce stress and meet new people. Create new art you can feel proud of while you de-stress and relax. Supplies will be provided, you just need to pick out your design and start coloring! For more information, call (904) 827-6950 or visit www.sjcpls.org.</p> <p>Destination Dino Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens presents Destination Dino March 5-July 4. For more information, visit www.jaxzoodinos.org.</p>	<p>Backyard Block Party The St. Augustine Amphitheatre presents: Backyard Block Party featuring NRBQ and The Baseball Project Friday, March 25. Originally founded in 1966, NRBQ (which stands for "New Rhythm and Blues Quartet") released their latest studio album, the critically-acclaimed Brass Tacks, in the summer of 2014. General admission tickets for this standing show are \$20 in advance; \$25 day of show. Gates open at 6 p.m.; show starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall box office, as well as online at www.ticketmaster.com, at all Ticketmaster outlets or by phone at (800) 745-3000. For more information, visit www.staugamphitheatre.com.</p> <p>'Natural Currents' exhibition "Natural Currents" featuring the recent paintings by John Bunker and the Sculptural forms of Brian Frus will be exhibited in the main Gallery of the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach from Feb. 26 to April 8. The Cultural Center is located at 50 Executive Way, Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call (904) 280-0614 or visit www.ccpvb.org.</p> <p>MOSH \$5 Fridays Every Friday, come to MOSH to enjoy \$5 admission and extended hours. The museum will be open late every Friday until 8 p.m. (Note: Additional discounts or coupons are not permitted.)</p> <p>Recital with the Ritz Chamber Players The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens presents Artist perspectives Recital with the Ritz Chamber Players Friday, March 25 at 7 p.m. Ritz Chamber ensemble musicians perform a special solo repertoire in an intimate environment. The event is free; registration is required. For further information or to make your required reservation, call (904) 899-6038. The Museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.</p> <p>Live Music at Table 1 Table 1 at 330 A1A N will host Way Back Wednesday live starting at 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Mandarin Art Festival The 48th annual Mandarin Art Festival is Saturday, March 26 and Sunday, March 27 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Mandarin Community Club, 12447 Mandarin Road, Jacksonville. The annual Easter weekend event includes local and national artists, a children's art show, live music, a green market, a food court, bake sale and children's activities. Admission to the festival is a suggested \$1 donation. Parking is free, and there will be shuttles running. No pets. For more information, call (904) 268-1622.</p> <p>Jacksonville Beach Easter Egg Hunt The 33rd annual City of Jacksonville Beach Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, March 26 at 10 a.m. at Sunshine Park, 2508 South Beach Parkway. The Egg Hunt is open to participants up to age eight. Please bring a basket to carry your eggs. For more information, call the City of Jacksonville Beach Parks & Recreation at (904) 247-6236.</p> <p>'The Wiz' at Alhambra Theatre Alhambra Theatre & Dining presents, "The Wiz: The Super Soul Musical," March 23-April 24. The musical is a retelling of Frank Baum's "Wonderful Wizard of Oz" set in the context of African-American culture. With an infectious funky soul score and lyrics by Charlie Smalls, The Wiz brought renewed relevance to a timeless classic. The 1975 Broadway production was like nothing Broadway had ever seen, and ultimately won seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Score. The Theatre is located at 12000 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (904) 641-1212 or visit www.alhambrajax.com.</p> <p>'Almost, Maine' at Players by the Sea Back by popular demand, "Almost, Maine," a romantic comedy written by John Cariani set in suburbia Maine that explores the bonds and boundaries of love, is returning to Players by the Sea Theatre. Performances are March 11 and 12, 17-20, and 24-26 at 8 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. General admission tickets for all performances are \$23; \$20 for students, seniors and military. Thursday student nights offer half price admission with a valid student ID. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (904) 249-0289 or visit www.playersbythesea.org.</p>	<p>Practice with Purpose at Big Fish Yoga Practice with Purpose is an all-level yoga class offered on Sundays from 4-5 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 has relocated to the South Beach Regional Shopping Center in Jacksonville Beach at 3852 South 3rd St. For more info. call (904) 372-0601.</p> <p>Collection Tour Join the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens us on Sundays for a guided tour of our permanent collection. The tour is free with the cost of admission. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.</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. If you are interested, please contact the Mobility Manager at the Council on Aging, 904-315-6505, or email Katie Arnold at karnold@stjohnscoa.com.</p> <p>Travel Training Program The Council on Aging announces a Travel Training program designed to assist seniors in learning to ride the Sunshine Bus. If you are curious about expanding your transportation options or you would like to increase your confidence as a bus rider, let one of our trained volunteers assist you in navigating routes, reading time tables and making transfers. If you are interested, please contact the Mobility Manager at the Council on Aging, (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! There are so many reasons to become a member: discounts on fee-based classes, designated events and Coastal Travel, complimentary participation in a wide variety of scheduled activities, to name a few! Please call Darlene Mahany at 280-3233 for all the details.</p>

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Monday, March 28	Tuesday, March 29	Wednesday, March 30	Thursday, March 31
<p>Celebrate Women's History Month The BookMark and the Jacksonville NOW are partnering to celebrate Women's History Month on Monday, March 28. Light refreshments will be served starting at 6:30 pm, and the presentation "Rona Recommends" will begin at 7 p.m. The BookMark owner, Rona Brinlee, will talk about good books by and/or about women. This is the 14th annual BookMark/NOW event to celebrate Women's History Month and the ninth year for the "Rona Recommends" program. The BookMark is located at 220 First St., Neptune Beach. For more information, call (904) 241-9026 or visit www.bookmarkbeach.com.</p> <p>SJC and St. Augustine joint meeting The Board of County Commissioners and the St. Augustine Beach City Commission of St. Johns County, Florida, will hold a joint meeting on Monday, March 28 at 9 a.m. at the City of St Augustine Beach City Hall, 2200 A1A S., St. Augustine Beach. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss similar interests and issues that affect both boards. For more information, call (904) 209-0655 or visit www.co.st-johns.fl.us.</p> <p>Caregiver Support Group The Players Caregiver Support Group meets every Monday 12:00-1:00 p.m. at The Players Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Kimberly Weir of Heartland Hospice facilitates a weekly discussion of current concerns and issues of caregivers. It is a great opportunity for caregivers to share resources and ideas. For more information, call (904) 280-3233.</p> <p>Sunshine Center Volunteers The adult day center located in the Coastal Community Center is seeking creative volunteers to assist with simple arts & crafts projects with seniors Mondays through Fridays from 12:30-2:30 p.m. For info, call (904) 209-3686.</p> <p>Mental Health Recovery Support Support is free to the public and facilitated by Georgia, Florida Certified Peer Specialist, Whitney Bolin. By appointment only M-F, contact at (770) 403-4991 or whitneybat76@gmail.com. In addition, she facilitates a MH Recovery Group at Flagler Hospital from 2- 4 p.m. every Tuesday.</p>	<p>SPLASH at PVPC Tuesday evenings, 7-8:30 p.m. the Singles Ministry SPLASH (Single People Loving and Serving Him) gather at Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church, 4510 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra: All single adults in the community welcome for fellowship, discussions on applying the Bible in our everyday lives along with a light dinner provided by KC's Kitchen. Mission and social opportunities as well. For more information, email julie@pvpc.com or call (904) 285-8225.</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 we help build them a simple, decent place to live. If you know someone who might benefit from Habitat homeownership, please refer them to our website. To find out more about how you can donate, volunteer, or qualify visit habitatstjohns.org.</p> <p>Tapas Tuesday The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday sponsored by VyStar Credit Union at the Cummer Café. Every Tuesday from 5-7:30 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. Reserve your table by calling (904) 899-6022. For more information, visit www.cummermuseum.org. The Museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.</p> <p>Palm Valley Farmers Market The Palm Valley Farmers Market takes place every Tuesday from 1:30-5:30 p.m. at the Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Sunset Rotary Club weekly meeting The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset meets Tuesdays from 6-7:15 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Community leaders are welcome to attend. For more information, call Club President Ron Mott at (904) 460-7092 or email HOJRON@aol.com.</p>	<p>PV Professionals Networking Group The Ponte Vedra Professionals Networking Group meets every Wednesday from noon-1 p.m. at Mulligans, 43 PGA Tour Blvd. in 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. Join us on Wednesdays at The PLAYERS Community Center at 175 Landrum Lane. The meeting starts promptly at 7:30 a.m. and lasts one hour. Want to know more? Contact Lucy Reep at 904-607-3695 or contact-5199@toastmastersclubs.org</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.-2 p.m. at Ashford Court, 1700 The Greens Way in Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 568-8174, or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com.</p> <p>Archeology Works Adults, celebrate Florida Archaeology Month by learning how prehistoric peoples used animals – as food, tools and building materials. Then check out how archaeologists learn about the past through these remains by trying your hand at the same artifact analyses used by the pros. Wednesdays March 30 at 4 p.m. at the Southeast Branch Library, 6670 U.S. 1 S., St. Augustine. Email Emily Jane Murray at emurray@flagler.edu to register for this free program.</p> <p>Live Music at Table 1 Table 1 at 330 A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach, will host Complicated Animals live starting at 6 p.m. for Table 1's Wine Down Wednesday. Visit www.table-1.com for details.</p>	<p>Walking The Mourner's Path Christ Episcopal Church - Ponte Vedra is offering an 8-week grief program beginning Thursday, March 31 at 6:30 p.m. The program is designed to help you find spiritual direction, honor your loved one and discover God's promise of peace and comfort after the death of a loved one. Each session will last 90 minutes, and includes reflections and exercises to help you find God's direction for your life. There is a \$75 fee to cover program materials. Contact Cindy Corritore at (904) 285-6127, ext. 231 or ccorritore@christepiscopalchurch.org for details. Loss must have occurred at least six months prior to the program start date. Christ Episcopal Church is located at 400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Chapel Concert series The Beaches Museum and Lazzara Family Foundation present the return of Selwyn Birchwood to the historic Beaches Museum Chapel as a kick-off to the 2016 George's Music Springing the Blues Festival. Birchwood is an American blues guitarist, vocalist and songwriter from Tampa, Florida. Tickets are \$20 in advance; \$25 day of show. Prior to the concert, dinner by MoJo's BBQ will be available on the Chapel patio for a suggested donation of \$10 (weather permitting). Food and drinks at 6 p.m.; the concert starts at 7 p.m. For more information, call (904) 241-5657. To purchase tickets, visit www.beachmuseum.ticketleap.com/chapel-concert-selwyn-birchwood.</p> <p>Ponte Vedra Chamber Open House The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division Open House is Thursday, March 31 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Division/ Visitors Center, 200 Solana Road, Suite B. Stop by the PVB Division office for light hors d'oeuvres & refreshments and meet Lin Jones, the new director of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division. The Open House is free to members.</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>

— Compiled by Carrie Resch

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April 2016

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Tuesday, April 19th & Wednesday, April 20th
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For complete information on our dining and social events, visit our website at <http://www.tpc.com/sawgrass-dining>.
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AN EVENING WITH DAILEY & VINCENT APRIL 7	RITA WILSON APRIL 15	X102.9 PRESENTS FOALS MAY 20
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Holy Week and Easter at Palms

Maundy Thursday, March 24
7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Good Friday, March 25
7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, March 27
6:30 a.m. in the Garden
8, 9:30, and 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary
5:45 p.m. in the Chapel



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EASTER WEEK

Maundy Thursday **Good Friday**
Mar. 24, 7pm Mar. 25, 12pm

Prayer Vigil
PVPC will be open 24 hrs.
from 7pm Mar. 24 to Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday, Mar. 27
Main Campus 9am & 10:30am
Sunrise Service at Micklers 7am

Easter Worship

Holy Week & Easter
at Christ Episcopal Church

<p>Maundy Thursday March 24</p> <p>Children's Agape Meal & Foot Washing 5:30 p.m., Contemporary Worship Center Ponte Vedra Beach campus</p> <p>Holy Eucharist, Foot-Washing and Stripping of the Altar 7:00 p.m., Ponte Vedra Beach 7:00 p.m., San Pablo campus.</p> <p>Good Friday March 25</p> <p>Stations of the Cross 12:00 p.m., Church, Ponte Vedra Beach</p> <p>Children's Good Friday 5:30 p.m., Contemporary Worship Center Ponte Vedra Beach Featuring Interactive Stations of the Cross</p> <p>A Service of Shadows: Tenebrae 7:00 p.m., Church, Ponte Vedra Beach</p> <p>904-285-6127 christepiscopalchurch.org</p>	<p>EASTER - March 27</p> <p>Sunrise Celebration of the Resurrection 6:45 a.m., on beach at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, 200 Ponte Vedra Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach</p> <p>Sunrise Celebration of the Resurrection 6:45 a.m., on beach at Serenata Beach Club</p> <p>Celebration of the Resurrection 7:45 a.m., Church 9:00 a.m. (church and chapel) 11:15 a.m. (church and contemporary service) 5:30 p.m., Church</p> <p>Celebration of the Resurrection 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., San Pablo</p> <p style="text-align: center;">be BOLD! Christ Episcopal Church</p> <p>Ponte Vedra Beach campus 400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach</p> <p>San Pablo campus 2002 San Pablo Road, Jacksonville</p> <p>Serenata Beach 3175 South Ponte Vedra Blvd.</p>
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Nocatee Happenings: The latest news from Nocatee



Photos by Susan Griffin

SPRING FLING AT NOCATEE FARMERS MARKET

Say hello to
Spring!

By Carrie Resch
The Recorder

Although the temperatures this week have been unseasonably cold, this past weekend's weather full of warmth and sunshine. Even with the threat of seasonal showers, the rainy weather mostly held off for weekend activities.

The Nocatee Farmers Market celebrated the season of spring at the March Farmers Market festival Saturday, March 19 – one day shy of the official start of spring on March 20.

The Spring Fling Festival featured a petting zoo, live Bluegrass music

on the main stage by the Big Cypress Bluegrass Band, and a visit from the unofficial ambassador to springtime himself, the Easter Bunny, who took time out of his busy schedule to pose for pictures with the kiddos.

Vendors included Big Bang Books, Stitch Artistry, Easter spring bows from Michele's Unique Bowtique, pet adoptions from the St. Johns County Pet Center, and representatives from the Ponte Vedra Wellness Center who were on site to answer questions and offer free chair massages.

Next month, Farmers Market-goers can enjoy a spectacle of thrilling en-

tertainment with the Nocatee Farmers Market: Cirque du Nocatee April 16.

Cirque du Nocatee will feature acrobatic artists, contortionists, stilt-walking, aerial hoop performers, and more.

Free face painting will be available, along with a bounce house and food trucks and over 80 local vendors selling everything from produce, to jewelry, herbs, unique foods and more.

The Nocatee Farmers Market takes place on the third Saturday of every month from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Farmers Market Field, 100 Marketside Ave., Ponte Vedra. For more information, visit www.nocatee.com.



Chase Bank to join Nocatee Town Center

Another retailer has been announced for the Nocatee Town Center. Chase Bank will be joining retailers at the corner of Nocatee Village Drive and Crosswater Parkway. The branch is expected to open in late 2016.

Chase Bank has branches throughout the United States and is head-

quartered in Chicago. The bank was known as Chase Manhattan Bank until it merged with J.P. Morgan & Co. in 2000. Chase offers more than 5,100 branches and 16,100 ATMs nationwide. There is also a Chase Bank branch located at 190 US N, 830 Florida A1A in Ponte Vedra Beach.

— Kelly H. McDermott

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In the Spanish Colonial Mansion (circa 1879), Lorna Macdonald shared an amazing story about her courageous family sailing across the Atlantic Ocean and landing in St. Augustine where they created the restaurant 35 years ago. Food photographer Monica Stouder taught us many of the "tricks of the trade" about food photography through her survival kit "Tool Bag."



Nestled on the banks of the St. Johns River, Epping Forest was the setting for our Womens Food Alliance Christmas Party Celebration. A Jacksonville landmark for nearly a century, Alfred I. DuPont and wife Jessie Ball duPont created their mansion for generations to follow in their footsteps of beauty, tranquility and luxury.

Hospitality women opening doors on the First Coast

By Leigh Cort
For The Recorder

The Womens Food Alliance continues to bring women in the hospitality, food, beverage and travel industry together in northeast Florida.

With many of WFA members in the Beaches' area, this two year old organization is growing with talented, innovative and courageous women who work in at least 20 various hospitality categories.

Caterers, restaurateurs, special events consultants, chefs, farmers, specialty food manufacturers, confectioners and hoteliers are some of the women's titles.

As the hospitality industry explodes with creativity and passion, WFA encourages sharing of knowledge during its monthly events in members' distinctive venues. New and existing members are cultivating and advancing collaborations that span six counties in the region.

The Womens Food Alliance wishes a fond farewell to 2015!



Ursula Howard, Food & Beverage Manager at King and Bear, greeted everyone to her beautiful dining room, sharing hospitality history about golf and her career. Belinda Hulin discussed "Writing the Memoir Cookbook," leading us through many of the processes of How To and the simple ways to do it. We left with a printed blueprint about how to begin!

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WFA took an early "Spring Break" at ZETA Brewing Co. with shrimp and grits, crispy mahi bites, beer bbq chicken flats, seasonal vegetable pizza, grilled chicken mac 'n cheese, sticky chili hoisin wings and chocolate brownie and berries.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a set of keys, with another hand open below it, suggesting a handover or presentation. The background is a soft, out-of-focus indoor setting.

Tribute to Real Estate & Builders

*March 24th, 2016
Special Section to*

Ponte Vedra 
Recorder

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty welcomes new real estate agents

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty is pleased to welcome Michele Stewart and Diane Farmer to the BHHS Florida Network Realty Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office.

Stewart's goal is to get homes sold for her clients in order to achieve their big picture goals and dreams. Her focus is on providing the highest quality of service while bringing a high degree of experience, knowledge and negotiating skills into each of her transactions. Stewart's entire working process begins and ends with her clients. This means keeping herself accessible, being a good listener as well as a good communicator and responding quickly to needs.

As a former teacher, she valued the trust from parents with their children's education. That trust has transferred to her customers and their real estate needs. Stewart welcomes the opportunity to assist in buying or selling homes. She enjoys working hard for her clients and learning from the experience. The enthusiasm for helping others and passion for real estate comes naturally for her.

Stewart and her family are longtime residents of St. Johns County of over



FARMER



STEWART

CONTACT

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EMAIL: michele.stewart@floridanetworkrealty.com

WEBSITE: mstewart.floridanetworkrealty.com

DIANE FARMER
(904) 445-8295

EMAIL: diane.farmer@bhhsfnr.com

WEBSITE: dfarmer.floridanetworkrealty.com

LOCATION

The Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office is located at 333 Village Main St., Suite 670, Ponte Vedra Beach.

23 years. After moving to Florida in 1993, she and her husband, Ted, raised their three children from elementary school through graduation from college. Sarah graduated from the University of North Florida with a Masters in communications. Ted Jr. graduated

from the University of Central Florida in Engineering. Michael graduated from the University of Florida in Animal Science and from Ross Veterinary School. Michele and Ted have been married for 38 years. She credits her success to the support of her husband and best friend. She volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House, Baptist Hospital in St. Augustine and the St. Johns County School District. During her free time, she enjoys golf, reading, bridge, canasta, spending time with family and meeting new friends.

"From your very first meeting to the final closing, Michele provides best-in-class service to her clients. She has the experience you can count on and the passion to make things happen even with the most challenging circumstances," Kevin Waugaman, Broker/Manager of the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office said.

"There are many qualities and skills that go into being an excellent real estate professional: integrity, in-depth community and marketing knowledge, marketing savvy, effective negotiation skills and a high quality professional network, all of which are hallmarks of how I work," said Stewart on her client-first philosophy.

Farmer joined the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices family with a strong background in customer service, and with a dedication to her client's needs that is evident as soon as you meet her. Having studied interior design, and with experience in home staging, she's able to help her clients on both sides of the real estate market; buying their dream home, or staging their property for a perfect sale.

"My desire to help people attain their dream of home ownership is why I became a Realtor, Farmer said.

Farmer is a long time resident of Northeast Florida—over 35 years—who enjoys all of the natural beauty that the area has to offer, including the gorgeous beaches of the area from Ponte Vedra Beach down to Mickler's Landing. During her free time, she also enjoys traveling and taking classes to learn new skills. This summer she visited Copenhagen, Denmark with her sister and her family, tracing their grandmother's family history.

"We are so pleased to have Diane on our team, I know she will be a great addition to our culture," Waugaman said.

— Carrie Resch

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices hosts Leadership Growth Retreat

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently hosted the second installment of a leadership growth series retreat for its managers and leadership support team at The Ritz Carlton Amelia Island.

Philosopher and industry speaker Matthew Ferrara returned to Northeast Florida to facilitate Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices' two-day leadership workshop. A leadership and management expert, Ferrara is highly regarded for helping companies and organizations develop and create results.

"Matthew Ferrara is a talented and inspiring coach, and we were thrilled to have him share his insight regarding ways to achieve our 2016 business goals," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Founder, President and CEO Linda Sherrer. "Our team thrives on inspiration and collaboration, and we know that this investment will create tremendous positive results for our Realtors and clients."

Ferrara's two-day workshop focused on best practices, innovation and empowerment as it relates to growing existing talent and recruiting the right people to the team, culminating in a



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty welcomed philosopher and industry speaker Matthew Ferrara to its leadership retreat at The Ritz Carlton Amelia Island.

graduation ceremony celebration. His initial session with the team was held last fall in Ponte Vedra, and since then individual team members have been working on independent and collaborative assignments.

"Recruiting and retention are essential components of every successful real estate company," said Broker/Executive Vice President Christy Budnick. "It takes a committed team to attract the best Realtors in the busi-

ness, and we succeed because we provide vital support and a culture that rewards individual success."

For more information, visit www.FloridaNetworkRealty.com.

— Carrie Resch

St. Johns County's Hutson Ranch now available in four mixed-use quadrants

The 8,427-acre Hutson Ranch, located in St. Johns County, is now for sale in four distinct parcels, according to Davidson Realty, Inc., the agency of record for the ranch.

According to Sherry Davidson, President of Davidson Realty, Inc., this new opportunity is in response to the expressed interest of the broader market. "By offering the ranch in four parcels, purchasers will be able to better meet their individual investment goals," Davidson said.

Two of the parcels are highly amenitized and offer extensive equestrian facilities and residential opportunities. The other two parcels are classic silvicultural properties with excellent drainage and roadway systems.

- The Northwest Quadrant (2,755 acres) has a diversity of improvements for wildlife management coupled with majestic, natural and maintained areas. It boasts twin 2,600-foot north/south and east/west airstrips, extensive equestrian buildings and paddocks, and a two-story, over-water lake house on a 50-acre stocked lake. With its connection to SR 207, this quadrant also offers a mid-term development option for all, or a portion, of the site.

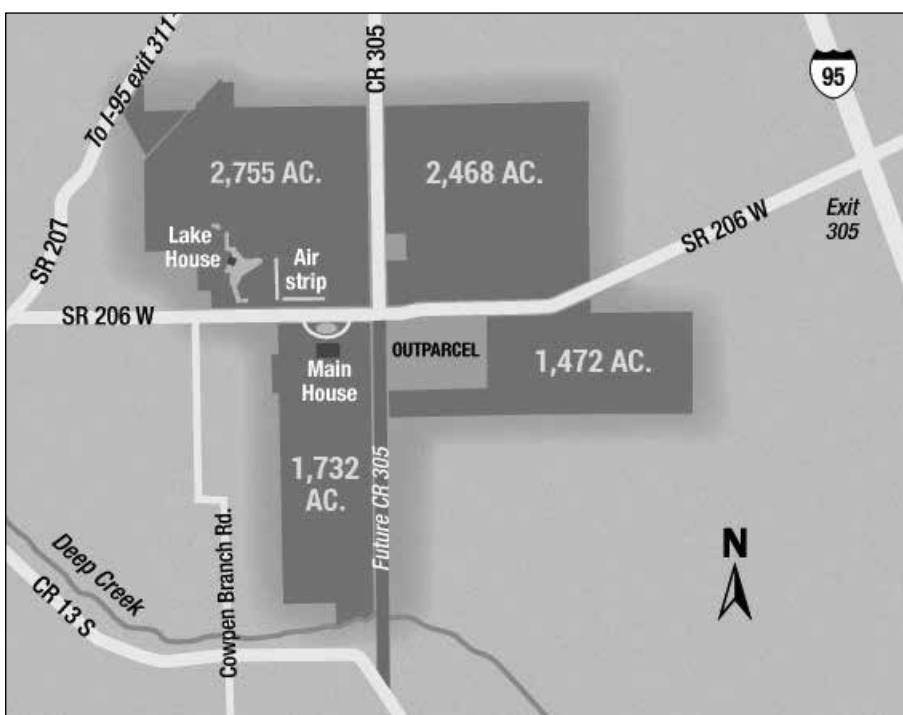
- The Southwest Quadrant (1,732 acres) features a vintage Neoclassical/Greek revival, 11,000-square-foot manor home, three residence houses, pine and hardwood forestlands, and 240 acres of productive leased agricultural land. Much of this property has been high fenced.

- The Northeast Quadrant (2,468 acres) is a two-square-mile, managed timber forest with superlative wildlife habitat and four miles of highway frontage.

- The Southeast Quadrant (1,472 acres) is a one-by-two-mile managed timber forest with superlative wildlife habitat immediately adjacent to thousands of acres of nationally owned timberlands, and is only three miles west of Interstate 95.

"Buyers can anticipate both immediate and future revenue from any ranch quadrant," said Jim Davidson, President of The Davidson Companies. "The land itself is beautiful with an extensive list of existing and potential uses on each quadrant. Each parcel represents an excellent opportunity for buyers wanting an investment in the development and growth we continue to experience in St. Johns County."

Recognized as one of the fastest-growing and most attractive areas in Florida, St. Johns County is seen as a highly desirable place to live, work



and visit. The county has Florida's top-ranked public schools, nationally acclaimed health services, excellent infrastructure and an ideal Northeast Florida location between the Atlantic Ocean and the St. Johns River.

Hutson Ranch is situated between Jacksonville to the north, historic St. Augustine to the east, and Daytona Beach to the south. The ranch

is directly connected via Interstates 95 and 4 to international airports in Jacksonville, Daytona, Sanford and Orlando.

Owner financing is available to qualified buyers. For more information, visit www.HutsonRanch.net or contact Jim Davidson at (904) 940-5000.

— Carrie Resch

Davidson Realty welcomes new agents

Davidson Realty announced the hire of two new real estate agents: Eric Akers and Andria Palgut.

A lifelong First Coast native, Akers is a recent graduate of the University of North Florida where he earned a degree in construction management and completed an internship



PALGUT



AKERS

with Emerald Homes, the luxury division of D.R. Horton.

"Not only does Eric have up-to-date, local construction knowledge, but he is genuinely dedicated to helping clients understand the home they're investing in. He is a great addition to the team," said Davidson Realty President Sherry Davidson.

Akers credits his academic and internship experiences for his expertise in home design, systems and functionality. He is eager to utilize his background to help clients through the home buying and selling processes. Davidson Realty also welcomed Andria Palgut to its growing team of real estate agents. Palgut brings to Davidson a strong background in accounting, mortgage lending and real estate.

"In addition to her strong dedication to customer service, Andria has extensive and well-rounded credentials that are sure to benefit her clients," Davidson said. "We are thrilled to welcome Andria to the team."

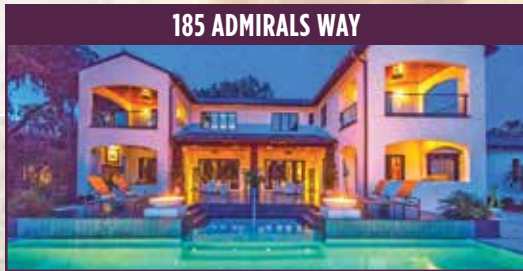
Palgut was born and raised in Jacksonville. She began her career in the financial industry and went on to earn her real estate license in 2002. She later gained experience in the mortgage industry. Palgut holds a B.A. in accounting and finance from the University of North Florida and she is currently working toward an M.S. in accounting from the University of Syracuse.

Palgut is excited to guide her clients through each step of the home buying and selling processes.

Visit Davidson Realty online at www.DavidsonRealtyInc.com to search available properties throughout Northeast Florida and get to know Davidson's team of agents.

— Carrie Resch

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840 BAYTREE LN

This spectacular 4/3 pool home is on one of the most beautiful waterfront lots in Plantation Oaks. This home has a large screened pool overlooking panoramic views of the water & preserves. Gorgeous chef's kitchen and all one floor.
MLS#815589 - \$640,000



76 TRAVELERS PALM CT.

This brand new 4BD/4.5 BA home in The Palms at Ponte Vedra features hardwood floors in all the downstairs rooms, high ceilings and big windows to let in the natural light. The gorgeous kitchen opens to a spacious family room with stone fireplace—great for entertaining. Room for a pool!
MLS#797237 - \$659,500



7280 OAKMONT CT.

This amazing luxury estate features 6BR, 6.5 BA and overlooks the 18th fairway. The gourmet kitchen w/ chefs quality appliances and beautiful Calcutta marble opens to a spacious family room. Outdoor living space includes a huge pool, spa, fireplace and cabana w/ kitchen and bath.
MLS#814986 - \$1,975,000



363 S ROSCOE BLVD.

This lovely 4/3 waterfront home with a new roof is on a half-acre with a new dock & boat lift— perfect for the avid boater! Stunning views of the waterway! Double family rooms, renovated master BA & large lot with room for pool!
MLS#811066 - \$949,000



300 SANDIRON CIR. #326

This adorable 1 BD/1BA condo with garage in Ocean Links features beautiful views of the water, pool & golf that can be enjoyed from the kitchen, family room, master bedroom & the private balcony. Recent updates include fresh paint, brand new carpet & bathroom hardware.
MLS#818843 - \$126,000



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Generation Homes and McGarvey Residential Communities are introducing Sea View in South St. Augustine Beach on AIA.

Generation Homes unveils beach designs for homes in St. Augustine Beach Sea View community

Anticipation continues to grow about Sea View, in South St. Augustine Beach Generation Homes' newest neighborhood along AIA.

The personal builders at Generation Homes, who strive to build comfortable and luxurious beach living from Jacksonville Beach to Palm Coast, have specially designed homes on 28 lots in the Sea View community.

"We are very excited to be working with two of the most sought after architects and designers in Mike Stauffer AIA and Rob Florez on spectacular new floor plans and designs that are thoughtfully and deliberately created for lasting appeal," said Cora Johnston, president of Generation Homes.

Pricing on four homes being designed by Florez and two by Stauffer should be available next month. The new community has already generated a lot of homeowner interest, so a model home and one available home are being built to reflect the new designs.

By optimizing the construction process and working closely with the homeowner, Generation Homes creates a place to spend a lifetime, enjoy as a second home or relish as a vacation getaway

"Both Mike and Rob are well known for the homes they have

designed in beachside communities and on private beach lots," Johnston added. "In addition homeowners in Sea View can work with our interior designer and neighborhood builder to express their ideas for their new home."

The developer, McGarvey Residential Communities, is designing and planning Sea View's amenities including the resort style pool, swim club and park. Other McGarvey Residential Communities include Sea Grove, Anastasia Dunes, Sea Colony and Beach Haven.

Generation Homes works closely with today's most savvy homeowners desiring coastal living at its most stylish with bright, airy floorplans, gourmet kitchens, great rooms and flexible spaces that add to its fresh appeal.

Generation Homes is currently building in the new Sea View community in St. Augustine Beach and premier communities along the First Coast from Ponte Vedra Beach to Hammock Beach, including Anastasia Dunes, Beach Haven, Magnolia Dunes, Marsh Creek, Sea Colony, Sea Grove, and Whispering Oaks and on various private lots throughout Northeast Florida.

For more information on Sea View visit www.generationhomesusa.com or call (904) 955-4769.

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Homeownership for Latinos seeing a major surge despite overall decline in U.S. homeownership rates

The Hispanic Wealth Project in collaboration with the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals revealed earlier this month that there is an uptick in Hispanic homeownership rates and the number of owner Hispanic households, while overall U.S. homeownership rates have declined for the 12th consecutive year.

The NAHREP State of Hispanic Homeownership Report data was revealed March 15. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Hispanic homeownership rate averaged 45.6 percent in 2015, two-tenths of a percent higher than in 2014, however in the 12 months ending this past December the increase was much more dramatic surging from 44.5 percent to 46.7 percent - the largest one year spike in more than a decade.

“The Hispanic homeownership numbers were very encouraging and all leading indicators strongly suggest that the trend will continue,” NAHREP 2016 President Joseph Nery said. “Policy makers and the housing industry need to recognize that the face of homeownership in America has changed and it is in everyone’s interest to ensure that these new con-

sumers have access to relevant lending products, affordable housing stock and culturally competent service providers in the coming years,” he said.


In addition, the report showed that Latinos also led the nation in workforce participation and household formation growth which indicates that Hispanics will likely be the primary driver of new homeowners for the next decade and beyond.

Industry leaders recognize the significance of Hispanic homebuyers to

the nation’s economy:

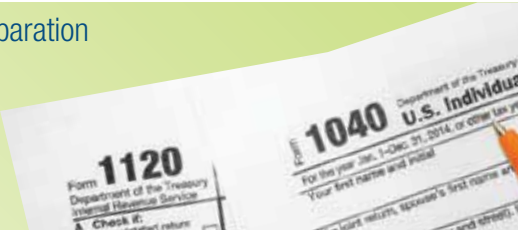
“The State of Hispanic Homeownership should be required reading by everyone in housing, especially lenders and realtors,” said David Stevens, president and CEO Mortgage Bankers Association, “The Latino community is massive, it’s ready to own, and it’s now. The significance of Hispanics to housing and the economy will only grow, creating opportunity for all who focus

SURGE continues on **Page 34**



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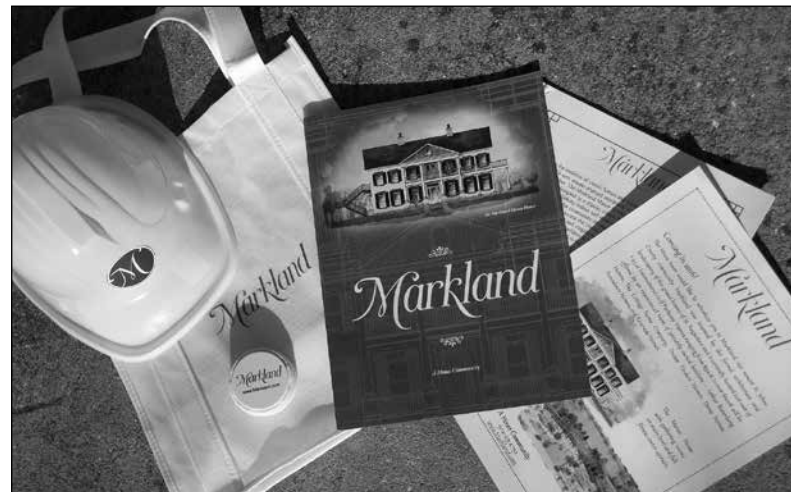
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First phase of master-planned community underway

Markland hosts preview tour of model homes



By Kelly H. McDermott
The Recorder

Potential homebuyers in St. Johns County aren't afraid of a little dust! In late February, more than 300 visitors enjoyed the Markland "Dusty Shoe" event, an opportunity for prospective buyers to get an early tour of the six model homes and amenities under construction at the new home community.

Markland, developed by the same Hines team that developer Palencia, is centrally located in St. Johns County off International Golf Parkway, east of I-95. Steeped in the tradition of the classic homes and formal gardens of St. Augustine, Markland is a 314-acre master-planned residential community with 336 single-family home sites and resort-style living.

Markland has assembled a group of new homebuilders to contribute to the community, including Drees Homes, Provi-

MARKLAND continues on **Page 23**



Photos provided by DS McKinney



Markland

Continued from 22

dence Homes, Riverside Homes, Arthur Rutenberg Homes, Cottage Home Company and Dream Finders Homes. All of Markland's builders, like Hines, are privately owned companies offering homebuyers a personalized selection, design and construction process. Initial home prices will range from \$290,000 to over \$650,000, with homes ranging from 2,100 square feet to larger than 4,400 square feet.

Markland's builders have already be-

gun writing home purchase contracts with an expectation that the first phase of 164 lots will soon be committed to residents in waiting.

Future amenities planned for Markland include a zero-entry pool framed by cabanas and lounge areas, tennis courts, Kompan children's playground, an interconnected network of parks and walkways, as well as the Markland Manor House – a centerpiece for the community with gathering and entertainment room on the ground level and a fitness center and yoga studio on the second floor.

More information about Markland is available at www.markland.com.



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The Plantation Unveils New Amenities Park

On Jan. 19, The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach unveiled its new amenities park, Plantation Commons. The park features a Croquet Lawn, Playground, Pavilion and open space.

Approximately 100 members of The Plantation attended a special ribbon cutting celebration. Many participated in a Croquet round robin instructional format to learn how to play the sport.

“We’re excited to introduce a new sport to The Plantation. Croquet is one of the fastest growing sports in the private club industry and we’re now one of the few clubs in Northeast Florida to offer a croquet court” Rob Schlingmann, general manager and chief operating officer of The Plantation said.

Younger members explored the new custom designed playground structure and enjoyed the multi-purpose field.

The Plantation Commons is the first of three initiatives to be completed at The Plantation. In addition, The Plantation is currently updating its Beach Club and undergoing a \$6 million golf course revitalization in which the greens, tees and bunkers will be rebuilt, the drainage system will be upgraded and a new irrigation system will be installed. The golf course will reopen in October of 2016.

The Plantation is a premier equity residential neighborhood in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida with luxury amenities including a championship golf course, private beach club, tennis facility, amenities park, fitness center and a clubhouse with dining and social activities for all ages.

For information about The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach, please (904) 543-7534 or visit www.theplantationpvb.com.

— Carrie Resch



Unique condominium concept attracts residents to Palazzo on St Johns

Robin Rein and her husband Sonny were living in a large house in the Southside area of Jacksonville when they began thinking about “rightsizing” – finding a space more suited to their current needs. The couple had watched a building site across the street from their neighborhood with interest for several years. As the waterfront condominium complex began to take on new life as The Palazzo on St Johns, Rein decided to take an official look.

“We toured The Palazzo while the first building was still under construction and put a deposit down right away,” said Rein. “This is such a unique concept, and so rare to have new construction in this amazing location.”

The couple fell in love with The Palazzo for a number of reasons – among them the beautiful waterfront setting, convenient access to shops and restaurants and prime location in the heart of Jacksonville.

The Reins purchased a penthouse home at The Palazzo, which has stunning views of the St Johns River, Goodby’s Creek and a large Cypress reserve. Watching wildlife and boating activity from their windows and patio is “wonderful entertainment,” said Rein.

Priced from the low \$400,000s and ranging from just under 2,000 square



Sonny and Robin Rein love their penthouse home in The Palazzo on St. Johns. The couple moved from a neighborhood across the street and love their lock-and-leave lifestyle.

feet to more than 3,200 square feet, condominium homes at The Palazzo are available with three or four bedrooms and feature private elevators, hand-scraped wood floors, nine foot ceilings, gas fireplaces and luxury kitchen and bath finishes. The community also has an entry gate with controlled community access, a private

parking garage and an electric vehicle charging station. There are only a few homes remaining in Phase 1 ready for immediate move-in, including one penthouse residence.

The Reins customized their penthouse in a number of ways, adding special touches to the kitchen and home layout. They also appreciated the

standard amenities that are included in every home in The Palazzo, including granite finishes, GE appliance packages and private elevators, and have been very impressed with the soundproofing and privacy of the building structures.

“We absolutely love our home, and

CONDO continues on Page 34

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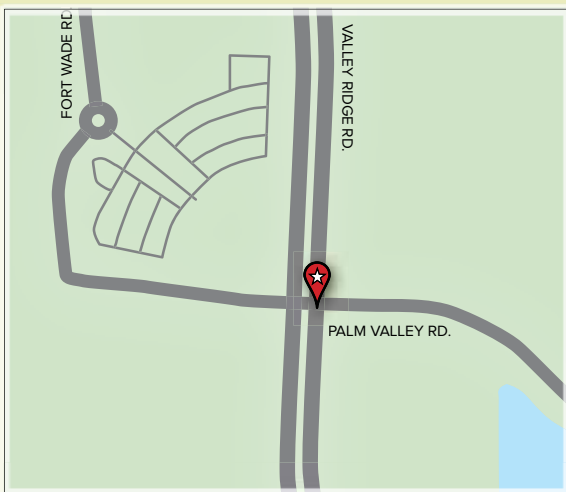
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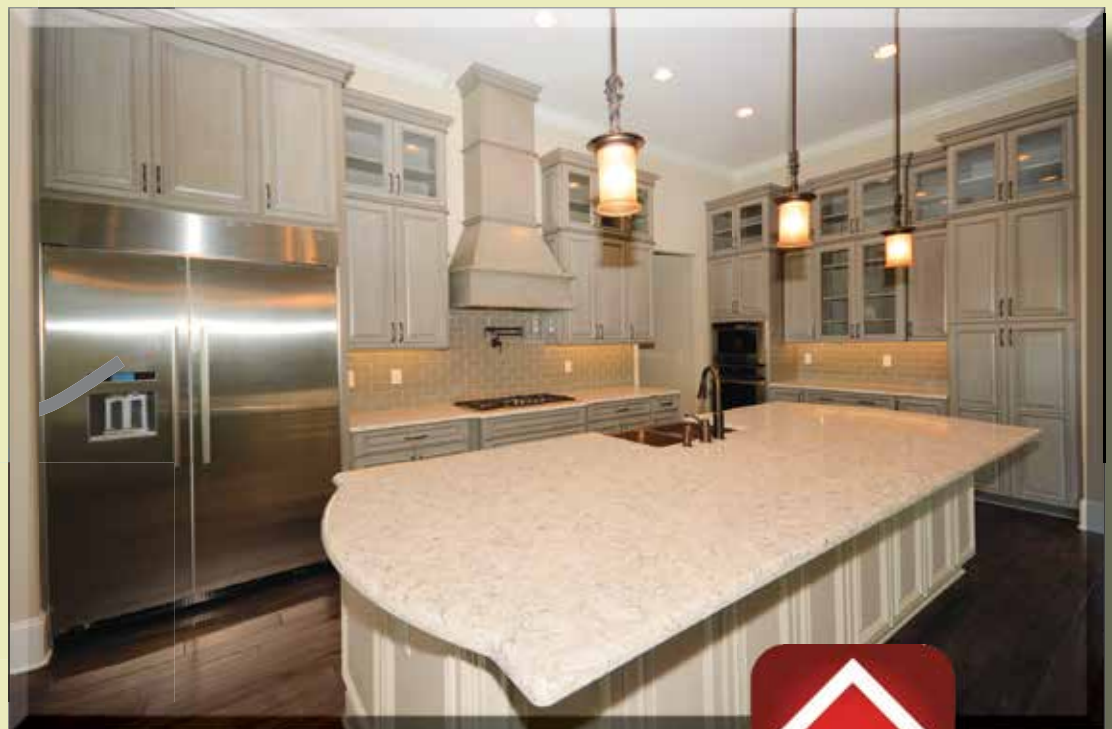
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Improve your outdoor space with retaining walls

When you picture a retaining wall, do you imagine it holding back dirt? That's the most common use for retaining walls - to address elevation changes and prevent erosion. But concrete segmental retaining wall (SRW) units are multi-purpose landscaping tools with many more uses.

Site planners, engineers, landscape architects, designers, developers and builders have long relied on SRWs to manage sloping properties, provide more usable space, or create stadium seating. Homeowners, too, have discovered retaining walls can be used to create functional outdoor features, says Scott Arnold, manager of Villa Landscapes in St. Paul, Minnesota.

"Because segmental retaining walls are both durable and beautiful, landscapers and homeowners can use them to create outdoor seating, raised patios and other features," says Arnold. "They are the perfect building block to create grill islands, outdoor kitchens and so much more."

Most SRWs are easy to install, which is an important consideration for both landscape professionals and

do-it-yourselfers, Arnold said. With retaining wall systems, homeowners and landscapers can create free-standing walls, seat walls, columns, stairs, planters and other features without the need for special units.

Stunning seating

While commercial installers often use SRW units for amphitheater and stadium seating, retaining walls can also be used to create beautiful and durable outdoor seating on a smaller scale, from freestanding walls that double as seating, to two-tiered seat walls. VERSA-LOK SRWs can be used to easily create a curved "couch" seating area that works well as a solution around a patio and fire pit for fall evenings.

Ditch the deck

Raised patios built with retaining wall units are a low maintenance option to replace aging wooden decks that require continual maintenance. Villa Landscapes designed a raised deck replacement in Minnesota with SRWs from ground level to 42-inches tall to support a paving stone patio. Stairs also built with SRWs connect the patio to the home and yard.

The result was a beautiful, spacious and low-maintenance patio with the added advantage of a clear view of the backyard. Willow Creek Paving Stones pavers were used for the patio, surrounded with a contrasting course of river rock that serves as a visual and physical boundary as well as a space for potted plants.

Create curb appeal

Where the yard meets the driveway, retaining walls can be installed as a barrier to protect the lawn from damage caused by tire tracks, plowing or deicing. A tiered arrangement

that addresses a slope in the yard adds space for plants and shrubs. Freestanding walls are often built along property lines on corner lots to prevent unwanted traffic from cutting across the yard.

Columns created using retaining wall units can be paired with any style home, from classic to contemporary, to add curb appeal. When the front entryway is freshened up with seat walls and other features, the space functions like an old-fashioned porch for visiting and other outdoor activities.

WALLS continues on **Page 36**



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Home-buying trends for this year's market

If you're in the market for a new house this year, don't be fooled by the brisk chill in the air - the spring house-hunting season is actually closer than you think. That means now is the perfect time to start your planning. Space requirements such as bedrooms, bathrooms and square footage are essential, but a house is more than just shelter, it's your home, and the great ones not only have everything you need, but everything you want.

"Each family lives in their home differently," says Beazer Homes Senior Creative Manager Michael Phillips. "Some buyers prefer a private dining room, while others want an open-concept kitchen with a more casual eating area. Where one buyer might prefer an owner's suite on the main level, others may want all their bedrooms on the upper level."

Although every home buyer's needs are unique, the market is often dictated by common trends. To better understand your own buying preferences and to see if you're aligned with others in the real estate marketplace, take a look at these five home-buying trends.

1. Function over aesthetics. When you think kitchen trends, you probably think of design features like granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. While both these options remain popular and are common in new construction, surveys by the National Association of Realtors and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) found that buyers were extremely interested in functional attributes like new appliances, eat-in layouts, walk-in pantries and double sinks.

2. Living rooms are no longer a must. Given today's diverse home-buying population, the formal living room is becoming less prevalent. "Many buyers would rather use traditional living room square footage in a new way," said Phillips. "We're seeing families using the living room as a home office or choosing to forgo the space altogether in exchange for extra square footage in other areas of the home."

3. New is number one. According to the NAHB, more than half of surveyed buyers want to purchase a new home. It can be a challenge for buyers to find everything they desire in a resale home, and because renovations are often costly and time consuming, it's hard to deny the appeal of purchasing a brand-new home that is move-in ready.



Beazer Homes' Edisto Kitchen Choice Plan Option A features an eat-in layout.

4. Let there be (energy-efficient) light. Home buyers have coveted homes that make good use of natural light for years and that trend is continuing in 2016. In addition to large windows, NAHB research shows homeowners are putting an increased emphasis on the energy savings that accompany the installation of high-performance windows.

5. Make it your own. Personalizing a new home is easier and more affordable than ever before, thanks to offerings like Beazer's Choice Plans, which are flexible floorplans that allow you to personalize the most lived-in spaces in your home at no additional cost. Whether you want a kitchen for entertaining or a breakfast nook for family dining, an office space instead of an extra bedroom, you choose ... and Beazer won't charge you for selecting the best layout for your lifestyle. You can learn more about your options and how to create your own dream home at www.beazer.com/choice-plans.

Start your preparation today

It's never too early to start preparing for shopping for a new home. The more work you do ahead of time, the more time you can spend exploring the market. So start your research now and you'll be moved into the home of your dreams before you know it.

— BPT



Beazer Homes' Choice Plans program allows home buyers to personalize the most frequently used living spaces in their home according to their needs.

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Realtors enjoy carriage tour through Nocatee's Twenty Mile Village

David Weekley Homes hosted a carriage tour through Nocatee's Twenty Mile Village this month, with many of the region's top real estate professionals and Realtors in attendance. The event included a catered, Southern home-cooked meal by The Potter's house.

Attendees enjoyed tours of David Weekleys' professionally designed and decorated Hundred Oaks and Zespedes Models in the neighborhood, as well as first looks of newly available, ready-for-move-in showcase homes.

The tour was conducted in open air, horse-drawn carriages and included the historically-rich Twenty Mile neighborhood, including the new Twenty Mile Park amenity, open to all Nocatee residents.

Twenty Mile Village is centered around Twenty Mile Park, which boasts a swimming pool, Waggin' Tails Dog Park, nature trails and more. The homes in Twenty Mile Village feature a variety of new home floorplans. Homesites range from small to large, with options to build in the center of the activity or nestled in the private collections throughout the neighborhood.

The sprawling oak canopy entrance to the neighborhood is breathtaking, and the rich history of the area adds to the natural preservation of the trees and landscape.

David Weekley Homes offers alley-loaded homes ranging from 1,300-2,300 square feet, starting in the Mid \$200's in the neighborhood.

—Kelly H. McDermott



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Selling your home?

Let the bidding wars begin

No wonder you're thinking of selling your home - it's a "seller's market" right now. The housing supply has dwindled, creating more demand for fewer homes.

At the same time, according to Realtor Tammy Reinke, buyers' expectations are higher than ever. They've become accustomed to model-perfect homes.

What's the upshot? "Sellers have a choice," says Reinke. "You can win the price war - or win the beauty contest." By winning the beauty contest, you'll gain pricing leverage. And if your home shows well, it can even spark a bidding war - generating offers that exceed your asking price.

Here are three top "beauty" tips to set your home apart from other contestants, and set yourself up for a fatter settlement check.

Dirt's a deal-breaker: Make a clean sweep

"Buyers want to see a clean home," says Reinke. "And the first thing to deal with is stained carpets and ceilings."

Stained carpets should be cleaned or replaced. Stained ceilings deserve your attention, too. They can scare off prospective buyers who fear that ceiling imperfections might be a sign of bigger problems.

"If you've got a stained popcorn ceiling, don't bother trying to spot paint over it, it doesn't work," Reinke says. Even professionals find it difficult to match the original finish and color. In addition, flocked or heavily textured ceilings are best replaced because they look so outdated.

Instead, consider installing ceiling tiles or panels directly over the offending ceiling, using a simple DIY track-and-clip system. To weigh all your



ceiling replacement options, pop some real popcorn and settle back with the Armstrong Ceiling video guide to ceilings for lots of ideas and inspiration.

Declutter de house

Buyers can't picture themselves in your home if they can't see past your piles of stuff. "There's a difference between clutter and an intentional collection," says Tiffany Little, a senior interior design at Albion Associates.

Pull together different items - like pottery or framed photography - using a common design element like color, similar patterns, texture or materials. "It's OK to leave some surfaces empty, and to create a display of personal mementos in a stylish, organized manner in other areas," says Little. "This makes the personal items even more special."

Spark design interest

So you've cleaned and decluttered, but now your rooms seem blah and uninviting. Nothing enlivens a space like a splash of color. Toss some bright new pillows on the sofa or add tasteful artwork or accessories to complement your color scheme.

Paint adds personality, too, but choose your colors carefully so your wall palette flows naturally from room to room. "I like using a neutral color palette for larger rooms - from ivory tones to values of grey," says Little. She



adds mid-tone colors to smaller rooms, while selectively using vivid or deeper colors as accents with accessories and artwork throughout the home.

Finally, don't forget to add texture, whether with a woven area rug or sculptural wire baskets. "Texture adds great dimension and depth to a room," says Little.

"I especially love the look of Armstrong Ceilings decorative metal ceiling panels in textured tin or copper as ac-

cents above a kitchen island. This turns the ordinary, smooth sheetrock ceiling into a wow factor. By adding this textured ceiling color in with a few of the dishes, or countertop items, it unifies the room's palette," she added.

With a bit of primping, your home can win the ultimate beauty contest and attract a buyer who's willing to meet your price, or even pay a premium to call it their own.

— BPT

Understanding the millennial home

For years, consumer buying power and purchasing trends have focused around baby boomers. However, within the past several years, the spotlight has shifted to the 80-plus million Americans between the ages of 25 and 34 known as millennials. Now the largest demographic group in history, this generation is undoubtedly the most studied.

Significant research findings, speculations and predictions about shopping habits and motivators are driving the world to cater to this influential group.

Home ownership is one example. Many speculate millennials aren't interested in, or in a position to buy a home because they're strapped with student loans and a tightened job market.

While much of that is true, research paints a different overall picture. In fact, in many U.S. cities, millennials make up half or more of home purchasers (many of them first-time home buyers), according to a recent study by Realtor.com and reported by Bloomberg.

So what are millennials looking for in their home? According to the recent Responsive Home initiative conducted by Builder Magazine, TRI Pointe Group (Pardee Homes) and partners such as Danze, Inc., several priorities rose to the top of their "must have" list when purchasing or building a home:

- Ability to maximize all spaces within the home (efficient, creative storage)
- Urban conveniences in suburban settings (able to walk to parks and schools)
- Plentiful outdoor space, including an outdoor kitchen when possible
- Customizable floor plans (i.e., ability to have a nanny or mother-in-law



suite with kitchenette and more)

- Elements with high design that offer functionality and value

"There's no doubt this generation is very design savvy and has outstanding taste," says Sharon Overby, vice president of Danze, Inc. "We were excited to be part of the Responsive Home project. Our kitchen and bath faucets, shower systems, bath accessories and others play well with the design-functionality-value ratio."

Among the unique design aspects was the use of satin black as a finish

throughout many of the bathrooms. Showerheads, faucets and accessories were often mounted on white subway tile (grouted in black) for a fun, impactful style.

In one of the kitchens, Responsive Home Creative Director Bobby Berk paired a white farmhouse sink with a Danze pull-down faucet in a tumbled bronze finish. The juxtaposition of mixing and matching elements such as these are at the heart of millennial style.

Outdoor living has proven to be a hot button for many buyers, including these 25-34-year-olds. The Responsive Home project featured unique use of outdoor space that showcased sunken

sitting areas surrounded by beautiful gardens and water features, various applications of large-screen TVs and, of course, fully functional beautiful outdoor kitchens.

"The Danze line is a great match for this set of home buyers, whether they're building new or fixing up an existing home," adds Overby. "We've proven that eye-catching design and value-focused pricing can co-exist in kitchen and bath products, which are often a big aspect to the personality and style of a home."

For more information about the Danze product line, visit www.danze.com.

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Amenities such as the resort-style pool and summer kitchen at The Palazzo are just some of the many stunning features residents enjoy in this unique condominium community.

Condo

Continued from 25

for what you get in this community, we feel it is a tremendous value,” said Rein. “Neighbors in the community are close. We regularly hold get-togethers at the beautiful community pool and summer kitchen.”

Having already lived in the area before purchasing a home at The Palazzo, the Reins are particularly appreciative of the convenient location.

“I think of this area as the hub of a wheel – you are in the middle of downtown, the beaches, Mandarin, and the other side of the river,” said Rein. “We have great access to most areas of the city in just a few minutes.”

Phase 2 of The Palazzo is now open for sales and features two new fully-decorated model homes. The devel-

oper recently introduced a limited time offer to customize condominiums in Phases 3 and 4. The community is a short drive from I-95 and many of Jacksonville’s finest attractions, cultural sites, medical facilities and entertainment venues.

“We have beautiful models for buyers to visit, and I encourage everyone to come experience the peacefulness and beauty of living at The Palazzo,” said Michael Bugg, Principal, The Condo Group.

The Condo Group is managing sales and marketing activities for The Palazzo on St. Johns.

For more information about The Palazzo on St. Johns, visit www.PalazzoOnStJohns.com or call (904) 627-4762. The Palazzo on St. Johns is located at 3958 Baymeadows Road, Jacksonville, Fla. and its Sales Center is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Surge

Continued from 21

on this vibrant, dynamic, and impactful part of the U.S. economy.”

“The State of Hispanic Homeownership Report highlights how important the Hispanic population has become in driving overall housing demand in the US, and how this influence will only continue to grow as their share of the population increases,” said Chris Herbert, managing director Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies, “Crafting housing policies that are attuned to

meeting the needs of this important demographic group is essential to ensure they have access to decent and affordable housing.”

The State of Hispanic Homeownership Report highlights data that provides a comparative analysis of the past year and since the year 2000. It specifically analyzes the demographic and economic trends that shape the homeownership market, including the cultural nuances and purchase habits of Latino home buyers. The State of Hispanic Homeownership Report also identifies major barriers to Latino homeownership such as the need for improved access to affordable mortgage credit, the need to substantially increase the number of culturally competent professionals in the industry and policies that address the shortage of housing inventory in many major markets.

As a result of the report’s findings, NAHREP issues its 2016 policy priorities which it will share with legislators during Congressional Hill visits at its policy conference on Thursday, March 17.

For access to NAHREP’s 2015 State of Hispanic Homeownership Report visit www.hispanicwealthproject.org/state-of-hispanic-homeownership-report.

About NAHREP

The National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals, a nonprofit 501(c) 6 trade association, is dedicated to advancing sustainable homeownership among Latinos by educating and empowering the real estate professionals who serve them. NAHREP is the premier trade organization for Hispanics and has more than 20,000 members in 48 states and 35 affiliate chapters.

— Carrie Resch

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Home buyer do's and don'ts

Holly J. Trout

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When buyers find their dream home they get both excited and overwhelmed by the buying process. Whether you are a First Time Home Buyer or an experienced executive there are a few important things to keep in mind when purchasing your new home:

Do's

Create a long-term budget. It doesn't matter if you are buying a \$100,000 starter home or a \$1,000,000 beach-front property – know your limits and financial obligations before you engage in the buying process. Talk to a Mortgage Broker to get pre-approved. Talk to your Financial Advisor to set goals and make sure you are making the right investment before you jump in.

Be sure you have already saved your earnest money or down payment and have it in your bank account. You can't pull it out of a sock!! If it is going to be a gift from someone you lender will need to know in advance.

Get all your assets in the one place. Once you get approved for a mortgage and have a contract in place it is not the time to move monies around in accounts, make large unexplained deposits or move around stocks or investment dollars. Get things lined up before you begin the process.

Once you have a contract in place go "credit quiet." Our mortgage expert says that means that things go in a hold position. Do not incur any new credit. Period.

Don'ts

It is easy to get excited and want

to go crazy getting ready for the new house – resist the urge to Buy! Buy! Buy! Do not order new furniture and create a credit account at a furniture store.

Do not order custom blinds and drapes and open a credit card before closing. These are all important details to remember because they can affect your ability to borrow for the mortgage and receive the final approval that you need for closing day.

DON'T QUIT YOUR JOB!!! Might sound silly but it is imperative to stay in the current position you were when you were approved.

If you make an application for a mortgage, and use supporting income from your existing employment, you will need to be actively employed in the position on the day of closing. Some mortgage companies will even

verify employment shortly before closing.

Don't go buy a new vehicle! If you go finance that new truck or luxury vehicle between the signing of the contract and closing day it could have serious consequences on your borrowing capabilities.

You can pick your new vehicle out but don't arrange finance until after your close. Leave the car in the show room until then!

Don't apply for new credit cards! No retail store cards, no Visa, no Mastercard, no Discovery....you get the picture? See above Dos – go "credit quiet".

If you follow these few simple guidelines it will help your buying process and loan approval process go smoothly and you will be in your new home before you know it!

Futuristic bath upgrades to indulge in

Are you planning a bathroom remodel in 2016? If so, you're not alone; the National Association of Homebuilders predicts a 6 percent increase in remodeling in the coming year. Some of those remodeling homeowners will seek upgrades to transform their bathrooms into true oases of luxury, beauty and efficient functionality.

Bathroom renovations remain among the most popular home improvement projects, and can greatly enhance not only real estate value but your enjoyment of your home as well. From high-end fixtures that clean themselves to smart showers, here are leading-edge bathroom upgrades that add luxury and value to your bath:

The fixtures of tomorrow

Space-age technology now meets timeless design in luxury fixtures like the Neorest 750H by TOTO. While the toilet's sleek, contemporary styling compliments a variety of modern bathroom design themes, its Actilight technology uses ultra-violet light and a special glaze to break down dirt in the bowl and rinse it clean with ewater+, a system that mists and cleans the bowl with electrolyzed water after every flush.

A heated seat, deodorizer and warm water personal cleansing system elevate this high-tech sensor toilet to a relaxing and refreshing experience.

The ewater+ system is also a key technology feature of TOTO's Washlet S350e.

Ergonomically contoured to make



personal cleanliness more comfortable, the Washlet is fully automated and includes a remote control and heated seat, warm aerated cleansing, a self-cleaning dual-action spray wand, warm air dryer and built-in deodorizing system.

Space-age showers

The idea of a shower as a place to relax - rather than to just get clean - has been around for a long time, but modern technology is taking the concept to the next level.

From showers that can function both as traditional spray showers and steam showers, to "smart showers" that allow you to program customized temperature, pressure and spray settings for multiple users, a variety of high-tech, luxury upgrades are transforming the

simple shower into a customized experience.

Smart showers can also be remote-controlled, allowing you to start the water flow and set the temperature before stepping into the shower - ensuring you'll never again get an unpleasant temperature surprise. You can also choose to install a water-proof sound system that allows you to stream your favorite music from a mobile device and listen through multiple speakers, including one in the shower head itself.

Smart mirrors

If you're a bathroom multi-tasker, smart mirrors can make life easier and help you keep step with the busy pace of your lifestyle. On the simple end of smarter mirrors, an anti-fog bathroom mirrors use heat and/or special coat-

ings to ensure mirrors remain free of condensation even after the hottest shower - so you never have to wait for the mirror to clear or wipe of fog and live with the streaks.

On the higher end are digital mirrors that incorporate a touchscreen display, WiFi, TV and Internet functionality. Some also allow you to use favorite apps, so you can check the weather or scan emails while shaving or doing your hair.

Digital electronic faucets

Touch-free faucets have been around for a while, but modern digital electronic faucets do far more than turn on without the touch of a finger. Electronic faucets also use infrared technology to turn off when a user's hand moves away. Digital features also allow users to see the temperature of the water and program the temperature and the duration of the flow, so you don't have to touch the faucet to turn it on or off while brushing your teeth. You can even find faucets that feature touchscreen technology so you can not only control temperature, but monitor your water usage too.

An upscale bathroom remodel returns nearly 60 percent of its cost at the time of resale, according to Remodeling Magazine's Cost vs. Value Report. However, when you opt for luxury bathroom upgrades, your investment can enrich your enjoyment of your home far beyond the monetary value of the improvements.

— BPT

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VillagesOfSelo.com

Walls

Continued from 27

A place for plants

Tree rings and planters built with retaining wall units create a tidy solution around hard-to-maintain areas, such as shallow-rooted trees and other problem spots. Planters and tree rings can function as usable space for perennials, annuals, vegetables and herbs. SRWs such as VERSA-LOK can be used to create planter walls up to 4-feet tall without the need for geogrid reinforcement. VERSA-Green, a plantable wall system that mimics a hanging garden, provides a stunning living wall solution.

Build a backyard

A homeowner in Apple Valley, Minnesota, nicknamed her unmowable back yard “Billy Goat Hill” because there was no yard space and no safe way to access her garden and fire pit at the top. Plus, erosion was a continual problem.

Devine Design Landscapes of Rosemount, Minnesota, solved the problem by excavating for a small back yard and creating tiers of retaining walls with offset stairs, patio landings and seat walls.

The result was a small, usable backyard space with safe access to the hilltop and ample planting space for perennials.

— BPT



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Rita Williams Merchandising Plus creates Talbot model for DR Horton

Rita Williams Merchandising Plus just completed the Talbot model for DR Horton and captured the essence of a “live big” family home that has interiors designed for the move up market.

“We are very excited about this home for several reasons. One is we were able to work with students at Bartram High School to implement and recreate their ideas for children’s bedrooms in the 3,509 square foot home,” Williams said. “Another is an opportunity to work with DR Horton and their great team to showcase this marvelous residence.”

The marketing theme features three high school kids that excel at their extraordinary A+ high school, a military veteran father, who now works in insurance, and a physical therapist mother.

Williams uses warm tints of shimmering spa greens and sunset maize, nestled with fun, functional and unique

furniture, artwork and accessories that create a visual lifestyle.

“I was so impressed with the many opportunities of programs at Bartram and really helps for future buyers to know the amazing education for their children’s future,” Williams said.

Profiles by students in the design program at Bartram High for fashion, interior design and architecture are showcased throughout the home.

The entrance to the home is a striking foyer that opens to formal dining and a spacious great room. Perfect for family gatherings or quiet relaxation and a party pool bath through a charming alcove.

A gourmet kitchen with the newest architectural design including a “messy kitchen niche with pantry” that



TALBOT continues on Page 39

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Don't skimp on safety when planning your deck: Expert tips for creating a safe outdoor space

When dreaming of your at-home outdoor oasis, safety may not be top-of-mind. But when making decking decisions, a key element to enjoying your retreat for years to come is ensuring it is safe and structurally sound.

The experts at Trex, the world's No. 1 decking and railing brand and leader in high-performance, low-maintenance outdoor living products, offer the following tips for building a safe and worry-free deck:

1. Know your codes. Codes for building materials were established to help ensure quality and safety. The primary reference for deck requirements is the International Residential Code (IRC). Use this resource to confirm all your deck materials are code-compliant and deliver the highest levels of quality and peace of mind. For an easy guide, check out this Professional Deck Build-

er article written by a code official.

2. Build a solid foundation. The substructure is the foundation that supports your deck, not to mention your family and friends. Here, again, pressure-treated lumber can warp, rot, twist, split and decay over time. From 2003-2007, more than 20,000 injuries resulted from a structural failure or collapse of decks with a wooden substructure.* For maximum stability and longevity, opt for a steel substructure such as Trex Elevations Steel Deck Framing System. Designed specifically for the outdoors, Elevations is the only steel framing product in the U.S. to be deemed IRC compliant for exterior use. In addition to unmatched structural integrity, steel improves the overall aesthetics of a deck both above and below.

3. Choose durable decking. Decks

are exposed to the elements 365 days a year, seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Over time, wood can begin to rot, crack and splinter, increasing the risks of injury and structural failure. To avoid these issues, consider a wood-alternative decking material, such as composite, which offers superior stability that won't weaken under harsh weather or heavy foot traffic. Composite boards also deliver a smooth deck surface, require very little upkeep (no sanding, staining or painting) and are guaranteed to last twice as long as the average wood deck.

4. Reinforce with railing. In addition to style, railing adds security and support to a deck. In fact, railing is a building code requirement if your finished deck is 30 inches or more above the ground. Available in a variety of styles, composite and aluminum

railings are ideal choices for stability and durability. Keep in mind balusters should be spaced no more than four inches apart to prevent small children and pets from squeezing through.

5. Light the night. Prevent unwanted trips and other mishaps by incorporating lighting into your outdoor space. Trex Outdoor Lighting, for instance, provides sophisticated, understated fixtures to enhance the ambiance - and safety - of any deck.

Available in multiple colors and styles, the energy-efficient lights are dimmable, weather-proof and salt-air resistant. Because they are LED lights, they also are cool to the touch, making them safe for homes with children or pets.

For more deck safety tips, visit trex.com.

— BPT

Professional or amateur?

5 qualities of an expert contractor

Are you one of the more than 3 million people planning to renovate your kitchen or bathroom this year? Or perhaps you're adding on a room or finishing your basement. If you're going to hire a contractor for any home remodeling project, make sure you know the difference between a great contractor and an "OK" one. In other words, learn what separates a professional from an amateur.

A quick Google search on "remodeling disasters" or "renovation mistakes" returns an endless number of nightmare remodeling projects and scams, where the homeowner is left dealing with unfinished projects or unsafe conditions, and ultimately spends more money rectifying the issue.

When making such a significant investment, you want to make sure you're getting a reputable and dependable professional so your project doesn't become another horror story. It's important to do your research, read reviews and check references before you put your home in the hands of someone else.

So, now that you've narrowed down your list of potential contractors, how can you weed out the amateurs from the tried and true professionals?

Look for these qualities:

Focus:

- Professional: Puts clients first and will work with you to make sure your goals are feasible and that the project can get done on time and on budget. Treats customers, their families and their homes with respect.
- Amateur: Focuses on finishing the job as quickly as possible, with little regard for your family's personal needs and schedule.

Livability:

- Professional: Well-equipped to deal with the No. 1 threat to livable remodeling - dirt and dust. Protects



you and your family from annoying and potentially dangerous air particles by using the most effective tools and processes for dust elimination, such as the BuildClean Dust Control System.

- Amateur: Doesn't have a proactive strategy to manage indoor air quality and jobsite dust. "Brushes it under the rug" without concern for your indoor air quality, your belongings and the short-term and long-term health of you and your family.

Ethical:

- Professional: Proactively addresses challenges head-on, immediately notifying you of an unexpected issue.
- Amateur: Ignores problems uncovered during the project in order to keep it moving. Leaves behind things like hidden mold, leaky pipes or structural issues, putting the health and safety of your family at risk.

Risk:

- Professional: has a license, certifications and insurance. Obtains all necessary permits, protecting you against unsafe work and legal issues. Guarantees their work.
- Amateur: Unaware of - or doesn't

care about - building codes, required permits and health and safety regulations. Leaves you liable for any improper work, mistakes and in a potentially dangerous situation.

Value:

- Professional: Communicates with you to establish an estimate and negotiate a fair contract and payment schedule.
- Amateur: Underbids a project by thousands of dollars and is likely to cut corners to meet the budget or overwhelm you with costly change orders.

When beginning your remodeling projects this year, remember professional contractors will put your interests first. They will proactively address potential issues and discuss a livability strategy with you that includes timeline, logistics, dust control and safety. With an amateur, there are no guarantees, so you're putting yourself and your loved ones at unnecessary risk.

For more information on selecting a professional contractor, visit: livableremodeling.com.

— BPT

New management at Villages of Seloy

Located in St. Augustine, just off State Road 16 between U.S. 1 and I-95, Villages of Seloy is a treasure just waiting to be discovered. After coming under new, energetic management and teaming with the highly established Berkshire Hathaway, this beautiful 55+ community's staff is ready to please and see you join as their next neighbor.

Your elegant new home in Villages of Seloy affords you easy access to all the best things Northeast Florida has to offer. From the modern day shopping at the St. Augustine Outlet Malls just three miles away (at I-95 and SR-16) to the collection of quaint specialty shops you'll find in the Downtown Historic District, St. Augustine is truly a shopper's paradise.

St. Augustine is also home to several championship golf courses (many in the immediate area). The World Golf Village just a short trip up I-95. St. Augustine has taken its rank as one of Florida's golfing meccas.

Watersports is another area where St. Augustine excels, from boating and fishing to canoeing trails and pristine Atlantic Ocean beaches. You are sure to fall in love with this community that delivers. Additionally, an amenity-rich clubhouse and relaxing pool offer quite the oasis you have been looking for right in your backyard.

Villages of Seloy offers four brilliant floor plans catering to the condominium lifestyle you seek to enjoy your golden years to the fullest. The four plans, Vilano, Solana, Augustine and Castillo, offers elegant features and simple commodities all starting at \$250,000. Don't miss your chance to own your own home amid a truly historic setting! Call today at (904) 810-2097, visit us on the web at www.villagesofseloy.com, or visit the Villages of Seloy in person in beautiful, historic St. Augustine, Florida.

Talbot

Continued from 37

opens out to the dining nook and lanai beyond.

A grand staircase leads to a bonus media-game and family fun activity room.

"Furnishings designed for family and friend's gatherings are back dropped with diagonal wall board space framing that customizes this area," noted

Williams.

Three bedrooms create teenage havens for children with different interests and personalities.

The home's master retreat welcomes you in a dreamy teal sky ambiance with elegant bedding shadowed with mirrored framings.

In addition, a downstairs guest retreat and bath is inviting for company or grandparents.

"It's a perfect home to raise a family

in and to welcome the future grandkids. Great spaces and a great price. The Talbot is a winner for the builder and the buyer," added Williams.

Williams is a veteran interior merchandiser who has worked on single-family, multifamily and senior living projects throughout the United States. She has been recognized for award winning designs and marketing strategy in Florida, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, Texas, Minnesota, Ari-

zona, Colorado, Georgia, California and Hawaii.

She was inducted into the Florida Housing Hall of Fame in 2003. A Life Director member of the Northeast Florida Builders Association Board of Directors and the Florida Homebuilders Association she has won numerous local, state, regional and national awards for her work and dedication to the building industry.

— Carrie Resch



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Springtime brings annual Easter Parade to Ponte Vedra preschool

By Jasmine Marshall
The Recorder

Easter came early in Ponte Vedra as Christ Episcopal Church's preschool students took to the playground Friday Mar. 18 to the tune of the Easter Bunny Hop for its annual parade.

The groups of children made their rounds to the awe of the crowd as they showed off their creatively adorned Easter hats -- a crop of accessories that pulled from kid favorites like Spider Man, Disney Pixar's Cars and Star Wars, as well as the more traditional motifs of flowers and rabbits for the holiday.

"The parents help them decorate their hats and they just love walking around and showing them to everyone," said Lisa Skowfoe, publicity chair for Christ Episcopal Church Preschool in Ponte Vedra. "They get really cre-

ative with them!"

Their artistic chops showed as students made their way around the parade's path with top hats and woven bonnets covered in colorful decorations; pink and green grass, plastic eggs and plush chicks on some, light sabers, bunny ears and glitter on others.

Both children and parents alike sang and marched along for the celebration, kids posing and graciously accepting compliments for their Easter attire.

"It's just a tradition we've kept for a long time," Skowfoe said. "And a fun, sweet little event for the kids and their families."

To see more of the Easter Parade, visit pontevedrarecorder.com for a photo gallery of the event. Springtime brings annual Easter Parade to Ponte Vedra preschool.



Photos by Jasmine Marshall



PVPV/Rawlins celebrates Spring with carnival

Laurie Scheer
Community submission

Lazzara Orthodontics and the PVPV/Rawlins PTO held their annual Spring Carnival on Sat., March 5th at PVPV/Rawlins Elementary School. The PVPV/Rawlins PTO would like to thank all of the volunteers who came out to help everything run smoothly as it could not have been done without you! The Spring Carnival was a great day for families to spend with other school families and community members while helping to support our local school. All proceeds from the carnival directly benefit the school and our

children.

The event included inflatables, a rock climbing wall, bungee jumping, master balls, a mechanical bull, face painting, arts and crafts, balloon sculptures, a DJ, cupcake walk, hula hoop contest, live entertainment by the Rawlings Music Club and the Atlantic Coast Dance Studio. The festival also included a silent auction and raffle baskets. Community partners in education were set up with fun activities in the Partner Village, featuring a "tattoo booth" presented by Lazzara Orthodontics. For more information visit <http://pvpvrawlingspto.wildapricot.org>.

Nease NJROTC celebrates ball, drill championships win

It's been a busy season for the Nease Navy JROTC, as they held their 23rd annual Navy Ball in late February and won the Area 12 Drill Championships this month.

The Navy Ball was hosted at the World Golf Village in St. Augustine, and celebrated the unit's top national program ranking while bidding farewell to its senior class.

Rear Admiral Thomas Jones, Deputy for Mission Support at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C., spoke as the guest of honor. The 270 cadets, dates, parents and distinguished guests witnessed an evening filled with military pomp and circumstance. The military traditions included a formal Receiving Line, POW/MIA Ceremony, Toasts to the Armed Services, Military Cake Cutting Ceremony recognizing the oldest and youngest cadets attending, and a 14-man Sword Arch for graduating Seniors to pass through while announcing their post-graduation plans.

"The seniors have been waiting for four years to pass through the (sword) arch," said Cadet Marcus Sanders who will be attending the United States Military Academy at West Point next year. "Tonight was a special time to reflect on how JROTC has impacted and changed my life."

Of the 25 seniors passing through the arch, 14 plan to join the military and 11 will be going to college or trade school in the fall.



Nease Color Guard competes at the Area 12 Championships.

Following the formal military traditions, the 2016 Royal Court of one male and one female cadet from each class was announced. The court was selected based on factors including community service participation, popular vote and grade point average.

Two weeks later, the team won the Area 12 Drill Championships in Douglas, Ga., for the second year running. The win gives the Nease NJROTC an automatic invitation to the Navy National Drill Championships in April. Last year, Nease placed sixth overall in the championships.

Nease competed against the top Navy JROTC drill teams in Area 12, which includes high schools in northern Florida



Nease drill team reports for Personal Inspection.

Photos provided by Scott LaRochelle



Nease NJROTC senior class celebrate their last Navy Ball together.

and the state of Georgia. Nease was the top performing team of the 59 participating programs.

At the drill meet Nease placed first in Personnel Inspection, Armed Exhibition, Armed Basic and Overall Drill; second in Unarmed Exhibition and Color Guard, third in Athletics and fourth in Academics. Each of the unit's five drill teams claimed trophies at the podium for their outstanding performances.

"Having won the Area 12 Champion-

ships last year, we felt a lot of pressure to perform as well this year," said cadet Battalion Commander Marcus Sanders. "This is a close-knit group and we all worked together to deliver our best performances."

Nease will now travel to the Navy Nationals at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida. The best NJROTC units from across the country will compete on April 1-2.

—Kelly H. McDermott

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Gala guests have a heart for 'Heart'

Guests gathered in Ponte Vedra for a "heartfelt" good cause this month. The 2016 American Heart Association's First Coast Heart and Stroke Ball was hosted Saturday March 12 at the Sawgrass Marriott. This year's event was chaired by Jim O'Loughlin, CEO and President of Memorial Hospital. The gala featured a cocktail hour, dinner, both silent and live auction and dancing. Heart Disease is the number 1 killer of all Americans and stroke is number 5. The work of the AHA is critical to saving lives and preventing disability from cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

"It was a wonderful event and I think everyone had a great time," said Event Chair Jim O'Loughlin of Memorial Hospital. "But most importantly we raised close to \$450,000 to fund research and programs that fulfill the mission of the American Heart Association."

Honorees at the event included Doug and Laura Baer. Doug is the CEO and President of Brooks Rehabilitation. Doug and Laura are longtime supporters of the American Heart Association on the First Coast. Doug is Chair of the American Heart Association First Coast Board of Directors and Laura is an active volunteer and supporter.

Harris Collins, 13 year old son of Susannah C. Robinson and Jeff Collins shared his story of being born with a congenital birth



Dr. and Mrs. Gianrico and Geraldine Farrugia defect called transposition of the great vessels. The diagnosis came as a surprise to his parents and it is a defect that only 2 in 3 babies survive. Harris was featured in a video and then spoke to the crowd about his experience as a heart survivor.

The American Heart Association is devoted to saving people from heart disease and stroke. They team with millions of volunteers to fund innovative research, fight for stronger public health policies and provide lifesaving tools and information to prevent and treat these diseases. The Dallas-based association is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. To learn more or to get involved, call 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit heart.org.

— Kelly H. McDermott



Mr. and Mrs. Doug and Laura Baer and son Douglas, Jr.



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Photos by Chris and Jerry Norton

The five Shark seniors, left to right Maddie Sypniewski, Abby Zitello, Nicole Johnson, Lauren Storable and Claudia Cotto.

Shark softball girls win on Senior Night

By Jerry Norton
For The Recorder

The Lady Sharks played host to Pedro Menendez on Senior Night, last Tuesday evening, and came away with a solid 10-2 win over the Falcons.

Senior Nicole Johnson pitched seven strong innings to earn the win, striking out four and allowing two runs on five hits. Johnson gave up a run in the first on three hits but settled down to retire the visitors without damage until the seventh when a single

and hit batsman cost her the second run.

Johnson had plenty of offensive help from her teammates, starting in the second inning. Senior Claudia Cotto led off the inning with a single. After

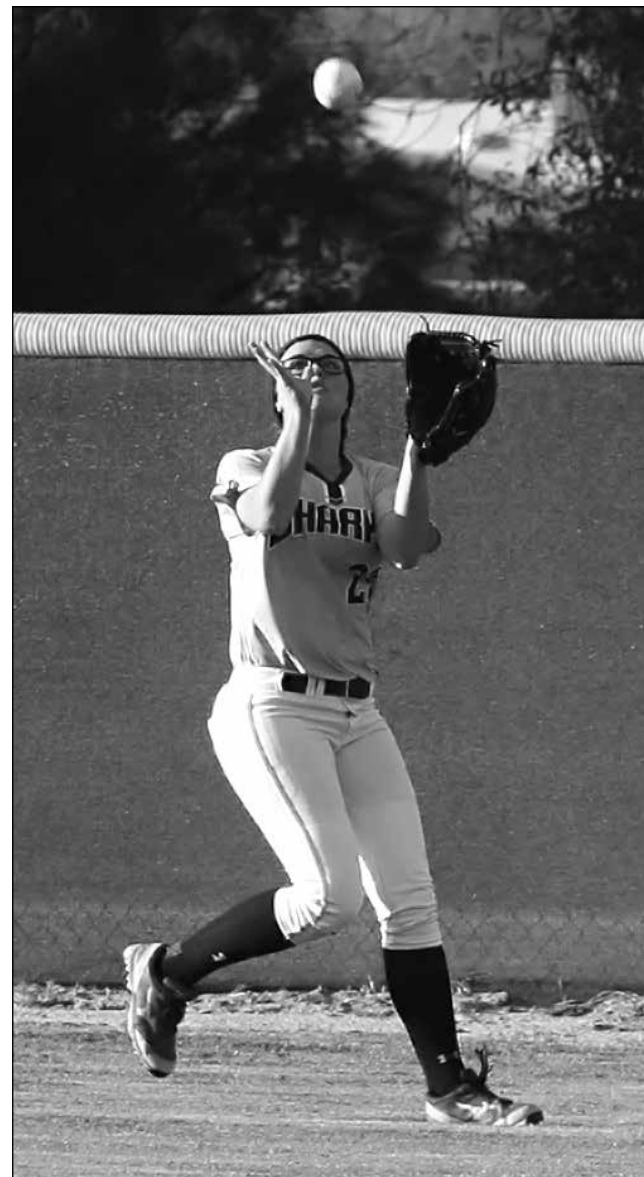
SOFTBALL continues on Page 47



Claudia Cotto, the fifth Shark senior covers first on a sacrifice bunt attempt.



Three of the Shark senior are shown in action; pitcher Nicole Johnson, first baseman Lauren Storable and third baseman Maddie Sypniewski.



The fourth of five Shark seniors, Abby Zitello runs down a fly ball to centerfield.

PVGS to host inaugural Glenn Marringer Memorial Tournament

Laura Taylor
Community Submission

Ponte Vedra Girls Softball has always been built around their volunteer coaches. Almost three years ago, the PVGS family lost one of the most fun and dynamic coaches they have ever had when Glenn Marringer passed away suddenly. For the past few years, the board members have been searching for a way to honor Marringer's memory – and on April 9 and 10, Davis Park will be filled with more than 100 softball players running around playing that game that he loved at the inaugural Eat the Marshmallow Glenn Marringer Memorial Tournament.

“Eat the Marshmallow” was one of Glenn's favorite phrases, meaning “don't waste the time you have. Instead of putting off fun, have fun today. Just eat the marshmallow.”

The PVGS family is honored to share his fun loving spirit with the

TOURNEY continues on **Page 47**

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Luminaria Ceremony follows the live music!

Caitlin Mahoney is a New York City-based singer-songwriter who writes of adventure, passion, and life's chaos, or as she calls it, "the Spin."
Mahoney's debut LP aptly-titled Spin, a collaboration with producers Chris Grainger (Wilco, Kopecky) and Jonathan Trebing (Peter Bradley Adams, Mindy Smith), highlights her charm-filled vocals, reflective words and snap-worthy hooks. Fan-funded by a hugely successful Kickstarter campaign, Spin centers around life's chaos and all its different forms. The album, released in May 2015, quickly received praise from the likes of American Songwriter, MusicTimes and Baeblemusic, who described Mahoney's voice as "powerful and soulful – a mix of Adele and Fiona Apple."
Her music has been featured on ABC Family's The Fosters, the Family Channel in Canada, Daytrotter, and in Starbucks stores throughout the United States. At home in New York, Mahoney regularly performs at leading venues such as Rockwood Music Hall. Since 2013, she has played more than 200 shows across the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and Italy.

Nicholas Roberts is a Florida-based indie-folk musician. Relocating from Nashville, TN, following the breakup of a previous band, Roberts spent 2015 writing, recording, and arranging his debut LP in his studio apartment, the public library, and coffee shops around Orlando, FL.
Titled, "The Rest of Our Lives," the 10 song album was released in February, 2016. It was mixed by Stephen Turney (Humming House, Dave Rawlings Machine) and mastered by Jeff Lipton and Maria Rice (Bon Iver, Andrew Bird).
Roberts' music is often compared to artists like Iron & Wine and Death Cab for Cutie. Previously, Roberts' songs have been featured on FOX, CNN, and MTV.

Ben Rowan is an ESE/Autism Site Coach, Swimming and Diving, and Girls Lacrosse Coach at Atlantic Coast High School.
He's been singing and songwriting since college and has performed at various venues in Tallahassee and Jacksonville. Writing original songs reflecting on his personal life, work and experiencing all that Florida and life has to offer; he enjoys sharing them at local venues on his free time.



Photos by Chris and Jerry Norton

The Sharks' Jack Burke, #30 eludes a Stanton defender.

Shark stickmen improve to 15-0

By Jerry Norton
For The Recorder

Ponte Vedra's boys' lacrosse team played host to Stanton Prep For Senior Night last Wednesday evening at Sharks' Field and were less than gracious hosts posting an 18-1 win to improve their winning record to 15-0.

The Sharks jumped in front quickly on a pair of goals by senior Ben Buchanan and another by junior Jack Woeste to lead 3-0 before Stanton was able to score.

After allowing the lone Blue Devil goal, Ponte Vedra ripped off eight straight unanswered scores to lead 11-1 at the half.

They kept up the torrid scoring in the second half adding seven more unanswered to their total for the 18-1 victory. Goalkeeper Noah Basile



#21 Andrew O'Dare wins another face-off for the Sharks.



Photos by Chris and Jerry Norton

#18 Jason Prince of Ponte Vedra moves upfield against Stanton Prep.

#17 Devin Naidoo of Ponte Vedra is about to take a hit from the Stanton defender.



Stickmen

Continued from 46

earned the shutout for the Sharks.

Woeste turned out to be the leading scorer for the Sharks with three goals. Buchanan, Bronson Holley, Clay

Welch, Jack Burke and Cord Bishop each scored twice and Jude Kuhn, Jason Prince, Greg Celani, Parker Blin and Garrett Griffin all had single goals.

Ponte Vedra hits the road for three non-conference games at Wellington, Chiles, and Oak Hall before returning home to host Timber Creek on April 2nd.



Tourney

Continued from 45

surrounding softball teams. We have teams registered from all over Jacksonville, Ponte Vedra and as far as Orlando. Needless to say, Marringer's infectious personality stretched far and wide.

Please join us on April 9 and 10 with your 10u or 12u softball team (recreational and travel teams are

welcome) or stop by Davis Park to catch a game, watch our marshmallow eating contest, home run derby or grab lunch at one of our food trucks.

Proceeds are going directly to the Marringer Family Softball Scholarship Fund, the Marringer Family College Scholarship Fund, Change for Change and the PVGS Softball Scholarship fund. For more information, contact Coach Taylor at eatthmarshmallow@gmail.com or (201) 532-9363.

Softball

Continued from 44

two groundouts, Lauren Struble, Michelle Leone and Quinlan Richmond all reached on Falcon errors. The result was a 3-1 led for the Sharks.

Ponte Vedra made it 4-1 in the fifth on Taylor Bradshaw's double off the center field fence and Cotto's double to left center.

The roof fell in on the Falcons

in the sixth. Leone reached on and error, senior Maddie Sypniewski singled, and Farley Callaghan doubled them home. Cotto's fourth hit of the game brought in Callaghan. Consecutive hits by Elizabeth Fox, Abby Zitello and Struble's triple to right center drove in 2 more. When the inning was over the Sharks were up 10-1.

The girls are off for Spring Break then return to action at home against Bartram Trail on March 29th.

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The year of the gecko

Bonnie Talley
Quiltlady

Many years ago there was a movie out named, "The Year of the Iguana." I did not go to see it, nor would I go to see a movie named, "The Year of the Gecko." Mercy, me! While I'm sitting here at my desk looking out the window, I am watching a humongous gecko perched on a limb, watching for its prey! I feel like I am the prey! I know that many people just love these little devils, but, I do not. They have a way of scaring me to death when they get into the house. Mr. Whoozy used to come running when I screamed, "GECKO!" He would reach down, pick it up, take it out to the yard and let it loose. I knew that it would only be a matter of time before the darn thing was back inside my house.

I have a friend, who goes out to dinner with us now and then, and wears a gold gecko pin. I flinch every time I see it. I could not wear such a thing, no matter how priceless. There is a commercial on TV that uses a jolly green giant gecko; I wouldn't buy their product for any price!

A few years ago, I went to a big quilt show here in Jacksonville. A lady had made a quilt using geckos and other creepy crawly things appliqued all over the quilt top. Oh, my, surely there are more beautiful things to put on quilts. Give me a break!

The geckos around my house love to get into my garage when the garage

door is left open for any time. I think they line up outside the door just waiting for me to raise the door. I keep a big sign on the door into my house from the garage that reads: GIANT DINOSAUR IN THIS GARAGE! PLEASE KEEP THIS DOOR CLOSED AT ALL TIMES. This helps a little, but now and then one gets in and heads straight for my family room. I keep a "pick-er-up-er," that I bought at Walgreens, by the back door that I can use to trap these varmints and pick them up without having to touch them with my hands.

Hands that touch a gecko, will never touch one of my quilts.

This weekend, I am presenting my financial planner from 'First Command Financial Services' with a Quilt of Valor. His name is Mark Bergman, and the greatest guy to help with my financial investments since Mr. Whoozy left me for "higher places." Mark is a retired career military veteran with 32 years of service. The Quilt of Valor Foundation is urging quilters to honor veterans of long service, as well as active duty military service people. Mark with his beautiful wife, Cheryl, retired from the military in Jacksonville. Cheryl works for Jacksonville University.

Pictured is Mark holding his QOV. It is my design and has been used to make many QOV's since I put the patterns on my blog, and in the newspaper columns. The QOV's are usually at least twin bed size and are made by machine. If you are unfamiliar with



the Quilt of Valor Foundation, go to www.qovfoundation.org My blog site is www.funstitchery.blogspot.com The archives hold many patterns for use by anyone wishing to do so.

The Ocean Wave Quilters Guild will meet again on June 10 at the The

Players Community Center on Landrum Ln., off Palm Valley Rd. behind the Shell station at 10:00-12:00. Everyone is invited. The April meeting will be a Founder's Day Luncheon. There will be no meeting in May due to The Players Championship. Come visit us in June!

Hot competition at annual Marsh Harbor Annual Chili Cook-off



Residents of Marsh Harbor enjoyed their annual chili cook-off last month, accompanied by the perfect chilly weather for the event. Competition was fierce among the 10 chilies entered, but Natalie Harris and her son Chase walked away with bragging rights for the season. Second and third place went to Karen Solomon and Stephanie Elobt, respectively.

— Kelly H. McDermott



Photos by Brian Kiel

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SHORT TAKES

Whistle Talk

The Beaches Museum presents Ann Browning Masters Thursday, March 24 at 5:30 p.m. as part of the Museum's Whistle Talk series.

Masters will be discussing her book "Floridanos, Menorcans, Cattle-Whip Crackers: Poetry of St. Augustine" which describes a rich slice of Americana from after the Civil War through

the Civil Rights Movement in St. Augustine.

The Whistle Talk is free to Museum members and a suggested donation of \$5 for non-Museum members. This talk will be held in the Museum's Dickinson Gallery. For more information, email info@beachesmuseum.org or call (904) 241-5657. The Beaches Museum is located at 381 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach.

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My little house on the lagoon

It started long before I made my decision: my kids started hammering me to move to a smaller house. My 30-year-old home seemed way too big. I'd been living there since 1991 and it hadn't seemed too big to me. But falling badly last December 2015, and needing elbow surgery, overnight I felt as though a smaller house would be easier to care for. Independent of my kids' badgering me, I was ready to move.

So I looked at several condos with Amanda, my broker. She also showed me patio homes and single family attached homes. None of them seemed right and I was discouraged. On the way back to my house, she saw a friend who was putting her house on the market soon standing in her driveway. Because we saw her, she invited us in. Serendipity! Had she not been there we probably would have driven past the house. It was MEANT to happen.

Gracious! The French have a phrase



Mims Cushing
By the Way...

for what I felt when I walked into that home: it was a coup de foudre, love at first sight, a thunderbolt. I cast aside the major law that buyers are supposed to know: don't let your broker know it if you love a house.

I poked Amanda and said, "I want this house!" Ding! Ding! Eager buyer! It is perfect for me, less than half the size of my current home, and on one level. The bathrooms and kitchen have been recently updated. A plunge pool nestles between the house and lazy lagoon.

I had to act fast: It was Friday, and Monday it would go "live," on the internet. Two of the sellers' friends wanted it and were coming to see it the next day. I

could not have them buy "MY" house. I put in a bid.

Well! That caused pandemonium with my family. "Mom, you can't do that! You've only been looking for one day! Look at a lot of places before you decide!" The three exclamation points are to indicate the tone of their voices.

"Mom, you've gotten your home exactly the way you want it. Why move? You're going to hate moving." (This, from the folks who had urged me to move.)

"Ma, you cannot imagine what a headache moving is! You go ballistic changing the water filter in the fridge." (That's not true.)

My bid was tweaked then accepted and the house would be mine, all mine. When I went back to see how my new home was doing, I loved it even more. I couldn't convince my kids. They were sure their Mother was absolutely nuts. But they hadn't seen it. Then, my son

came down to take a look, and things changed. He liked it. He could see me living there.

But the hounding continued. My son reiterated his nightmarish move a year ago. His job had exploded and he was working 16 hours a day for six weeks before his home closed. He had little time to gather boxes, let alone pack. I loved packing, doing a few hours a day for a month and was ready to move a week earlier than the appointed moving day.

And then. Finally. Peace. It's one more instance of, "Advice when not asked for is always given in vain." I've abided by that rule since the kids were in their twenties. Maybe someday they will figure out that a woman of a certain age, who has made intelligent decisions most of her life, can think for herself. Note to self: don't send this one to the kids. Note to mom in heaven: thank you for telling me not to let my kids bully me.

THEME: AMERICAN AUTHORS

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ACROSS

- *Science fiction author Asimov
- Baby's apron
- Arctic floater
- Mexican revolutionary
- Victorian, e.g.
- Teeny-_____
- Worry or cause anxiety
- *Bradbury of "The Martian Chronicles" fame
- Perform on a dais
- *"The Call of the Wild" author
- *"A Good Man Is Hard to Find" author
- Andrew Cuomo's title, for short
- Angler's decoy
- Refuse to comply
- Late Scalia's garb
- Type of coat
- Dwarf buffalo
- Vietnam's neighbor
- Rosetta Stone, e.g.
- Negatively charged particle
- External
- Skater's jump
- Bert's best friend
- "____ Mia!"
- Confident answer
- Old time playground staple
- Reduced Instruction Set Computer
- Limit, to some
- *"Ten Days That

- Shook the World" author
- CafÉ alternative
 - *"Go Tell It on the Mountain" author
 - *"The Executioner's Song" author
 - Greeting from Don Ho
 - Give it a go
 - Gigantic wrestlers
 - Kick back
 - Longest division of time
 - *Wharton of "The Age of Innocence" fame
 - Auction off
 - DNA transmitter
 - River in Hades

DOWN

- I have
- Outer layer of Earth's crust
- Kind of sax
- *James Patterson's "____ Came a Spider"
- Open book?
- Capital of Switzerland
- Retirement investment
- Louisiana swamp
- *Woodrow Wilson Rawls "Where the Red ____ Grows"
- Meat quality
- Upon
- Observer
- Woman's suitors
- Convex molding

SUDOKU

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

- Tube in old TV
- Jane Fonda's 1980s garb
- *"The Turn of the Screw" author
- Habituate
- Trailblazer Daniel
- *Oz Creator
- Greek H's
- Connection in a series
- Court employee
- *"Roots: The Saga of an American Family" author
- Short for Anisette
- Big rig
- Haile Selassie's disciple
- Canal junk
- Yellow river
- tributary
- Michelangelo's tool
- Come in
- Dodge
- Criminal's barrier
- Away from wind
- Bum around
- Lentil soup
- Tropical Asian starlings
- Do like exhaust pipe
- *"Portnoy's Complaint" author
- Weasley of "Harry Potter"
- Pronoun for George Eliot

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