

Ponte Vedra Recorder



Happy ST. PATRICK'S day

March 15, 2018
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Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com

PLAYERS MEDIA DAY



WELCOME BACK, CHAMP

2017 PLAYERS Champion Si Woo Kim returned to Ponte Vedra Beach this week for THE PLAYERS Championship Media Day and Charity Challenge. Read page 4 for more information on the upcoming tournament. Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Community News
Pages 4-11



The Gift of Giving
Pages 16-21
Business Weekly
featuring Who's Who in Law
Pages 23-26



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INSIDE

One of Us

Page 6

Calendar

Pages 12-13

Business Weekly

Pages 23-26

Sports

Pages 28, 30



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WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

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

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

***No readers identified last week's photo. As a result, we're going to give you all another shot! Good luck!**

ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Lincoln, and I am a 3-year-old male cat who was brought to the pet center by my owners. I'm a friendly boy who enjoys spending time with people and being a lazy lap cat. Come visit me today here at the pet center!
 #42155



DOG OF THE WEEK

My name is Rex, and I am an 8-year-old male dog who is looking for a new home. I'm a friendly and loving dog who was brought to the pet center by my owners. Come visit me today here at the pet center!
 #41274



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

St. Johns County Pet Center

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

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

A	M	I	S	S	E	T	A	E	G	A	D			
B	A	N	T	U	D	A	S	B	L	A	R	E		
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D	A	Y	T	O	N	A	M	A	K	E	H	A	Y	
			S	K	I		B	A	L	I				
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C	L	O	U	D		K	I	L	T		H	I	E	S
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4	7	8	2	9	1	5	6	3
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1	9	2	6	5	3	4	7	8
2	8	1	5	6	7	3	4	9
7	4	5	3	2	9	8	1	6
6	3	9	4	1	8	2	5	7
9	1	3	7	8	5	6	2	4
5	2	4	9	3	6	7	8	1
8	6	7	1	4	2	9	3	5

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

DINOSAURIA

THEY'RE BACK



JACKSONVILLE

 AND GARDENS

JAXZOODINOS.ORG



Open and Spacious Floorplan!

This home, situated on a very private lot that backs up to the woods, is not only energy efficient but has wonderful features throughout. The recently renovated patio area provides the best in outdoor living perfect to host gatherings or simply enjoy intimate meals with loved ones. **\$750,000**



Extraordinary Views in Epping Forrest

The only home that sits atop the bluff next to the exquisite DuPont Mansion, this home shares the same breathtaking views of the formal gardens, the marina, & the St. Johns river. Wonderful & livable floorplan takes advantage of the home's premier location & offers river and garden views from almost every room. In addition to the 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths and 2 fireplaces, this home has an extra-large bonus room that is plumbed for an additional bath & could be configured into 2 more bedrooms & a bath or game room, + a bedroom and a bath. **\$1,395,000**



Steps from Ponte Vedra Beaches

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



Rare Opportunity Providing Multiple Panoramic Views!

Built on one of the few waterfront corner lots with over 300ft of waterfront in the exclusive Harbour Island. This private Mediterranean home was designed with the intracoastal waterway as the defining element. Avid navigators welcome as there is an existing 40' boat slip adjoining the property. **\$1,895,000**



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COLLECTION



SUTTON LAKES
\$275,000

Great location on a private preserve lot! This home offers 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, a 2-car garage, open concept great room with gas fireplace, private in-law suite, separate dining room & eat-in kitchen, enclosed sun room, master suite with walk-in closets, separate vanities, shower, & garden tub, & a he/she shed with electric. MLS 924294

Steve Falor | 904.252.2284
SteveFalor@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



HEATHER GLEN
\$299,500

Well-maintained pool home in Heather Glen. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home offers a beautiful open floor plan, freshly painted interior, bright kitchen with new stainless steel refrigerator, fabulous screened lanai with pool, fenced in backyard, & new roof as of 2014. MLS 923918

Laura Nicoles | 904.699.1119
LNicoles@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



OCEAN TERRACE
\$498,950

Brand new Richmond American home with 5 bedrooms! The Bradford Plan boasts an amazing kitchen & many upgrades, including a summer kitchen. This move-in ready home is located only 5 blocks from the Atlantic Ocean & just steps away from shopping & restaurants. MLS 923795

Gwen Templeton | 904.652.9003
GwenTempleton@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



SAWGRASS PLAYERS CLUB
\$899,000

Spectacular home on the 1st fairway of the TPC Dye's Valley golf course! This home exudes quality from the moment you walk in, with a welcoming entry, top-of-the-line appliances, & expansive windows offering fantastic views of the fairway & screened lanai with pool. MLS 923341

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PLAYERS MEDIA DAY



A rendering displays the Bier Garden presented by Hoptinger. Rendering courtesy of the PGA Tour

THE PLAYERS adding more features, experiences to attract more fans

By Jon Blauvelt

A new Bier Garden presented by Hoptinger, a Family Care Suite presented by Baptist Health and an expanded PGA Tour Fan Shop are among the additions slated for the 2018 PLAYERS Championship to continue attracting a wide range of fans from the community.

Executive Director Jared Rice announced the new features at THE PLAYERS Championship Media Day on Monday, March 12, following the annual PLAYERS Charity Challenge with defending champion Si Woo Kim and local celebrities.

The Bier Garden, Rice said, will be situated behind the No. 16 green, adjacent to the Couples Gate

in the old courtyard location. The executive director noted that the craft beer scene has become popular in not only Northeast Florida, but also across the country, and the tournament wants to appeal to a wide range of tastes, literally.

To be located inside the Nicklaus Gate, the Family Care Suite will serve as a skin screening center, comfort station for mothers and fathers to care for their babies and, overall, a private, comfortable venue. According to THE PLAYERS Championship, more than 40 percent of THE PLAYERS ticket purchasers were female in 2017, a buying trend the tournament believes will continue to grow.

PLAYERS continues on Page 7

Si Woo Kim donates driver to TPC Sawgrass

By Jon Blauvelt

At the conclusion of media day, Si Woo Kim donated his driver from the 2017 PLAYERS Championship to TPC Sawgrass, continuing an annual tradition carried out by each tournament winner.

The South Korea native used the club to make par on the 14th hole during the Saturday round last year, hitting the driver off the deck from 270 yards onto the green.

“Coming back to this course has been so amazing,” said Kim, who was the youngest player to ever win THE PLAYERS Championship at 21. “To see my pictures up on the wall and to drive up to this course, it brings back a lot of memories, and even though all tournaments are great, I would like to come back and win this one and defend my title.”



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Si Woo Kim donates his driver from the 2017 PLAYERS Championship to TPC Sawgrass.

ELSEWHERE AROUND THE PLAYERS

Klauck wins Charity Challenge for third time

Competing among other local celebrities with defending PLAYERS champion Si Woo Kim, former PGA Tour and Web.com Tour player Jeff Klauck won the annual Charity Challenge to kick off media day activities.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Former Nease standout Jeff Klauck, winner of the Charity Challenge, takes a shot during the event.

Featuring 13 participants playing on behalf of their respective charities, the challenge was held on the historic 17th hole and Island Green. Each charity's player hit two consecutive shots, followed by Kim trying to land one on the green.

The closest of the three was recorded for each charity, and Klauck was closest to the pin in Round 1, winning \$10,000 for the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida. He is the first three-time winner of THE PLAYERS Charity Challenge. Frank Lickliter was closest to the pin in Round 2, winning \$5,000 for the True Blue Navy Benefactors.

Results for the shootout were as follows:

- **Epilepsy Foundation of Florida:** Jeff Klauck, former member of the PGA TOUR and Web.com Tour – 1 foot
- **North Florida Junior Golf Foundation:** Davis Lee, student at Ponte Vedra High School – 4 feet 6 inches
- **Walk-off Charities:** Frank Frangie, 1010XL on-air personality – 5 feet 8 inches
- **True Blue Navy Benefactors:** Frank Lickliter, two-time winner on the PGA TOUR – 6 feet 1 inch
- **Tom Coughlin Jay Fund:** Curtis Dvorak, co-host, First Coast Living; retired Jaxson de Ville – 6 feet 10 inches
- **The First Tee of North Florida:** Spencer Schindler, former First Tee participant – 7 feet 4 inches
- **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation:** Bill Hughes, SVP TPC Operations – 10 feet 2 inches
- **Nemours Children's Health System:** Chris Solomon, Co-founder No Laying Up – 10 feet 3 inches
- **UNF Men's Golf Team:** Philip Knowles, member of the UNF men's golf team and THE PLAYERS Amateur winner – 12 feet 10 inches
- **Wolfson Children's Hospital:** Josh Scobee, former NFL kicker – 14 feet 8 inches
- **St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation:** Clint Avret, Head Golf Professional, Timuquana Country Club – 23 feet
- **The Boselli Foundation:** Mark Brunell, former NFL quarterback – 24 feet 7 inches
- **K9s for Warriors:** Brett Simon, President of K9s for Warriors – Missed green

— Jon Blauvelt

Luke Combs to perform at Military Appreciation Day Concert

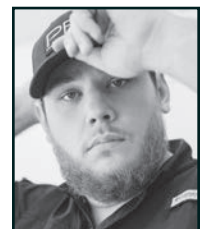
Also at media day, THE PLAYERS Championship announced that country artist Luke Combs will perform on the evening of Military Appreciation Day on Tuesday, May 8.

“Performing at THE PLAYERS, on the 17th hole, is one of those ‘once in a lifetime’ experiences,” said Combs in a press release distributed by THE PLAYERS Championship. “The fact that my performance is part of a ceremony that honors our men and women in the armed forces makes it even more special.”

The Asheville, North Carolina, native released his GOLD-certified debut album, “This One’s For You” in 2017, which spurred two consecutive PLATINUM-certified multi-week No. 1 hit radio singles, “Hurricane” and “When It Rains It Pours,” and his current Top 30 and climbing hit, “One Number Away.” Voted iHeart Radio’s Best New Country Artist of 2018 and named Billboard’s Top 100 Artist and Top New Country Artist of 2017, Combs made country radio history as the first new solo male artist to achieve a multi-week No. 1 with a debut single since 2001.

New this year, the Military Appreciation Day Ceremony will begin at 5:30 p.m., and the Concert will kick-off at 6 p.m. on the 17th hole. The ceremony and concert are free to any Tuesday ticket holder; a Tuesday Stadium Pass starts at just \$25. Parking is also free on Tuesday and Wednesday of tournament week.

Visit www.theplayers.com/tickets/info-pages/free-military-admission.html for more information on Military Appreciation Day and the benefits available for veterans before and during tournament week.



Luke Combs

For more on THE PLAYERS Championship, visit pontevedrarecorder.com

Bush Institute's Team 43 Sports joins K9s For Warriors for community service project

By Samantha Logue

The K9s For Warriors team welcomed members of the George W. Bush Institute's Team 43 Sports program to Camp K9 last Friday, March 9, allowing warriors from both programs to interact and share in the community service project of painting buildings on the K9s For Warriors campus.

"It means so much for us to be working with Team 43 today," said Tahoma Guiry, chief marketing officer for K9s For Warriors. "It's heroes helping heroes out here—helping us to improve our campus, as well as interact with our veterans. It's so great for them to see folks that care, and that are reaching out after their service to help our organization and continue our mission of helping veterans with PTSD."

Based in Ponte Vedra, K9s For Warriors is dedicated to the rehabilitation and empowerment of post-9/11 military veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury and/or military sexual trauma through the provision of service dogs. Similarly, as part of the



Members of the George W. Bush Institute's Team 43 Sports paint buildings alongside the warriors of the K9s for Warriors program at Camp K9 on March 9.

Photo by Samantha Logue

Bush Institute's Military Service Initiative (MSI), Team 43 Sports seeks to assist post-9/11 veterans and their families with

the transition into civilian life, prioritizing the goals of gaining meaningful employment and overcoming the invisible wounds

of war. Each year, the program hosts two events – the Warrior 100K mountain bike ride and the Warrior Open golf tournament – which highlight the benefits of sports to veteran recovery and wellness.

"Team 43 Sports has the Warrior 100K and the Warrior Open, and they have been asking for years to do more for the Bush Institute, on behalf of President Bush, and give back to their communities, so this was our way of putting that together," said Emily Casarona, who manages the Team 43 Sports and Alumni Program.

As the two nonprofits share a common goal, K9s CEO Rory Diamond said he was thrilled when presented with the chance to work with Team 43.

"They said they were looking for a place to do their first community service project, and I said, 'Yes, come on over,'" he said. "And then, of course, some of their members either have service dogs or were already involved with K9s For Warriors, so it was perfect."

K9S FOR WARRIORS continues on **Page 20**

District announces names of county's new K-8 schools

The St. Johns County School District (SJCS) announced earlier this week the names of the new K-8 schools currently under construction to meet the demand of the county's growth.

The school in Nocatee previously known as "KK" will be called Palm Valley Academy, and the school in Saint Johns formerly known as "LL" will be called Freedom Crossing Academy. Both names were approved at the SJCS School Board meeting held on Tuesday, March 13.

According to the district, principals Jessica Richardson and Allen Anderson, respectively, collected input from the public and provided the suggested names to school board members during their workshop held March 6. Both schools are scheduled to open for the 2018-2019 school year.

The new schools, said the district, will feature movable walls between two classroom teams as well as extended learning areas for collaboration opportunities. Each facility, the district continued, includes state-of-the-art technology and core facilities with a media center, cafeteria, playgrounds and physical education fields.

District officials said the design used for both K-8 schools is a modification of Patriot Oaks and Valley Ridge academies, with the addition of a third floor that will house eight classrooms, three science labs, ESE (Exceptional Student Education) classrooms, a technology lab, business lab, skills lab and a resource room. The planned capacity for these two schools is approximately 1,490 students per school.

Palm Valley Academy is located at 2135 Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra, and Freedom Crossing Academy is in Aberdeen located at 1365 Shetland Drive in Saint Johns.

Landrum Middle School assistant principal nominated for national award

Alice B. Landrum Middle School assistant principal Gina Middaugh has been nominated for the 2017-2018 national LifeChanger of the Year award.

Sponsored by the National Life Group Foundation, LifeChanger of the Year recognizes and rewards the very best K-12 educators and school district employees across the United States who are making a difference in the lives of students by exemplifying excellence, positive influence and leadership. Middaugh was nominated by an anonymous member of the community.

"Ms. Middaugh is a highly qualified administrator who exemplifies high moral and ethical standards in her work life, as well as her personal life," the nominator said. "She is a wife, mother, foster mother, daughter, sister and an incredible friend."

Middaugh's roles and responsibilities include creating student schedules and monitoring the lunch room, getting students on their buses or in their cars in the carpool line and managing the state and district testing for over 1,300 students.

She also plays a significant role in planning St. Johns County School District's annual 5K.

Each school year, LifeChanger of the Year receives hundreds of nominations from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Seventeen individual LifeChanger of the Year awards will be given during the 2017-2018 school year. The grand prize winner will receive \$10,000 to be shared with his/her school/district. Grand prize finalists will receive \$5,000, and LifeChanger award winners will receive \$3,000. Awards are also given for nominees whose community demonstrates the most support for their nomination (Spirit Award), as well as personnel in a specific discipline, such as a secretary.

Winners are announced via surprise award ceremonies held at their schools. The grand prize finalists will also be honored at a national awards ceremony in spring 2018 in Bermuda, where the Grand Prize Winner will be revealed.

To view Middaugh's LifeChanger of the Year nominee profile, or to nominate someone, visit www.LifeChangeroftheYear.com.

FDOT INSPECTION OF PALM VALLEY BRIDGE TO BEGIN MARCH 22

According to a notification issued by St. Johns County staff to area residents, beginning March 22, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will begin the inspection process for the Palm Valley Bridge at the Intracoastal Waterway.

The project is expected to be completed in one week, and periodic lane closures may be required Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

A South Ponte Vedra Beach resident, Diane Scherff is the 2nd vice chair of the St. Johns County Republican Party, president of the newly-formed Trump Club of St Johns County and was the Chairman of the Trump Campaign for St. Johns County.

Diane Scherff

By Jon Blauvelt

Can you please tell us about your background?

Born into a broadcast family, I moved all over the country. I have either lived, visited or worked in every state in the U.S. except Alaska! Upon graduation from the University of Florida with two degrees in broadcasting and public relations, I first worked for a political public relations firm and then as a media director for an advertising firm in Washington, D.C. Next, I did sales for radio and TV stations in San Francisco, and then I was an advertising sales manager for a cable interconnect, managing five offices in Los Angeles and Orange counties. After, I became a managing consultant for a cable company in New Canaan, Connecticut, setting up operations in Puerto Rico, and then I consulted with Outdoor Life Network and Speed Channel in Stamford, Connecticut. Subsequently, I was the regional sales manager for a finance company in Connecticut, the senior vice president of operations and chief marketing officer for a financial company in Ft. Lauderdale, and I'm now the vice president of sales and marketing for Military Deals USA/Milsaver.com here in Ponte Vedra Beach.

What are your roles and responsibilities with the St. Johns County Republican Party?

As 2nd vice chair, I am responsible for all publicity, public relations, advertising, promotions, events, sponsorships, social media, fundraising and communications. I work with key Republican officials to raise money for the party. Last fall, I created an event with Rep. Ron DeSantis (who is now running for governor) and Sen. Ted Cruz here in Ponte Vedra Beach. I help Republican candidates get elected on the local and county level.

Are there any upcoming events that you'd like to share with our readers?

Please come to our Trump Club monthly meetings the first Monday of the month. The next one is Monday, April 2, at the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge at 5050 Inman Road in St. Augustine at 7 p.m. with Author Stephen Strang, who wrote "God and Donald Trump."

What do you do for the Trump Club?

I formed the Trump Club of St Johns County last November as an organization to support President Trump and his agenda and to spread the word directly from the White House as to what is really going on in D.C. I send out weekly e-blasts taken from my White House briefings each week to all of our members and many Republicans in the county. Our goal is to educate and inform citizens, as well as to vet candidates running for office to make sure they are pro-Trump. We have excellent speakers at our meetings (yes, we were boycotting the NFL)! Our membership has grown to 150 members with over 300 active participants.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

What inspired you to ultimately lead the Trump Campaign for St. Johns County?

I met Donald Trump briefly many years ago while working in New York City and was always impressed with his business savvy and love for our country. I followed him over the years and when he announced his bid to run, I was in! Unlike most people in the world, I knew he would win. When asked to run his campaign in this county, I jumped at the chance. I set up a county office based in St. Augustine, recruited hundreds of volunteers, worked with the Republican Party of Florida staff to make calls, knock on doors and put on several Trump rallies. When I met then Mr. Trump at one of the rallies, he asked me back stage if he was going to win Florida, and I said, "Yes sir, you are going to win it all." He smiled and said, "I hope you are right!" One week later, he won!

People would ask me why I was working so hard for him to win and I would respond by saying he could potentially

make one of the greatest presidents we've ever had. Basically, I believe God sent us President Trump to help save the downward spiral we were in for over eight years!

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

I decided to get the heck out of South Florida five years ago, so I sold my home and moved closer to where my children were in college at University of Florida and Florida State University. Now they are 23 and 26. My son Brandon is an engineer in Atlanta and my daughter Savannah is a top sales person for the Florida Times Union. I wanted to be close to the beach where it was quiet ... Well it's a bit too quiet for me as a single gal. Ponte Vedra reminded me of a small version of Boca, and Turtle Shores is a bit like California. I can walk out my back door with my 10-foot paddleboard go under a tunnel and I'm at my beach. It's wonderful.

To watch a video portion of the interview, visit pontevedrarecorder.com and click One of Us.

Katz 4 Keeps to close permanently March 18

Love Me True Rescue to take up the mantle

By Samantha Logue

After 11 years of rescuing and caring for cats at its facility in Ponte Vedra Beach, Katz 4 Keeps will close its doors permanently Sunday, March 18.

“For the past 14 years, we have fulfilled K4K’s mission to rescue, rehabilitate and re-home approximately 2,500 felines with an outstanding protocol of care that ensured our cats and kittens received a healthy start to a healthy life,” Founder Mary Boushie wrote in a message to supporters on the nonprofit’s Facebook page. “This could not have been accomplished without our many dedicated K4K volunteers, the ‘Luv ‘Em Up’ socializers, caring veterinarians and others who worked quietly in the background to support the

mechanics of our mission. We will soon lock K4K’s door for the last time, grateful that all cats have been placed in their forever homes with caring community residents who trusted us enough to adopt.”

No longer accepting new cats, staff and volunteers at the shelter spent the last few weeks working tirelessly to ensure that all the remaining felines in their care were adopted prior to closing, officially accomplishing that goal early last week.

“We adopted out all 24 adult cats in 12 days, which is awesome,” said Bethany Mockler, a volunteer at the shelter.

While the Katz 4 Keeps shelter has been in operation since 2007, according to Mockler, Boushie has been personally rescuing cats in the Ponte Vedra area since 2003. Now, after 15 years of dedication to the rehabilitation and re-homing of cats, Boushie has chosen to retire to spend more time with her loved ones.

“Mary has been dedicated to this for a

really long time, but running a physical facility is a 24/7 role,” Mockler explained.

Although Katz 4 Keeps is closing its doors, many of the shelter’s volunteers are currently helping to open another cat shelter, Love Me True Rescue, in Ponte Vedra Beach.

“We are opening, hopefully by May, on Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra Beach,” Love Me True Rescue Founder Lisa di Donato said. “Our rescue is a little different than Katz 4 Keeps. We are a communal room rescue, so there won’t be any cages, really. There will be mostly free-roaming cats, and kittens will be in pens. Our mission is also slightly different, in that we rescue mostly from high-kill shelters – animals that are in danger of being euthanized – but we’re still taking in cats from other places when we have the room, and we are still an adoption center.”

With Love Me True’s future home at 5150 Palm Valley Road, #403, currently under construction, a definitive opening date has yet to be set. Tentatively, however, di Donato is planning for a date in either late April or early May. In the meantime, the local community has begun raising support, including neighboring CrossBarre Inc., which will hold a fundraiser tomorrow, March 16, for the shelter.

“There’ll be a silent auction and a dance party,” di Donato said. “I think it’s supposed to be somewhat of a surprise, but I know they’ve been advertising it, so I’m really appreciative of it and just so amazed by how much the community’s supporting us.”

Donations for Love Me True Rescue can be mailed to P.O. Box 1683, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004. For further information about the shelter, visit www.lovetruerescue.com or contact lovetruerescue@gmail.com.



Elaine Wright (from left), Bruce Reid and Linda Bushong-Reid help to set up for the silent auction.

Annual silent auction at Bogey Grille raises \$22,000 for National MS Society

The North Florida chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society kicked off National MS Awareness week Monday, March 5 with the sixth annual silent auction at Bogey Grille in Ponte Vedra Beach, raising a record \$22,000 for the organization.

A total of 250 items – donated by Ponte Vedra and Beaches-area merchants – were auctioned off at the event. Bogey Grille owner Derek Prince also donated a percentage of the night’s food and beverage sales to the MS Society.

The organization’s next big fundraiser will be the annual BikeMS: PGA TOUR Cycle to the Shore bike ride from Sawgrass to Daytona Beach and back, which will take place Oct. 13-14. More than 1,000 riders participate and raise \$1 million at the event each year.

For more information about the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, visit www.nationalmssociety.org.



Photos courtesy of Bruce Reid
50/50 drawing winner Valerie Hughes

PLAYERS

Continued from 4

The PGA Tour Fan Shop at the Nicklaus Gate has been redesigned and expanded to 21,000 square feet. The shop will feature new and exclusive gear, including designs with popular Jacksonville-based outdoor apparel company, Flomotion, which Rice said furthers the tournament’s commitment to the region and its businesses.

Rice also noted that the tournament will again work with Uber on ride sharing. This year, however, drop-off and pick-up will be at the Sawgrass Marriott convention center parking lot, where a shuttle will transport attendees to and from the tournament.

THE PLAYERS Championship, Rice said, is continuing the Four or More Park for Free program, which allows attendees to download a complimentary parking pass online if they plan to drive to the tournament with four or more people. In addition, the tournament will

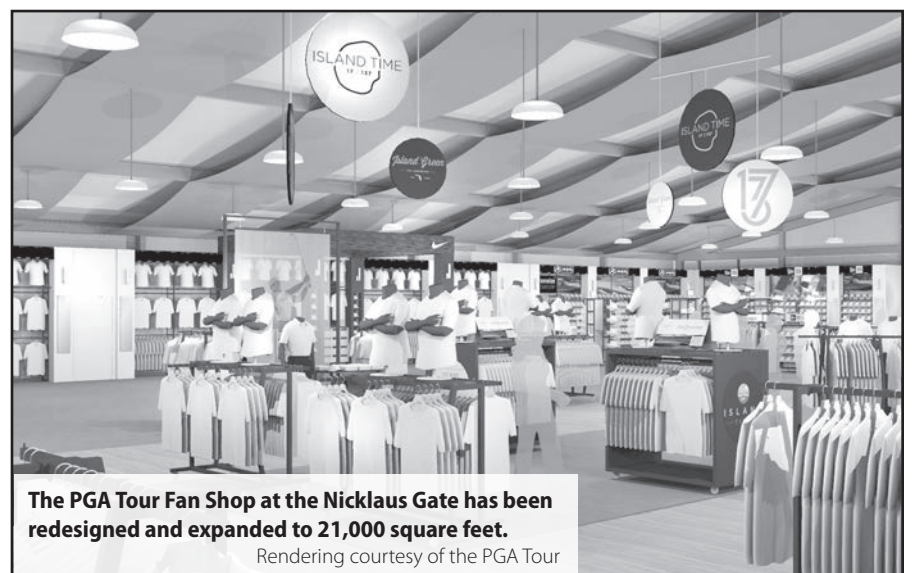
continue its youth policy of admitting kids 18 and under for free if they come with a ticketed adult. Wine and Dine on 9 and the Kid Zone are other fan favorites that will be returning in May.

As for the course, Rice noted that some adjustments have been made so the shot into the 12th green is more approachable. These changes include a raised left side of the fairway, an extended fairway bunker and a built-up cut of primary rough on the left side of the putting surface.

Rice also addressed the 2019 PLAYERS Championship, which was moved to March. Rice said his team is simultaneously planning for both tournaments, and that the date of the 2019 tournament is expected to be announced around the time of this year’s tournament.

“Within about a year, we’ll be playing again, which is certainly exciting for Northeast Florida,” he said. “We’ll be ready.”

Visit THEPLAYERS.com for more information.



The PGA Tour Fan Shop at the Nicklaus Gate has been redesigned and expanded to 21,000 square feet.
Rendering courtesy of the PGA Tour

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Azurea at One Ocean to host wine dinner March 28

Azurea, the AAA four-diamond signature restaurant of One Ocean Resort & Spa, will host the Halter Ranch Paso Robles Wine Dinner on Wednesday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m., as part of its quarterly wine dinner series.

One Ocean Resort & Spa's in-house sommelier and culinary team have developed five courses, featuring wine pairings from the Halter Ranch Vineyard in California's up-and-coming Central Coast Wine Country.

The Halter Ranch Paso Robles Wine



Photo courtesy of One Ocean Resort & Spa

Dinner is \$105 per person and reservations can be made through OpenTable or by calling (904) 249-7402.



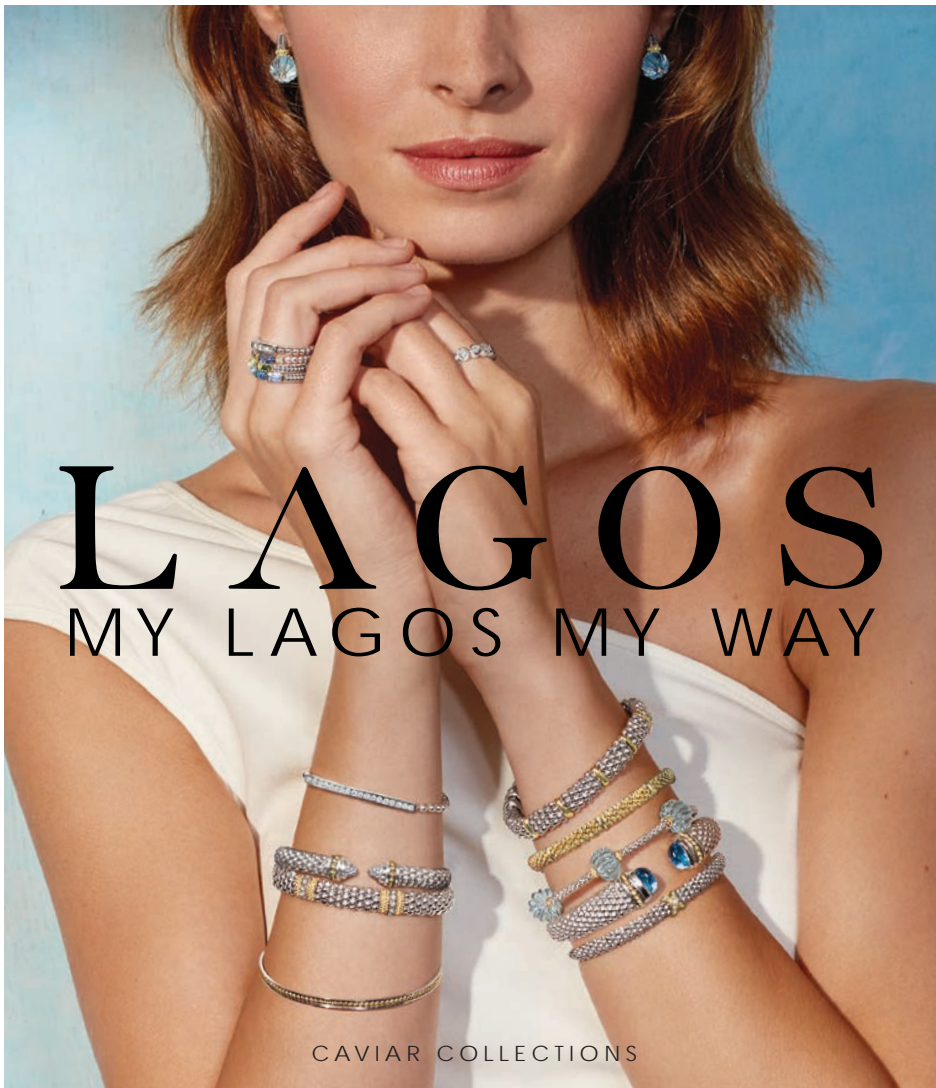
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Local historian gives presentation at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club on 1942 Nazi U-boat attack off Jax Beach

By Benjamin Naim

Local historian Scott Grant delivered a presentation on Thursday, March 8 at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club on the 1942 Nazi U-boat sinking of the SS Gulf America oil tanker less than 10 miles off the coast of Jacksonville Beach.

During his presentation, Grant recanted the story of Captain Reinhard Hardegen – a German submarine commander responsible for sinking 24 merchant ships in World War II – and the damage he inflicted with his U-123 submarine. Taking place on April 10, 1942, Grant said the sinking of the SS Gulf America was the worst homeland disaster in American history that took more lives than 9/11 or Pearl Harbor.

Grant, who leads Standfast Asset Management, is dedicated to educating the public on this war story through presentations and question-and-answer sessions.



Scott Grant poses for a photo with the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club's Fred Cozby in front of replica ships and a plaque with information on the historical event.

Photo by Benjamin Naim

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St. Augustine holds 8th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

By Jon Blauvelt

Bands of green lined the streets of St. Augustine last Saturday, March 10, as the Ancient City hosted its 8th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Nearly 50 groups participated in the parade, which traveled down Orange Street to Avenida Menendez, then to Cathedral Place, next on Cordova Street and back to Orange Street. Participating groups included Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department Pipes and Drums, the St. Augustine Yacht Club, the St. Augustine Tea Party, two horse units and more.

Several attendees subsequently enjoyed the St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival, which was held at Francis Field.



A creepy character pays a visit to a group of kids during the St. Augustine St. Patrick's Day Parade.



A bagpipe player from Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department Pipes and Drums walks down Avenida Menendez during the parade.



ABOVE: A pair of kids hands out candy during the parade.



LEFT: One of the horse units at the parade travels down Avenida Menendez.

Photos by Jon Blauvelt

For more photos, visit pontevedrarecorder.com

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Sheriff Shoar endorses Johns for Congressional District 6

St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar recently endorsed St. Johns County Commissioner Jimmy Johns in his run for Congress serving Florida's 6th Congressional district.

In his statement endorsing Johns, Shoar said, "Jimmy Johns has a track record of supporting our public safety officers. He has done so on the St. Johns County Commission and will do so in Washington.

"We need someone that understands what it takes to keep our country safe, not only at home but at our border," added the sheriff.

Shoar first joined the St. Augustine Police Department in 1981 and eventually rose to the rank of chief of police. He was elected as St. Johns County sheriff in 2004 and has been subsequently re-elected twice running unopposed. Shoar was a 25-year veteran of the Florida National Guard retiring with the rank of major.

Responding to Shoar's endorsement, Johns said, "It is always humbling when such a highly respected law enforcement officer steps up to endorse. He has been on the front lines and knows what it takes to keep us safe. I will rely on him and the public safety communities to make sure that the laws passed in Washington protect citizens against murderous foreign gangs and solving the nation's opioid crisis. We need to listen to those tasked with protecting us for solutions to these issues."



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Thursday, March 15	Friday, March 16	Saturday, March 17	Sunday, March 18
<p>Raise a Glass for a Cure Raise a Glass for a Cure will be held March 15 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Blackfinn Ameripub. The event will be held in conjunction with the kick-off for the 2018 Take Steps Jacksonville walk to benefit the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation in its search to find cures for Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). Light hors d'oeuvres will be served, and each attendee will be given two drink tickets per person for beer and wine. Admission costs \$15 online at online.cdfa.org/raiseaglassjax2018 and \$20 at the door. Blackfinn Ameripub is located at 4840 Big Island Drive in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Grief support group St. Paul's Catholic Church will host a grief support group March 15 at 7 p.m. in room 102 of the Family Life Center, located at 578 1st Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach. The group is intended for men and women who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. For information, call Kathy at (904) 553-8933 or Catherine at (904) 247-0665.</p> <p>Yoga for Survivors The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a Yoga for Survivors class March 15 at 11:30 a.m. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations are invited to join in this gentle and safe yoga practice, which is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.</p> <p>SJC Library iPad class workshop St. Johns County Library Extension Services will offer a complimentary iPad Workshop March 15 at 10 a.m. Guests are invited to bring their iPad to learn the basics. This event will take place at the Council on Aging, located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call (904) 280-3233.</p>	<p>Coastal Wine Market wine tasting Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room hosts Friday wine tastings from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B in Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p> <p>Cannon firing demonstration at Castillo de San Marcos National Park Service volunteers and personnel demonstrate a cannon firing at the Castillo de San Marcos museum / monument every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rangers and volunteers demonstrate the weapons and relate the experiences of the colonial Spanish soldier of 1740s St. Augustine. Firing times are subject to change depending on weather conditions and staff availability. Castillo de San Marcos is located at 1 S. Castillo Drive in St. Augustine.</p> <p>'Nature Reconstructed' exhibit at Beaches Museum & History Park The Beaches Museum & History Park is hosting "Nature Reconstructed," an exhibit by Lana Shuttleworth, until June 3. Shuttleworth uses common plastic castoff materials, particularly traffic safety cones, to create landscapes and sculptural figures that challenge the viewer's comprehension. This event is free to museum members with a suggested \$5 donation for non-members. For more information, call (904) 241-5657 or visit www.beachmuseum.org. The Beaches Museum & History Park is located at 381 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>'Tomb Raider' at World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX Theater Lara Croft, the fiercely independent daughter of a missing adventurer, must push herself beyond her limits when she finds herself on the island where her father disappeared. This film is showing at the IMAX Theater at World Golf Hall of Fame March 16 at 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. The World Golf Hall of Fame is located at 1 World Golf Place in St. Augustine.</p>	<p>Dr. James Davidson lecture The Archaeological Institute of America, Jacksonville Society will meet at noon March 17 in Building 51 at the University of North Florida. Guests are invited to hear a lecture by Dr. James Davidson entitled, "Kingsley Plantation and Bulowville: A Comparative Study of Enslavement in Early 19th Century Florida." The University of North Florida is located at 1 UNF Drive in Jacksonville.</p> <p>'Vision of Hope' symposium The Judy Nicholson Kidney Cancer Foundation will host a "Vision of Hope" kidney cancer educational symposium March 17 from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. RSVP by registering online at www.jnfkidneycancer.org/events. Topics to be discussed will include therapeutic options, common toxicities of kidney cancer medications, treatment options for metastatic kidney cancer and more.</p> <p>SoMMA meeting at Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach St. Augustine resident and award-winning pastel artist Lyn Asselta will serve as presenter at the next Society of Mixed Media Artists (SoMMA) meeting March 17 at 10 a.m. at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. The demonstration, entitled "Arriving at Your Destination," will focus on how to get started and create an exciting painting using several media. The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach is located at 50 Executive Way.</p> <p>Candidate forum featuring Andrew Gillum Women Determined: Leveraging the Power of the African-American Woman's Vote will present a forum March 17 at 11 a.m. featuring Florida gubernatorial candidate Andrew Gillum. The Daughters of Sarah ministry of St. Paul AME Church will host the event, which is free and open to the community. For more information, contact Jennifer Smalls at (904) 829-3918. St. Paul AME Church is located at 85 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. in St. Augustine.</p>	<p>St. Augustine Lions Seafood Festival The St. Augustine Lions Seafood Festival will take place March 16 to 18 at Francis Field, located at 25 W. Castillo Drive in St. Augustine. The event will feature seafood delicacies, live entertainment and more. For more information, visit www.lionsfestival.com.</p> <p>Sandals, Shorts and Steel Drum Service Every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to noon, St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church invites guests to put on sandals and shorts for a more casual worship service featuring the tropical sound of steel drum music. The church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Second Sunday at Stetson's The Stetson Kennedy Foundation will host Second Sunday at Stetson's March 18 featuring Bill & Eli Perras. Known as Americana Troubadours at Large, Eli's inspired lyrics combined with Bill's bluesy finger-style guitar playing create a modern take on Americana music in its purest form. For more information, contact Leigh Cort by phone at (904) 806-3613 or via email at leighcort@bellsouth.net. This event will take place at Beluthahatchee Park, located at 1523 State Road 13 in St. Johns County.</p> <p>Cinema at the Synagogue Join Beth El-The Beaches Synagogue for a showing of "Yentl," March 18 at 5 p.m. "Yentl" is a 1983 American romantic musical drama film from United Artists (through MGM), and directed, co-written, co-produced, and starring Barbra Streisand. Beth El-The Beaches Synagogue is located at 288 Roscoe Blvd. N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>St. Augustine Art and Craft Festival The St. Augustine Art and Craft Festival features the nation's best artists along with jewelry, ceramics, stained glass, photography, handmade soaps and more. All items are made in the United States. The event takes place Saturday, March 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the St. Johns County Pier Park, located at 350 A1A Beach Blvd. in St. Augustine Beach. Admission is free.</p>

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Monday, March 19	Tuesday, March 20	Wednesday, March 21	Thursday, March 22
<p>Caregiver support meetings The St. Johns County Council on Aging will host caregiver support meetings Mondays (except holidays) from noon to 1 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center at 1048 A1A N. For more information, call Paulette Kozlowski at (904) 209-3674 or email pkozlowski@stjohnscoa.com. The meetings will provide a supportive environment for people who are experiencing similar challenges in which they can share problems, ideas and solutions.</p> <p>MOSH Mondays The Museum of Science and History's MOSH Mondays feature discounts including buy-one-get-one-half-off admission for adults, 10 percent off MOSH-branded items in the museum shop, 10 percent off memberships when signing up in-person and 10 percent off birthday packages when signing up in-person. MOSH Mondays also feature rotating weekly programs. MOSH is located at 1025 Museum Circle in Jacksonville. Visit www.themosh.org for more information.</p> <p>Yoga in the Gardens Join instructor Jennifer Tomczak for this yoga class hosted by the Friends of Washington Oaks. The class is available for all skill levels from 9 to 10:30 a.m. each Monday in March. Washington Oaks Gardens State Park is located at 6400 N. Oceanshore Blvd. in Palm Coast, call (386) 446-6783 for more information.</p> <p>Larry Wilson, Angela Casini and Joe Crozier exhibition This exhibition at The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach will display the ceramic art of Larry Wilson, paintings of Angela Casini and encaustic works of Joe Crozier. Admission to the exhibition is free. For more information, visit www.ccpvb.org. The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach is located at 50 Executive Way.</p>	<p>Tapas Tuesday The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Cafe every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. View the sunset on the Cummer Cafe patio while listening to local musicians and enjoying beer, wine or artfully-inspired tapas for sale at the Cafe. Reserve your table by calling (904) 899-6022. For more information, visit www.cummuseum.org. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave.</p> <p>Prenatal yoga Prenatal and postnatal yoga is designed to help women cope with the changing needs of their body before and after pregnancy and birth. The public is invited March 20 at 6 p.m. to share individual experiences with other women and gain empowerment through yoga, meditation, and guided visualization. This approach is gentle and safe for women in all stages of pregnancy, and once recovered from birth, but prior approval from a healthcare provider is advised. This event will take place at the Y Healthy Living Center, located at 170 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>13th Annual All-County High School Show exhibition This exhibition at the St. Augustine Art Association, located at 22 Marine St., features 2D and 3D pieces by local ninth through 12th grade students. The exhibition is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m.</p> <p>Volunteers needed Volunteers are needed at THE PLAYERS Senior Center Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the kitchen. The center is looking for upbeat volunteers to help with new spring and summer programs. Contact Amy Leach at (904) 209-3686 or email aleach@stjohnscoa.com for more information. The PLAYERS Senior Center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra.</p>	<p>Toastmasters Club Toastmasters Club #5199 of Ponte Vedra Beach meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center. These meetings help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Email Lucy Reep at lucyreep@gmail.com for additional information.</p> <p>Jennifer Westwood and the Handsome Devils performance Jennifer Westwood and the Handsome Devils will perform at Prohibition Kitchen March 21 at 10 p.m. Jennifer Westwood and the Handsome Devils have won 5 Detroit music awards, and have been recognized as one of the top independent bands in the U.S. for 2017 by the "Music Connection" trade publication. Prohibition Kitchen is located at 119 St. George St. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Life Enrichment Day Retreat Program Life Enrichment Day Retreat Program is looking for volunteers who have a few hours per week to assist with those experiencing memory loss. For more information, email life_enrichment-group@yahoo.com or call (904) 417-7354.</p> <p>321 Love Your Neighbor event Join the Tesori Family Foundation on March 21st at 3:21 pm as they celebrate World Down Syndrome Day at the inaugural 321 Love Your Neighbor event at Collage Day School with special host Nikki Kimbleton from WJXT4. This free family event will include activities for the kids, free food, live music and a chance for the community to learn more about Down syndrome. For more information or to register please visit http://tesorifamilyfoundation.org/321love</p>	<p>Special event at Palms Presbyterian Church Palms Presbyterian Church will host a special event entitled "Coming to America? Who Should We Welcome? What Should We Do?" on March 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. This event is free and open to the community; a nursery will be provided. For more information, visit www.palmschurch.org or call (904) 246-6427. Palms Presbyterian Church is located at 3410 3rd St. S. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Yoga for Survivors The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a Yoga for Survivors class March 22 at 11:30 a.m. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations are invited to join in this gentle and safe yoga practice, which is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.</p> <p>'Medea' at Flagler College Flagler College's Theatre Department will perform "Medea" at Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College March 21 through 24 at 7:30 p.m. and March 25 at 2 p.m. Visit www.flagler.edu/news-events/community-events/theatre-productions to purchase a ticket. Lewis Auditorium is located at 14 Granada St. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Farm Swap and Music Jam Enjoy music from local musicians while shopping for farm-fresh produce at this Farm Swap and Music Jam event at the Florida Agricultural Museum. Musicians, singers and songwriters of folk, bluegrass, old time, fiddle, country and blues will be performing while vendors offer fruits, veggies, honeys, jellies and more. This event is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, visit www.floridaagmuseum.org.</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 ben@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</p>




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Seymour's, the beach's only used book store, presents its fantastic **Bag Day Sale** Saturday, March 17, 2018

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Seymour's book store is located inside the Ponte Vedra Library, 101 Library Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach

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For complete information on our dining and social events, visit our website at <http://www.tpc.com/sawgrass-dining>. For more information or to make a reservation in NINETEEN or for a Social Event, please contact the dining room at 904.273.3238.

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Watch a snippet of the series on the Ponte Vedra Recorder Facebook page or the full version online at www.PonteVedraRecorder.com.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for Why I Serve; any interested parties should contact Ben@OPCFLA.com for more information.



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Nocatee Happenings

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center celebrates Nocatee location anniversary

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center hosted an anniversary party and wellness event at its Nocatee office on Thursday, March 8 to celebrate its second year of operation there.

In addition to food, beverages, fitness demos and chair massages, the event featured a special children's area with activities and face painting. All guests received a ticket for a Kona Ice treat, as well as a ticket for a raffle drawing with prizes ranging from a new beach cruiser to gift baskets and gift certificates. Several Nocatee businesses also attended and set up a table/display to showcase their services, along with special offers or gifts for event attendees.



ABOVE: Daniel Brauch, Dr. Casey Means, owner Dr. Erika Hamer, Vickie Meads and Marissa Daniels gather in front of the Kona Ice truck at the Ponte Vedra Wellness Center anniversary party and wellness event.

Photo by Ed Johnson



LEFT: Ponte Vedra Wellness Center owner Dr. Erika Hamer showcases the beach cruiser that was raffled off at the event.

Photo by Susan Griffin

UPCOMING EVENTS IN NOCATEE

The fun never stops in Nocatee! Keep in mind the following events taking place in the community over the next week.

Beer and Bingo

Thursday, March 15, 6-8 p.m. (Splash Waterpark): Atlantic Beach Brewing Company will host a Tap Takeover at Bingo Night. There will also be a variety of other board games to choose from that evening. This is a free event for residents and guests 21+ only. Beer and wine will be available for purchase at the Splash Bar. RSVP to fun@nocatee.com.

Karaoke Night

Friday, March 16, 6:30-9:30 p.m. (Splash Waterpark): Join Rockin' Roger for a night of singing, dancing and socializing. This is an age 21+ event for residents and guests. Beer and wine will be available for purchase at the Splash Bar. RSVP to fun@nocatee.com.

Nocatee Farmers Market: Spring Fling

Saturday, March 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Swim Club Green): Nocatee is inviting the community to celebrate the changing of the season this March at the Nocatee Farmers Market Spring Fling. This market will feature a petting zoo and live music by the J Crew Band. Additionally, the Easter Bunny will pay a special visit for photo opportunities just in time for Easter. Free face painting will also be available for little ones, along with crafts, and a bounce house. Plus, the bar will be open for beer and wine purchases.

St. Patrick's Day Party

Saturday, March 17, 6-9 p.m. (Splash Waterpark): Nocatee residents and guests over the age of 21 are invited to celebrate this St. Patrick's Day with a party at Splash Waterpark. Enjoy lots of green beer with live music by Andrew Sapin, dancing, food trucks, games and more. Email fun@nocatee.com to RSVP.

OBITUARIES

Jerome Hollis

Jerome Brent Hollis, born Oct. 14, 1956, died and went to heaven March 5, 2018, after suffering complications from extensive pulmonary illness.

Jerome had resided in Silver Springs, Florida, since 1991, and was preceded in death by his father, Richard C. Hollis. Jerome is survived by his mother, Sue Hollis, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, and leaves brothers Rick Hollis, of Brookville, Indiana, and Neal Hollis, of Harrison, Ohio; and sisters Debra Bicknell, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Patricia Hollis, of Harrison, Ohio.

Jerome was a trained professional chef and spent many years as a restaurant setup manager for Morrisons Cafeterias. Jerome had a deep passion for art and antiques, specifically a large collection of Chinese Art, European mid-century antiques and the deepest knowledge for turn-of-the-century furniture. Jerome donated many fine pieces of art to the Lightner Museum in St. Augustine, Florida, and many more pieces of his prized collection will be brought there for everyone to enjoy.

Jerome was a most generous and kind gentleman who befriended people and loved pets, especially his Dalmatian Dotty. Jerome will be sorely missed by his family, and specifically his extended family of cousins, uncles and aunts.

No memorial services are planned at this time. The immediate family will celebrate his life in Cincinnati in late April, where his ashes will be interred. Many blessings to all.

Gail Alderson

Gail Patricia Alderson, 79, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died March 6, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Stanley Block

Stanley Howard Block, 85, died March 9, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com.

Gerard Browne

Gerard Lakin Browne, 73, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Feb. 26, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

R. Malcolm Carmichael

R. Malcolm Carmichael, retired JSO officer, 80, died Feb. 26, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Kathleen Coderre

Kathleen L. Coderre, 69, of Jacksonville, died March 7, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

John DeChant

John A. DeChant, 85, of Jacksonville, died March 5, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Nora Egan

Nora M. Egan, 96, of Jacksonville, died Feb. 25, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home &

Cremation Centre.

Samuel Ferruggio

Samuel S. Ferruggio III, 69, of Jacksonville Beach, died Feb. 25, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Justin Kennelly

Justin Tod Kennelly, 52, of Boca Raton, died March 3, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Mary Jane Kuniewicz

Mary Jane Kuniewicz, 78, of Ponte Vedra, died Feb. 23, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Christopher LePage

Christopher Robert LePage, 37, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died March 3, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Larry Little

Larry Beckett Little, 75, of Jacksonville, died Feb. 24, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Louise McCranie

Louise B. McCranie, 90, of Jacksonville Beach, died March 8, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Doris McGlynn

Doris May McGlynn, 81, of Atlantic

Beach, died March 1, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Norman Middlekauff

Norman Eugene Middlekauff, 81, died Feb. 28, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com.

Alexander Nearbin

Alexander (Alex) Lee Nearbin, 26, of Jacksonville Beach, died March 4, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Sushilaben Patel

Sushilaben Bhagubhai Patel, 89, of Jacksonville, died March 3, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Charles Richards

Charles R. Richards, 83, died March 11, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com.

Edgar Rowe

Edgar E. Rowe Jr., 70, died March 9, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com.

Louis Sherman

Louis Sherman, 95, died Feb. 27, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com.

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THE GIFT OF

Local Rotary club holds Nonprofit Day

By Jon Blauvelt

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach held Nonprofit Day on March 1, hosting leaders from two local nonprofit organizations to speak at its meeting at Marsh Landing Country Club.

Dr. Jennifer Brown, executive director of KIPP Jacksonville Schools, first explained her nonprofit's mission of preparing students from the city's educationally underserved communities with the necessary tools for success in college and life.

"We believe that demographics do not define destiny," said Brown, whose schools are tuition-free, public charters. "At KIPP, we are all committed to seeing our students get access to college and choice-filled lives."

In fact, Brown added, college begins for KIPP students on the first day of kindergarten, when they are told the year they will be entering college.

KIPP Jacksonville Schools, which is currently comprised of two elementary schools and a middle school, is part of the greater KIPP network of 209 schools in 20 states and the District of Columbia. The wait list currently has over 1,000 students, Brown noted. Visit www.kippjax.org for more information.

Mike Merrill, the founder and president of Florida Urgent Rescue, discussed F.U.R.'s goal to improve the lives of shelter and rescue animals, assist in urgent



ABOVE: Dr. Jennifer Brown, executive director of KIPP Jacksonville Schools



LEFT: Mike Merrill, founder and president of Florida Urgent Rescue

Photos by Jon Blauvelt

rescue situations and implement resources to help animals.

"Our philosophy is to help the animals that need the most help," said Merrill, whose organization has rescued over 740 animals, or 27 dogs and cats per month, over the past two years.

F.U.R.'s efforts include foster services, veterinary services and an adoption program. What sets the nonprofit apart, Merrill said, is its additional offerings. These include shelter introductions and evaluations, which allow the organization to learn more information about the shelter animals; the Save Our Strays program, which is now responsible for tracking and trapping 86 stray dogs; and F.U.R.'s urgent transport program, which moves animals in need to shelters in the northern United States. Visit www.floridaurgentrescue.com for more information.

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OF GIVING

Dietitian Kelly Schooley shares tips for heart-healthy eating Feb. 20 at the Ponte Vedra YMCA.

Photo courtesy of the Ponte Vedra YMCA



Ponte Vedra YMCA offers tips for heart-healthy eating

To address the prevalence of heart disease, the Ponte Vedra YMCA has begun offering a variety of programs and services focused on heart health nutrition. In an “Ask the Expert” session Feb. 20, registered and licensed dietitian Kelly Schooley, RDN, advised attendees to monitor their fat, fiber and sodium intake if they wish to practice heart-healthy eating.

Regarding fats, Schooley said it is best to eliminate trans fats from one’s diet, and to limit saturated fat to less than 10 percent of one’s caloric intake, or less than 20 grams

total. Instead, Schooley suggested choosing healthy fats, which include monounsaturated fats (olive and canola oil, almonds, cashews, hazelnuts and avocado) and omega 3 fatty acids (flax or chia seeds, walnuts and fish).

As for fiber, Schooley advised that the goal should be to consume at least 25 grams of soluble and insoluble fiber daily. Sodium intake, on the other hand, should be watched closely, she said, limited to less than 2,300 milligrams per day, or less than 1,500 milligrams for adults with high blood pressure.



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Kazakh women offered hope, opportunity through The Greatest Exchange program

By Samantha Logue

As the “home of the free,” America has become known around the world as a land of liberties and opportunities — many of which citizens of other countries have only dreamed of. With the help of the Greater Jacksonville community, however, one local nonprofit has taken up the task of making that list of dreamers a little shorter.

The Greatest Exchange, founded in 2014, is a cultural exchange program that enables young, college-age Kazakh women to spend their summers working as camp counselors in the Jacksonville area.

“In the summer of 2014, I brought two girls from Kazakhstan and they lived with me for 10 weeks as they worked as summer camp counselors in the Splash Water Park at Nocatee,” said Founder Kelly Ray, who spent time working in Kazakhstan as an English teacher and dance instructor. “Not only did they do an incredible job as counselors, but their lives were completely transformed. They were also able to earn enough money to cover an entire year of expenses in Kazakhstan.”

It’s now been four years since those first two women came to Ponte Vedra, and The Greatest Exchange program has expanded to include more participants and several other camps, including those of Julington Creek Plantation, Crosswater Community Church, Serenata Beach Club and Bartram Academy. Although the program has since grown into a full-fledged nonprofit, it was never Ray’s plan for that to happen. The original idea behind the program, she said,



Photo courtesy of The Greatest Exchange

The Greatest Exchange’s 2017 summer team gathers around the Kazakhstan flag.

stemmed from a simple, yet earnest desire to help the oppressed and hard-working Kazakh women she had come to know and love.

“There’s this tremendous pressure, oppression, lack of self-worth and lack of opportunity given to young women there,” she said. “I thought, ‘How much more equipped and how much more loved would they feel if they had the opportunity to come here and participate in everything that we have to offer on this side of the world, and then take all of that back to make a difference in their own communities?’”

Now, years later, many of the program’s

former participants seem to be doing just that.

“Every single one of our girls has graduated from college and is now employed,” Ray said. “And not only are they employed, but they’re actually using their English skills in jobs that they otherwise wouldn’t have been eligible for, had they not participated in this program. We have girls that said they never knew how to smile. We’ve seen them grow in confidence, we’ve seen them grow in opportunities and we’ve really seen them grow in love and hope as well.”

The program’s participants aren’t the only people to have benefited from The

Greatest Exchange either, as many of their host families have come to view the women as part of the family.

“While The Greatest Exchange program lasted only through the summer, the experience is long-lasting,” said Sarah Hydrick, a host mother with the program. “The connection with our new daughter and the community of supporters we are now a part of grew stronger even after the summer was over, and we are so looking forward to hosting again this year.”

For Gulassem, a 2016 participant whose last name has been omitted for her safety, the opportunities afforded to her through the program were invaluable.

“It was literally the best summer in my life,” she said. “My favorite part about the whole program is that (it gives) such big opportunities to Kazakh girls and make their hearts bigger and give the feeling that every dream is real. I want everybody in The Greatest Exchange to understand what great things they do. They are literally changing the world, making a few little hearts happy.”

While there are countless opportunities that The Greatest Exchange program has to offer these young women, for Ray, what matters most is the people that they become in the process.

“What we want the girls to believe is that it’s not about their address, it’s about who they are as a person,” she said. “We just want them to be able to take anything that they’ve learned and to make a difference in their own culture.”

For more information about the Greatest Exchange, visit www.greatestexchange.org.

St. Johns Volunteers connects locals to volunteer opportunities through personal online profiles

By Benjamin Naim

A local resource and civic matchmaking service, St. Johns Volunteers offers personalized nonprofit volunteer opportunities and a chance for locals to enrich the quality of life in St. Johns County.

Executive Director Carol Saviak explained that the nonprofit matches individuals with local agencies through personal volunteer profiles and an online matchmaking system. In addition to the St. Johns Volunteers website, individuals can visit a Training & Resource Center for a volunteer-interest consultation.

“Both our website and the services offered at the physical volunteer center promote an array of nonprofit opportunities that range from special event volunteer opportunities that are one-time or short-term to longer-term ongoing opportunities,” said Saviak. “Examples could include, the Counsel on Aging’s Meals on Wheels program specifically for Ponte Vedra, which is an ongoing opportunity.”

Saviak noted that there are plenty of opportunities in St. Johns County, and almost every other nonprofit in the area

hosts fundraisers and public outreach events for potential volunteers.

Interested volunteers can get connected online through the nonprofit’s online profile service, which will generate personalized opportunities in the area.

“We laughingly will share that it works in a similar nature to eharmony or match.com, in that it asks you to create an online volunteer profile,” Saviak said. “When you do that, it provides a recommended set of matches based on the skills and interests that you entered.”

Individuals who register a profile can see a list of “recommended matches” that align with their interests before applying for various roles. To be included in the St. Johns Volunteers database, Saviak noted that organizations must be partnered with the nonprofit and be registered as a 501 (c) (3).

Saviak said volunteering can benefit working professionals by allowing them to network, and the nonprofit can help students looking to bolster their resumes.

“Students have an opportunity to demonstrate their interest in being good citizens,” she said. “They can build



Photo by Tammy Harrow

Carol Saviak (left) along with volunteer Padma Sikaria (right) talk with prospective volunteer Marth Welty (bottom right) about getting connected with St. Francis House to serve as a reading tutor and assistant in the kitchen.

up the credits they need of community service hours for qualifying scholarships, such as Florida Bright Futures scholarship.”

Additionally, the executive director said St. Johns Volunteers can offer students hands-on work experience in a variety of fields.

For more information on St. Johns Volunteers, visit www.StJohnsVolunteers.org or visit the Resource & Training Center at 1 News Place, Suite A in St. Augustine.

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This European-inspired estate home in Marsh Landing's Harbour Island is approximately 7,391 square feet on almost 1.5 acres with 6 bedrooms and 8 baths. The resort-style outdoor living spaces include an infinity pool and spectacular water views. **MLS# 855049 / \$2,490,000**

414 ROYAL TERN RD. S



Custom-built North Island masterpiece in Marsh Landing offering 5 bedrooms, 6 baths and over 6,000 square feet. You'll love the gorgeous views of the marsh, water and resort-style pool from every room. **MLS# 905244 / \$1,750,000**

467 ROYAL TERN RD. S



This private retreat in North Island at Marsh Landing has 3 acres of pristine land, 4 bedrooms and 4.5 baths. The unparalleled quality construction offers a gourmet kitchen, lanai and elevator. **MLS# 881567 / \$2,198,000**

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140 INDIAN COVE LN.



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128 CARRIAGE LAMP WAY



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101 LANTERN WICK PL.



Stately brick beauty in Marsh Landing featuring 4 BD & 4 BA with completely renovated kitchen & bathroom. This beautiful lot backs up to a tidal creek and comes with a private dock. **MLS# TBA / \$975,000**



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ABOVE: Ayla's Acres Executive Director Fran Charlson (left) poses for a photo with M*A*S*H star Loretta Swit at Casino Night on the Greens.

RIGHT: Attendees play cards at the gala. Photos by Benjamin Naim



Ayla's Acres hosts gala at TPC Sawgrass featuring M*A*S*H star Loretta Swit

By Benjamin Naim

Ayla's Acres No-Kill Animal Rescue hosted its third annual Casino Night on the Greens gala – featuring M*A*S*H actress Loretta Swit – on Saturday, March 10 at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Casino Night attendees enjoyed the slot machines and played Texas Hold 'Em poker, blackjack, roulette and craps throughout the evening. The event also featured quick-fire raffles, heavy hors d'oeuvres, dancing, desserts, a full bar and live music provided by Little Jake & The Soul Searchers. "Funny Money" winnings went toward raffle tickets to win prize items donated by local businesses.

In addition to hosting the event, Swit signed copies of her new book "SWIT-HEART: The Watercolour Artistry & Animal Activism of Loretta Swit."

A "Betty White Award" winner for commendable humanitarian efforts, Swit is an actress, artist and animal activist best known for her character roles on stage and television. She is an honorary board member of Ayla's Acres, a St. Augustine-based nonprofit supporting adoption, spay and neuter and the responsible care of animals. The organization maintains a 45-acre sanctuary for "unadoptable" animals to live out their lives in peace.

For more information on Ayla's Acres, visit www.aylasacres.org.

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Members of the George W. Bush Institute's Team 43 Sports paint buildings alongside the warriors of the K9s for Warriors program at Camp K9 on March 9.

Photo by Samantha Logue

K9s For Warriors

Continued from 5

One Team 43 Sports warrior on site for the event was Spencer Milo, a vet-

eran who was wounded both in Iraq and Afghanistan. One of several warriors featured in former President George W. Bush's book, "Portraits of Courage," Milo said that his personal experience with Team 43 Sports and similar programs inspired him to dedicate his life to helping other veterans with the crossover into civilian life.

"From day one in the military, you're taught how to be a leader, and that's something that a lot of folks don't get right off the bat," he said. "So, I think one of the important parts about the transition itself is ensuring that these military members are able to continue being the servant leaders that they are. They can continue leading in the community; we can give them those opportunities to get back in there and be an active member, which is really important."

Billy Paul, another member of Team 43 Sports, added that it's not just the veterans they're trying to help.

"We're trying to get everybody involved, so they understand what a soldier and family members are dealing with as they come back from combat. ... (K9s For Warriors) is a great organization, and I'm glad we could come down here and help them in any way we can," said Paul.

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How to connect with local people with intellectual and developmental differences



By Susan Datz Edelman

Special to the Recorder

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and now is the perfect time to make a lasting connection to someone in our community

who has an intellectual and developmental difference (IDD) like Down syndrome or autism spectrum disorder. (Intellectual and developmental disabilities are defined as a group of disabilities that begin at birth or in childhood that can affect a person's intellectual, physical and emotional development.)

People with IDDs can form strong personal connections just like anyone else, but many people feel uncomfortable or don't know how to approach them. That's why Delores Barr Weaver, through

her fund at The Community Foundation, collaborated with four local nonprofits to launch Connectable, a community-wide awareness campaign that encourages people to become connectable to those with IDDs in whatever way they can – whether through volunteering, employment or just by learning more.

The campaign also encourages people to replace words like “disabled” with “differences” to highlight the abilities of people with IDDs.

If you're ready to connect with people with IDDs but aren't sure how, here are a few tips for starting a conversation.

■ **Treat them like you would any other friend or acquaintance.** People with IDDs are individuals with their own opinions, passions and thoughts. Approaching someone with an IDD for the first time is just like other first meetings. Introduce yourself, ask questions, listen and share your thoughts. Unless you know specifics about them, there's no need to behave differently.

■ **Don't speak slower or change your communication style unless they ask.**

Many people with IDDs can understand regular speech, so slowing down or modifying how you talk can be condescending to them. Talk at your normal speed and volume, and they will let you know if you need to change. In addition, make sure to give them time to express themselves at their own pace. Some people with IDDs may stammer or get frustrated, but don't take it personally. Stay calm and enjoy the conversation.

■ **Speak directly to people with IDDs, not to other people with them.**

Most people with IDDs prefer to be directly addressed, even if they seem quiet or withdrawn. A frustrating, if common, experience for people with IDDs is when people hold entire conversations about them as if they are not there.

It's always a great feeling to establish a genuine connection with someone, so never be afraid to have a friendly conversation with someone with an IDD.

You can take the next steps in becoming connectable by taking the pledge at ConnectableJax.com or by getting involved with one of our area nonprofits that provide a positive system of care for those with IDDs.

The nonprofits that contributed their time and expertise to launching Connectable include The Arc Jacksonville, North Florida School of Special Education, Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville and Special Olympics Florida, but there are many others from which you can choose.

People with IDDs are an important part of Northeast Florida, and we all benefit when we recognize the many ways they are able to contribute to our lives both as individuals and as a community.

Susan Datz Edelman is the vice president of strategic communications at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. For more information about the Connectable campaign, visit ConnectableJax.com.

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ACROSS

- Necklace lock
- Put together
- "To ____ and to hold"
- Hindu sage
- Hula dancer's ornament
- *Morning show
- Front wheels alignment
- St. crossroad
- Excessively fat
- *Pablo Escobar's story
- *"Game of ____"
- Once around
- Russian autocrat
- "Four score and seven years ____"
- Respiratory rattling
- Sage's forte
- Uh-uh
- Iranian money
- Deep skin layer
- "Just ____"
- Affirmatives
- Shark's provision
- Kidney-related
- *Use QVC
- Certain Scandinavian
- Pupil protector
- Dealing with a problem
- Acronym on Pinterest
- City sound
- Not a friend

- *"The Mindy ____" or "____ Runway"
- *Handmaid of Gilead
- Painting support
- Greedy one
- *"You're ____!"
- Small streams
- Between E and NE
- Food safety threat
- *"American ____"
- Poor man's caviar
- Relieves

DOWN

- Tube in old TV
- ____ share
- On a cruise, e.g.
- Bake, as in eggs
- Crab's grabber
- "Sad to say..."
- *Aziz Ansari in "Master of None"
- South Beach and such
- Great Depression drifter
- Port in Yemen
- Flower holder
- Windows to the soul?
- Full of tribulations
- Estrogen producer
- *"Hee ____," (started in '60s)
- "English Afternoon" stop
- *Johnson of "Blackish"

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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.

- Soft and sticky
- Speak one's mind
- *"Big Little ____"
- Narcissist's love
- Apple alternative
- Yemeni neighbor
- *a.k.a. Manuel Alberto Javier Alejandro Delgado
- Et alibi
- *J.B. Smoove in "Curb Your Enthusiasm"
- Attractiveness in appearance
- Type of false news, pl.
- Holiday mo.
- English treat
- Former anesthetic
- *"Saving Hope" actress Durance
- *She played Roz on "Frasier"
- Surprise at a speakeasy
- Nobel Peace Prize capital
- Congee
- Type of molding
- Aphrodite's son
- Expunge
- Lennon's partner
- Bad-mouth

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LOUDON WAINWRIGHT III
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MARCH 30

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TOMMY EMMANUEL
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APRIL 6 & 7

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APRIL 8

AMANDA SHIRES AND HER BAND
APRIL 13

THE WAILERS
W/ ZANDER
APRIL 14

DR. DOG
W/ KYLE CRAFT
APRIL 15

THE LONE BELLOW
APRIL 16

ONE NIGHT OF QUEEN
PERFORMED BY
GARY MULLEN & THE WORKS
APRIL 17

AN EVENING WITH
BRUCE COCKBURN
APRIL 19

OLD 97's
W/ JAIME WYATT
APRIL 22

10,000 MANIACS
APRIL 25

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W/ SINBAD
MAY 1

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MAY 4

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MAY 6

THE PAUL THORN BAND
MAY 12

AN EVENING WITH
THE MARC COHN TRIO
MAY 13

BAHAMAS
MAY 14

OH WONDER
W/ ASTRONOMYY
MAY 15

BUCKETHEAD
MAY 16

CHAD PRATHER
MAY 18

STEVE EARLE & THE DUKES
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MAY 19

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MAY 27

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Business Weekly

PAGE 23

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018

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No easy answers about whether to submit to a breathalyzer test

Page 26



People hit from Power Tee platforms at the driving range at Bogeys Sports Park in Richmond, Virginia.

Ponte Vedra-based Power Tee enjoying growth spurt

Leaders of the Ponte Vedra-based company Power Tee said the business is growing exponentially in the wake of support from local residents Jim and Mike Furyk, marketing agency On Ideas and a small group of local investors.

Installations are under way, the company said, of its automated golf ball-teeing system at Wedges and Woods in Augusta, Georgia, Westminster Island Green in Maryland, Oasis Golf Club in Mesquite, Nevada, Valley Golf Center in Connecticut and 62 machines at the McGolf Driving Range in Boston.

According to the company, interest has been fueled by the 30 percent average increase in revenue that has been experienced at the last three case-study installations, which comprise Bogeys Sports Park in Virginia, Royal Oak in Detroit and Deer Creek in Florida.

Company leaders said the McGolf installation moves the mantle of the largest Power Tee installation from the busiest range in Europe (Beverly Park in London with 58 machines) to the U.S. Power Tee said it helped the London mega-range grow from 10 million balls per year to 15 million and has been present at the facility for more than 10 years. McGolf is now looking forward to 2018 being its busiest year since construction in 1980.

In addition to public ranges, Power Tee said its systems are



Photos courtesy of Power Tee

PGA Tour player Jason Dufner with his Power Tee

now being widely adopted at clubs and courses wishing to align themselves with top European destinations such as St. Andrews, The Belfry, Wentworth Club, Celtic Manor and 2018 Ryder Cup destination, Le Golf National.

For more information on Power Tee, go to www.powertee.com.

Barber returns to Pivot CPAs

Pivot CPAs Managing Partner Peter Reynolds recently announced the appointment of Jacksonville native Matt Barber as tax manager. This marks a return for Barber to the Jacksonville area and to the firm where he began his career.

Prior to rejoining Pivot, Barber worked in New York City with CitrinCooperman, a large national firm, where he specialized in the consulting and compliance of consolidated corporations, partnerships and their tax provisions. He has extensive experience working with business owners towards solutions for their tax planning and compliance needs. Before working with CitrinCooperman, Barber began his passion in accounting with Pivot CPAs, then known as The Griggs Group, CPAs.

Barber earned his Bachelor of Science in accounting from the University of South Florida and a Master of Accountancy in taxation from the University of North Florida. He is also a member of the New York State Society of CPAs. He has been involved in community service groups and projects in both New York and Florida. He attributes his collaborative attitude to the training he received while in the U.S. Marines.

"I look forward to becoming part of the business community and the nonprofit community," Barber said. "New York provided me with great opportunities and challenges, but there really is no place like North Florida. I'm glad to be back."

Wendy Ranson, Pivot tax partner and head of human resources, said Barber is a great fit for the business' brand.

"He believes in providing unparalleled customer service, while continuously strengthening the relationship with the clients he serves," said Ranson. "The knowledge he gained working in a large firm in New York will serve him and the company well. We are thrilled to have him back."



Matt Barber

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

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Just say no? Or should I blow? It's not that simple ...



L. Lee Lockett
Guest Columnist

By L. Lee Lockett
Special to the Recorder

Let me be clear: No attorney can ever tell you that you should “always blow,” or “always say no,” if you are ever invited to take a breathalyzer test. Too much is involved in this

very critical decision, and every case is as unique as one's fingerprints. So, how do I handle this question that has been asked of me approximately 17,000 times?

First, I have to explain that anything I say can never be deemed legal advice. What lawyers should do in these situations is stick to what the law says, or the different types of legal interpretations that may be applied to a given set of facts. So, with that in mind, let's take a look at how our DUI laws are written with respect to breath and

blood tests.

In Florida, and in most states, the type of test requested has its own set of laws and procedures. Let's start with breath testing. When you signed for your license, you agreed that you would provide a breath sample to an officer if requested after being lawfully arrested. This law is known as the “Implied Consent” law. Although some lawyers say that there is a “right” to refuse the test, it's probably more accurately referred to as an “option” to refuse.

The catch is that if you refuse the test, your license will be suspended for 12 months for a first refusal, but that goes up to 18 months if there is a prior refusal on the person's record. A temporary hardship license can be obtained in many cases. A civil hearing, referred to as a formal review hearing, can be set up to allow the person or his/her attorney to challenge that suspension.

What most people aren't told, however, is that if you do blow and you blow over

the limit, your license will be suspended just the same, albeit for a shorter period of time. For those who blow over, their suspension can be challenged, as well, at a formal review hearing. These proceedings are civil and are not a part of the separate criminal prosecution that occurs in the criminal courts.

In Florida, if you refuse the test and have a prior refusal, you could also be charged with an additional criminal count of what they call “criminal refusal.” This is why attorneys cannot haphazardly — in a few sentences — tell someone that they should either blow or not. The truth is, many people refuse the breath test for a multitude of different reasons. Some question the machine's reliability. Some simply have a firmly rooted distrust for law enforcement. Others have been told to never take the test. Still, others refuse because they mistakenly believe they can call an attorney right there on the spot and seek real time advice.

Until very recently, the consequences for

refusing a blood test were similar to breath cases. However, just last year the United States Supreme Court, in a landmark case known in legal circles as “Birchfield,” ruled that a warrant for blood must be obtained instead of using the Implied Consent laws to obtain a blood sample. Blood draws, the court reasoned, is a more intrusive procedure and invokes more privacy interests than obtaining a sample of one's breath. As a result, one can argue now that there is a “right” to refuse a blood test, unlike a breath test.

So, as you can see, the decision to submit to such testing is a difficult one. Ideally, you'd be able to call an attorney on the spot, but reality tends to eliminate that option. Now, if I could only regurgitate this information Saturday when I'm sure this topic will surface. It's St. Patrick's Day, so be safe!

Lee Lockett, of LockettLaw, is a Jacksonville DUI and criminal defense attorney.



Photo by Julie Ryan Photography

Amy Pope-Wells delivers the keynote address at the Women Business Owners (WBO) of North Florida's signature event last week at UNF.

Pope-Wells stresses importance of grit and grace at WBO signature event

Jacksonville business owner and community leader Amy Pope-Wells delivered the keynote address at the Women Business Owners (WBO) of North Florida's signature event last week at the University of North Florida.

The title of the event was “G.R.I.T.,” which stands for “Growth, Resilience, Integrity, Tenacity,” based on the book “Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance,” by Angela Duckworth.

“We are not currently where we are at based on one giant leap,” said Pope-Wells at the March 8 event. “It's life's challeng-

es, twists, opportunities and excitement that bring us to where we are today.

“What I know without exception is success requires grit and determination with a full understanding that hard work is required to get and stay there,” she added.

Pope-Wells is the owner of a LINK Staffing franchise in Jacksonville, and was recently appointed by President Donald Trump to a committee that supports the Canada-United States Council for Advancement of Women Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders. She was part of a

select group of women business owners to meet with Trump, his daughter and advisor Ivanka Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and other leaders to discuss issues affecting women in business.

In addition to grit, Pope-Wells discussed grace.

“Each day is a chance for you to mentor or to get mentored with each interaction, so make the most of them,” she said. “How do you know which moments are the critical ones? The simple answer is you don't, so you must make the most out of every interaction.”

Attorney Jeffery M. Wilkins joins Jacksonville-area firm of Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman

Jeffery M. Wilkins has joined Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP as counsel in the firm's Jacksonville-area office.

Wilkins focuses his practice on assisting companies with landlord and tenant matters, including evictions, lease drafting, fair housing compliance and property management best practices.

To maximize efficiency and value for clients, Wilkins has developed proprietary software that clients can access online 24 hours a day to submit evictions, leases and legal notices for immediate processing. He also assists clients with civil and commercial litigation matters with an emphasis on real estate and property management disputes.

Wilkins received his J.D. from Stetson University College of Law and his B.A. from University of Florida.



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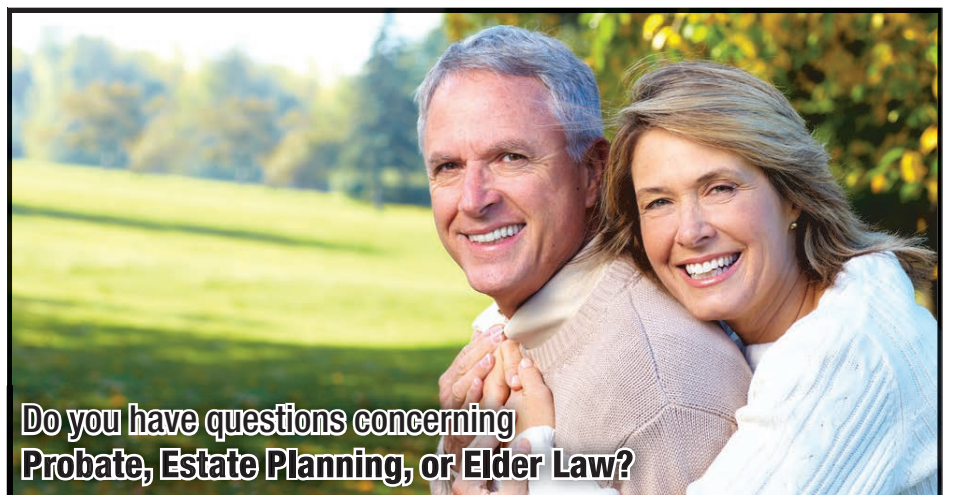
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Sports

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018 • PAGE 28



PVHS baseball earns wins over Orange Park, Episcopal

Page 30

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Planet Swim impresses at FLAGS Spring Championship

Planet Swim, located in Ponte Vedra Beach, recently sent a team of 15 swimmers ages 9-14 to Orlando for the Florida Age Group Swimming (FLAGS) Spring Championship, and ultimately brought home three top finishes, including the team's first ever state champion.

Mary Agnes Smith placed first in the 50-yard butterfly and second in the 100-yard butterfly. Ann Wohlgemuth placed third in the 50-yard backstroke.

Only five swimmers from Planet Swim had qualifying times to compete at the FLAGS Spring Championship last year. This year, the team, which is ranked 20th in Florida and third in Northeast Florida, brought home a total of seven top eight finishes and eight top 16 finishes. With 14 girls making up the championship team, Planet Swim ranks 14th in the state for female swimmers. Swimmers on the team attend PVPV-Rawlins Elementary,

Ocean Palms Elementary, Landrum Middle, Fletcher High, Beaches Chapel, Bolles and Palmer Catholic Academy schools.

"During FLAGS, our team accomplished many goals that we have been dreaming about for the past nine years," said Gus Chagas, director of the swim team at Planet Swim. "Planet Swim was once a swim school of only 40 swimmers but has now become a program of more than 400 swimmers between the swim school and the swim team programs. We could not be prouder of what our swimmers have accomplished thus far."

Planet Swim serves a wide range of Northeast Florida's aquatic community by providing programs including swim school, swim team, masters team and open swim.

Next up for Planet Swim is the Area 1 & 4 championships at Bolles and Florida Sectionals in Plantation for qualifying team members.

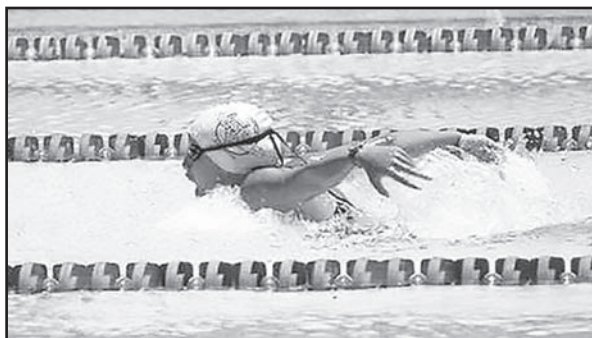


ABOVE: The Planet Swim Team gathers at the FLAGS Spring Championship in Orlando.

RIGHT: Mary Agnes Smith swims for her gold in the 50-yard butterfly.

Photos courtesy of Gustavo Chagas

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NEASE GIRLS LACROSSE ROUTS MENENDEZ 16-2



ABOVE: Nease's Erin Cotter (2) controls the ball during the Panthers' 16-2 win over Menendez on Tuesday, March 6.

LEFT: Nease's Shannon Cotter (7) fights a Menendez player for control of the ball.

Photos by Jeff Heinemann/theimagecaddy.com

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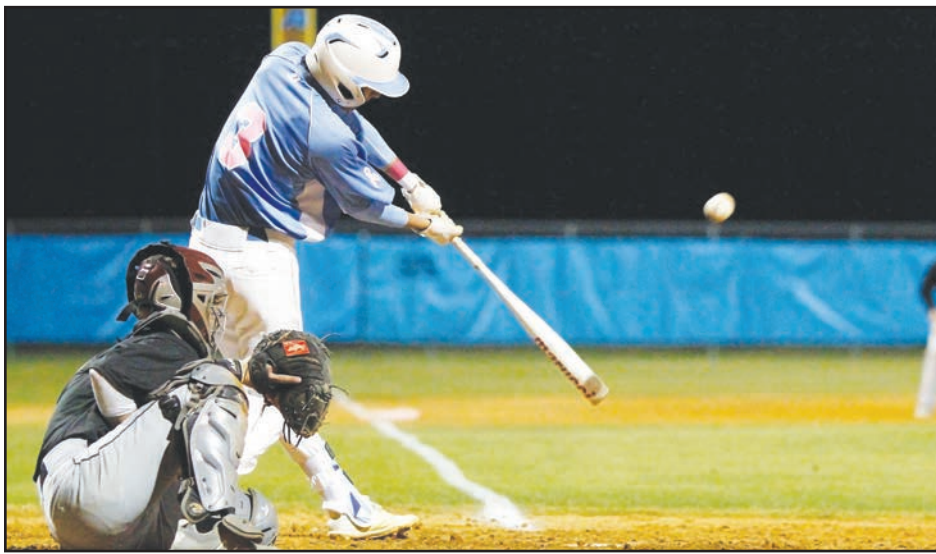
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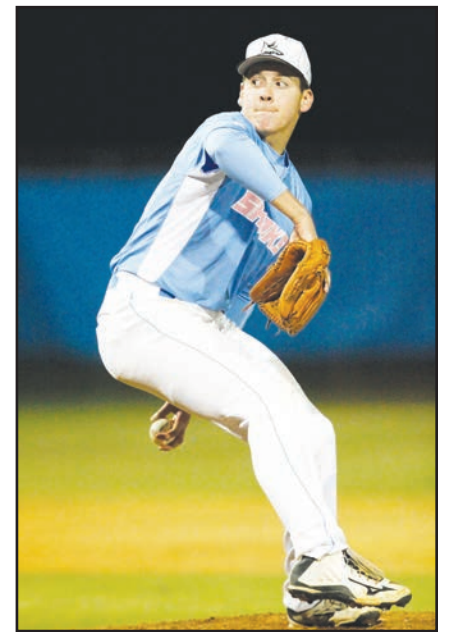


Ponte Vedra's Alex Ortiz (3) lines a pitch to right against Episcopal.

Sharks top Orange Park and Episcopal

The Ponte Vedra Sharks baseball team picked up a pair of victories last Thursday and Friday evening at the Shark Tank, rallying to edge Orange Park 8-6 and then stopping Episcopal in a six-inning 10-0 mercy win.

Luke Isaacs picked up the win against Orange Park, and Tony Roca was the winner against Episcopal. Sebastian Rothman had four RBIs in the two games, while Porter Jordheim drove in two against Episcopal.



ABOVE: Shark pitcher Tony Roca delivers a pitch against Episcopal.

LEFT: The Sharks' Tommy Barnhorst (17) beats the throw to the plate against Orange Park.

Photos by Jerry and Chris Norton

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