

Ponte Vedra Recorder



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MOVING ON UP



Cub Scouts Pack 277 celebrated a number of pack advancements and other scout achievements at its annual Blue and Gold Banquet on March 9. *Read page 25 for more information.*

Photo by Isabella Dunn

All About Pets

Pages 10-11



Business Weekly

featuring Local Real Estate Spotlight

Pages 14-22

Sports

Pages 28,30



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Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. E-mail submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach**. Submissions may be published in the paper, on our website or on our social media platforms.

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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.

Five readers correctly identified last week's photo as the Trompe L'oeil Salon sign. The winner of the random drawing was **Tena Schlingmann**. Congratulations, Tena – you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



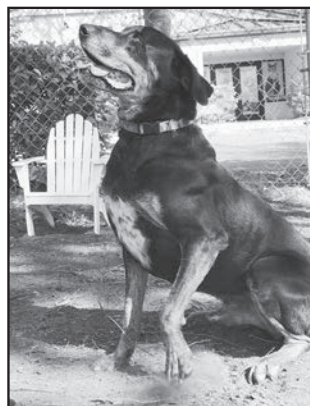
ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Gabby, and I am a 9-year-old female cat who was brought to the pet center by my owners.



I'm a friendly and loving pet who just wants a home of my own. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #42327



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

C	L	A	S	P	A	D	D	H	A	V	E	
R	I	S	H	I	L	E	I	T	O	D	A	Y
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4	3	2	5	7	6	1	9	8
7	1	4	8	6	9	3	5	2
3	2	8	7	4	5	9	1	6
5	9	6	1	3	2	8	4	7

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



Susan Griffin
Publisher
susan@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3938

Jon Blauvelt
Editor
jonb@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3939

Samantha Logue
Reporter
samantha@opcfla.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3945

Paris Moulden
Page designer/Reporter
paris@opcfla.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3943

Benjamin Naim
Reporter
ben@opcfla.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3941

Ed Johnson
Senior Account Executive
ed@opcfla.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3940

Kristin Flanagan
Account Executive
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3950

Suzanne Kirby
Account Executive
Suzanne@opcfla.com

April Snyder
Sales Assistant
april@opcfla.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3937

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PTO BOARD MEMBERS SELECTED FOR PALM VALLEY ACADEMY



Pictured from left to right are the recently selected PTO board members for Palm Valley Academy, the new K-8 school in Nocatee slated to open for the 2018-2019 school year. They are **Stacy Bingham, corresponding secretary; Kim McGowan, co-vice president, upper school; Stephanie DeVincentis, co-vice president, upper school; Emily Morgalis, co-vice president, lower school; Matthew Underwood, co-president; Jill DAmato, co-president; Meredith Atkins, co-vice president, lower school; Jillian Schmidli, co-treasurer; Purvi Sanghvi, co-treasurer; and Pauline Sevigny, re-counting secretary (not pictured).** Upcoming dates for kindergarten registration for the 2018-2019 school year are April 4 and 11 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Nease High School.

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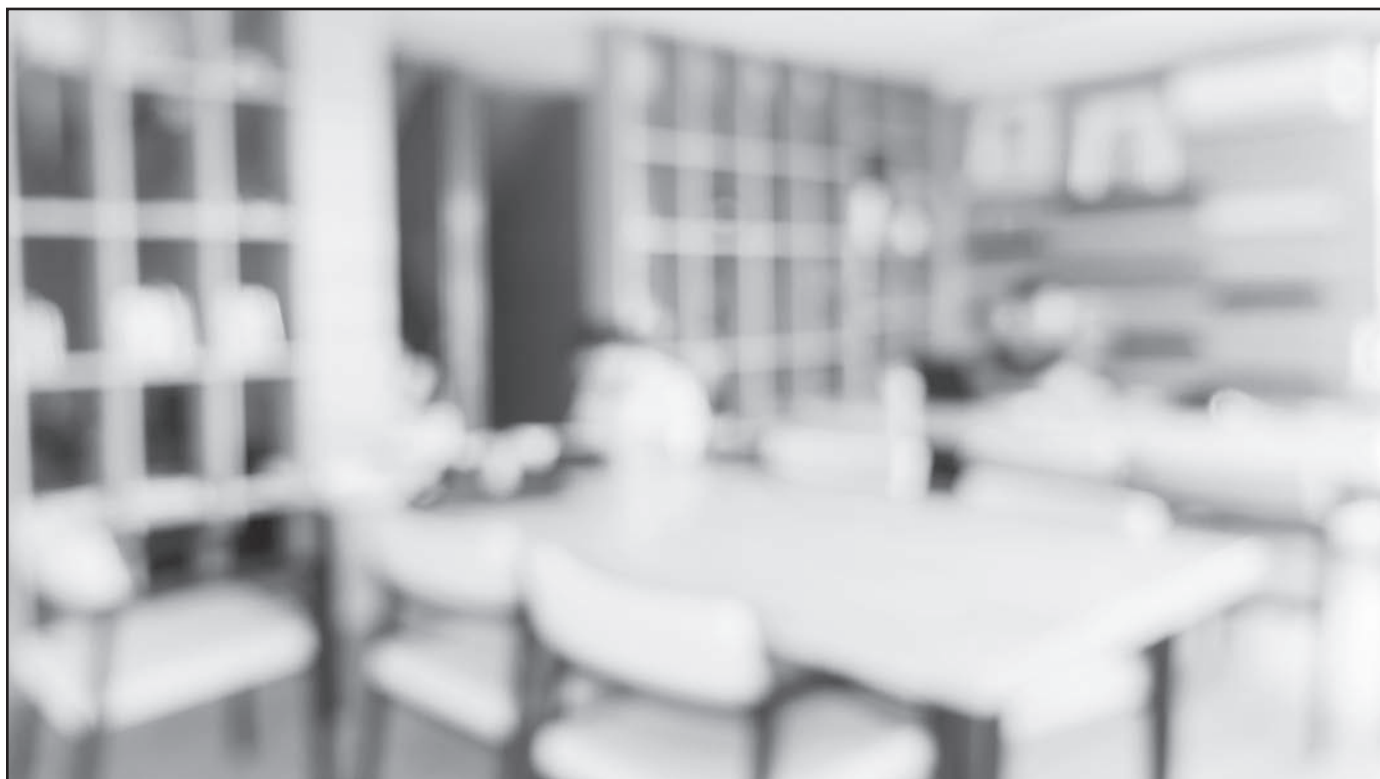


Photo created by Tirachard/Freepik.com

High school students from across the country participated in a national student "walkout" on March 14 to protest gun violence in schools.

PVHS student claims school stifled political speech on gun control

By Benjamin Naim

A Ponte Vedra High School senior is claiming the school stifled his political speech on gun control by turning his planned walkout last week into a support forum, while faculty is saying the school simply wanted to remain apolitical and promote a message of unity.

Nick Famularo told the Recorder that students had organized a walkout to join the #Enough national student walkout for gun control on March 14 at 10 a.m., but the protest turned into a politically-benign event instead.

"We were aiming to create this event and get around 200 students in the courtyard from 10 to 10:17 a.m.," he said, "to not only honor the people who lost their lives in Parkland but also to demand that Congress pass some kind of gun legislation to protect our schools."

After approaching administrators to get their approval, Famularo said school officials organized their own event on the same day called a "support forum" that was "wiped clean of political messaging."

"We were not allowed to bring any politically-charged signs or make any form of political statement," he said. "Instead, it was only to honor the victims and not to demand change or anything like that." (Discussions the Recorder had with other students confirmed this to be true.)

Although Famularo said the school altered his intended walkout, his principal noted that he wasn't aware of the student's original idea. According to Ponte Vedra principal Fred Oberkehr, the school informed other students that

administrators wanted to stay away from politics.

"I sent out an email to the parents," Oberkehr noted, "I sent an email out to the teachers, and I sent out a communication to all the students clearly stating that the event we were going to hold here on the Ponte Vedra High School campus would not be political."

Famularo asserted that removing political messaging from the event was "extremely discouraging."

"In essence, they did stifle our political voices and told us we weren't allowed to bring that message to the forum," the student said. "They didn't call it a 'walkout' anymore because they said instead of us walking out of class, it was more of them walking with us. In my opinion, it was kind of a way to avoid conflict but at the same time they're stifling our voices."

The Ponte Vedra senior did say he appreciated the opportunity to honor the Parkland victims, which was part of his original plan for the walkout.

"Don't get us wrong," he said, "[the event] did line up with half of our original intentions, which was to honor the victims and mourn the losses but at the same time it was meant to demand change and discuss gun control. ... It went from a student-organized and student-led event to something crafted by the administration."

According to Famularo, administrators said they would remove any politically-charged signs relating to gun legislation from the March 14 event, but students were allowed to wear orange to show unity for gun control.

The student said he wanted to honor

the Parkland victims in the first half of his planned walkout, then allow student speakers to share their political perspective on gun legislation and urge their peers to contact their representatives.

Oberkehr said students are "free and entitled" to express themselves politically in their personal lives and in other avenues, but last week's forum, however, was not the right time or place for divisive political issues.

"A school is not a place to have political debates on this particular topic, not on that particular day in my humble opinion," he said. "The most important thing and I think the greatest thing we can do as educators is share a message that we need to be looking out for one another."

Oberkehr added that there are plenty of other forums and places for students to share their political views, such as Washington D.C. and Tallahassee.

According to the principal, students appreciated the forum and "thought the day was a good day." Additionally, Oberkehr noted that he hadn't received any negative feedback "until now" on anything related to last week's event.

Furthermore, Oberkehr said his students were "terrific" at the event, and he received positive feedback from attendees.

"All in all, it was the right message, and it was the message that needed to be sent," he said. "Not a message of division about how one person may feel about whatever political message it was that he wanted to share. ... The purpose of that day in our opinion was not to engage in a political conversation, discussion or position."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Clearly, there has been a lot of talk in the news about school safety, specifically regarding the shooting that occurred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

Democrats are proposing the idea of implementing stricter gun laws to stop potential shooters from obtaining guns. Republicans are opposing this proposition, making clear that they do not want to see a change to gun rights as they are now. The call for a solution among right-wingers has led to the idea of allowing teachers to carry firearms in school.

As a student of Ponte Vedra High School, I am not opposed to this solution, but it has become clear to me that many people do not feel safe about teachers carrying firearms. They bring up the issue of hostile teachers, and the possibility of them using their guns inappropriately. I would like to propose a solution to cater to both sides of the argument.

I firmly believe that teachers should be able to take this position of responsibility voluntarily; carrying a firearm should not be a part of an educator's job description.

The system I am proposing operates as follows:

First, every teacher that wants to opt in should receive adequate firearm training (including safety and operation). The NRA would most likely be happy to provide this training to teachers given that they are currently under heavy fire from Democrats.

In every classroom, there should be a gun safe. These safes will have two levels of security. Unlocking the safe will require a passcode known by only faculty that have opted in, and approval of access from the centralized system. In the event of an active shooter emergency, a lockdown is initiated by administration. As a part of the lockdown's commencement, a signal will be sent to the safes allowing them to be unlocked by the teachers.

This system takes away the possibility of having a hostile teacher use his/her gun to become a threat to others on campus. It also allows them to have access to their gun when they truly need it, satisfying the call from many for teachers to be allowed to carry their own firearm.

Everyone cares about the tragedy of the situation, and it is unfortunate that we have let it divide us. People have forgotten about the core of the argument, and instead regressed into the rhetoric of their respective side. As the push to implement solutions to this paramount issue continues, I can only hope that this suggestion does not merely add noise to the conversation, but promotes cooperation and agreement from people on both sides of the aisle.

Blake Garwood

Ponte Vedra High School junior

SJSO places emphasis on school safety following Parkland shooting

By Benjamin Naim

Chuck Mulligan, the community affairs bureau commander for the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office (SJSO), said the bureau has an intensified focus on the safety of St. Johns County students following the Parkland shooting in February.

This article is part of a series on St. Johns County's response to last month's shooting that took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

"We always take our school safety very seriously at the sheriff's office," Mulligan said. "We knew that anxiety would be high that day and in the following days. Immediately, we

pulled resources throughout the sheriff's office, and we had a deputy at every school the following day and for a short time after that."

Mulligan explained that the deputies were assigned to St. Johns County schools to ensure a copycat wouldn't replicate the Parkland shooting. Placing armed personnel inside the schools was a short-term response, Mulligan said, because long-term assignments would be difficult considering the office's other responsibilities and lack of additional manpower.

In the days following Parkland, Mul-



Recorder file photo

ligan said a statewide conversation occurred on how to distribute funds to counties within the state. Citing legislation recently passed by the Florida House on mandating additional funds for armed school officers and mental health services, Mulligan said he wasn't sure how additional funds will be distributed across Florida and how the new law will be implemented.

"We're not exactly sure how much money will be coming from the state," he said. "That is still being planned as of

last week as to how much money is being disseminated into what county and how much each county is going to get based on whatever formula the state uses. We can tell you on the short term that we will be definitely working with the district to determine what they wish to happen in the school system and what they believe it should look like."

Mulligan also said the sheriff's office is working with other agencies to review protocols and conduct an active shooter incident roundtable. According to the

community affairs bureau commander, SJSO held a private meeting with other government agencies in response to Parkland where they exchanged ideas.

"There is a committee that has been formed between the sheriff's office and other law enforcement agencies," he said. "We will be discussing the law that has been passed and the moneys that will be made available. There may not be enough funding to implement every strategy that's been laid out, so we have to look at all that — and we're not there yet in that regard."

Creekside High School safety training

Creekside High School will be hosting a law enforcement training session on Thursday, March 29, that will place deputies in a realistic active shooter scenario. According to Mulligan, members of the school district will be there to observe the session and get a first-hand look at how officers would respond in a crisis.

"There will be sheriff's office training while the school is out for spring break," he said. "This was scheduled before Parkland; it was scheduled months and months ago. This wasn't in response to Parkland, this was going to happen one way or another."

Mulligan said the training session occurs annually and officials pick a new venue each year.

Forson: 'I am not in support of teachers carrying weapons'

SJCSD superintendent addresses school safety at local Rotary club

By Jon Blauvelt

St. Johns County School District (SJCSD) Superintendent Tim Forson told the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach last week that he does not support arming teachers in the wake of the Parkland shooting.

"I am not in support of teachers carrying weapons," said Forson at the club's March 15 meeting at Marsh Landing Country Club. "That wasn't part of the contract—the written contract, the social contract, the emotional contract — for an educator."

What the superintendent does support is the addition of a professional to every school campus who can be responsive to a threat.

Forson told the local Rotarians that

there will be a commitment to such a safety effort by next school year, noting that he and Sheriff David Shoar have developed a joint committee to work through the matter. Forson is expecting funds from the state to support these efforts.

"I think the answer is having someone at every campus who can be responsive and has the understanding, wherewithal, training and ability to be reactive," said the superintendent. "It [a shooting] typically happens in three to five minutes. It's gotta be a single focus and someone who responds to that piece of it."

Forson told the Rotary club that he is also expecting funds from the state to help fortify the district's facilities. He said SJCSD is already well ahead of other districts here because many of its facilities were built post-Columbine.

The district superintendent said that the community will not necessarily eliminate the threat, however, unless more attention is paid to mental health, which he noted



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

SJCSD Superintendent Tim Forson addresses school safety, among other community issues, at the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach's meeting March 15 at Marsh Landing Country Club.

Dr. Esra Weisheit is the owner of Nease Animal Hospital, which opened in August 2017.

A veterinarian for more than 20 years, Dr. Esra takes a very personal approach when it comes to taking care of animals.

Dr. Esra Weisheit

Can you please tell us about your background?

I graduated in 1997 from Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine. In addition to being a licensed DVM, I am a Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist (CVA), a Certified Canine Rehabilitation Therapist (CCRT) and a Certified Spinal Manual Therapist. I also have a special interest in Chinese herbal medicine.

I practiced in Bel Air, Maryland, for 18 years. There, I owned my own small animal hospital for 14 years. During one of my recent family vacations, we fell in love with the Jacksonville area and decided to move to Florida. My family includes my husband Gene, my son Zackary, four cats (Sniffles, Fearless, Raven and Eagle), and two dogs (Humphrey and Chloe). My hobbies are dog agility, cooking and outdoor activities with my family.

Where does your passion for animals derive from?

I was born with a passion for animals. I grew up abroad playing with stray dogs and cats. As a teenager, I dreamt of being a wildlife biologist. In college, I was lucky and had an amazing opportunity to spend a semester in Kenya studying wildlife management. In Kenya, I realized veterinary medicine was where I belonged. I could help animals as a veterinarian in many more ways.

What inspired you to open Nease Animal Hospital?

After I sold my practice, I worked at great practices in the St. Johns area, but realized I missed practicing medicine in a way that allows me to integrate alternative medicine with traditional medicine. I wanted a practice where clients and patients are part of the family and we work together to keep pets healthy and happy.

At Nease Animal Hospital, we focus on treating the whole patient and helping dogs and cats with nutrition, supplements, acupuncture or herbs if they need it. Our underwater treadmill helps arthritic patients and patients who are suffering from orthopedic injuries. Talking to clients about home exercises that they can do to strengthen their pets is very rewarding for me.

What does your clinic offer that makes it different from others?

We offer acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine, spinal manipulation, cold therapy laser, canine rehabilitation, an underwater treadmill, dog training classes, cat exclusive exam rooms and fear-free care.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

How is the pet care industry changing?

Pet owners are very concerned about their pets' health care. There is a lot of information out there, and it is getting harder to figure out what is hyped and what is true. This is true for our human health as well. Veterinarians need to be more open and keep up with what's new and good, and what's not. Most importantly, it is impor-

tant to keep it simple by focusing on basics. Eating healthy and being active is important to both our pets and us. Staying away from sugar and processed food is the best we can do for us and our pets. Healthy and fit means the ideal weight. Many clients are still unaware of their pets' ideal weight, and an overweight pet is often not seen as such, and therefore not seen as being at risk.

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

I am very happy I live here; I feel blessed. I love the sun, beach, bike riding and the many outdoor activities available for my family. The people are great, too.

Edited by Jon Blauvelt

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

St. Johns County awaits final decision on bed tax increase

Tourist Development Council recommends approval, allocation of funds for beach renourishment

By Samantha Logue

With hurricane season looming just over two months away, residents of St. Johns County are eagerly awaiting a final decision on whether they will soon have a local funding source to combat the increasingly critical issue of beach erosion.

The tourist development tax, also known as the bed tax, is the potential source in question, with a proposal to raise the tax from 4 to 5 percent currently under consideration. If approved, the tax increase is projected to generate an additional \$2.57 million annually, and it is the hope of many residents that those funds would be designated for a beach renourishment plan.

On Feb. 26, following a request for recommendation from the Board of County Commissioners, the Tourist Development Council (TDC) discussed the proposal at great length, with numerous residents coming forward to voice their support.

“With 42 miles of beach, we are a coastal community,” County Commission District 4 candidate Dick Williams said. “It’s a huge asset, and for the purposes of the fifth cent, clearly it is a major tourist attraction. But the reality is, if we don’t have a long-term plan, we’re going to continue to see that asset go away.”

Ponte Vedra Beach resident Guy Rasch agreed, warning, “We’re losing people already. The two renters on either side of me, the rental properties, have not been able to fill their properties recently, because they didn’t have beach to go to. ... You can have a conquistador and you can have a young lady in a bikini advertising coming to the beaches, but if you have no beach to come to, it doesn’t do us any good.”

Other residents echoed those senti-

ments, with some even voicing support for increasing the tax to 6 percent. St. Johns County Tourism and Cultural Development Director Tera Meeks advised, however, that the county is only currently eligible to raise the tax to 5 percent.

While the majority of the TDC expressed support for adding a fifth cent to the bed tax, there was some dissention. For example, St. Augustine Mayor Nancy Shaver – who left the meeting before the vote – felt that the resulting funds would be insufficient to truly make an impact on the issue of beach erosion.

“I don’t believe it is our role to solve what is a major issue across the state, and for that reason, I do not support levying the fifth cent—even though I believe, quite frankly, there is probably not much tourist resistance,” Shaver said. “This discussion is clearly being driven by the beach issue, and I think it’s the wrong thing for us to do. I think there is a huge problem in the county, in the state and nationally, but we’re not going to solve it by a penny of bed tax.”

Another topic of contention was how the funds would be allocated, with some people expressing hopes that they would also benefit the county’s other tourist attractions. Commissioner Jay Morris, however, stated he would only support raising the tax if the resulting funds were designated specifically for a beach management plan.

“There are no beaches,” he said. “The beaches aren’t there anymore. This is the only funding source available that we have to kick this (renourishment) program off, so I am totally in favor of it, if we can do that.”

Ultimately, the council voted – with one dissention – to recommend raising the bed tax from 4 to 5 percent, with the

“There are no beaches. The beaches aren’t there anymore. This is the only funding source available that we have to kick this (renourishment) program off, so I am totally in favor of it, if we can do that.”

Jay Morris

St. Johns County Commissioner (District 4)

stipulation that the resulting funds be allocated “in total, or to the greatest extent possible, for beach renourishment.”

With that recommendation in mind, the Board of County Commissioners will put the matter to a final vote, with at least a 4-1 supermajority required for the proposal to be approved. Although a date has yet to be set for that vote, community members like Ponte Vedra Beach resident Martha Johnson are continuing to stress the urgency of the matter, stating: “If we lose the beaches, we lose everything.”

Forson

Continued from 5

is at the heart of the national problem. Within the schools, Forson said educators must focus on building and enabling relationships, both teacher-to-student and student-to-student relationships. He cited programs that exist today in SJCS D schools that connect older and younger students to help the younger students transition into new environments, as examples.

Forson said he also expects state funding for mental health support, but he doesn’t anticipate a mental health professional being added to every school. Instead, he said mental health must be addressed community-wide, both inside and outside of the schools.

Overall, the superintendent said a different level of concern has developed after the Parkland shooting, and action must be taken locally to protect students, because nowhere is immune from the threat.

“This is not to scare anybody, but Parkland, Florida, is Ponte Vedra, Florida,” he said. “A lot of times, we think it’s the most diverse schools. It’s the schools where there may be conflicts and challenges. No, it’s anywhere. We have to be conscious of the fact that everyone could be at risk.”

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First Coast Easter events calendar

Nocatee Easter Egg Hunt

Nocatee residents will be able to participate in the community's annual Easter egg hunt Saturday, March 24, sponsored by Holbrook Law. Starting at 11:30 a.m., the free, residents-only event will include the following five egg hunts: ages 2 and under at 11:30 a.m., ages 3 to 4 at 11:50 a.m., ages 5 to 7 at 12:10 p.m., ages 8 and older at 12:30 p.m. and those with special needs at 1 p.m. The event will also feature music from DJ Jonathan, bounce houses, face painting and a special visit from the Easter Bunny. Residents must check-in at the event and bring resident access cards to be admitted entry. To register, contact fun@nocatee.com.

FBC Jax Eggstravaganza

First Baptist Church of Jacksonville will hold a family-friendly Easter celebration Saturday, March 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ponte Vedra High School. Hosted by the church's Downtown and South campuses, the event will provide entertainment for all ages. Food trucks will also be on site to offer refreshments, or attendees can choose to bring a picnic lunch. For registration and additional information, visit www.fbcjax.com/events/eggstravaganza-2018.

EASTER EVENTS continues on Page 9

Holy Week & Easter AT PALMS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2018
7pm · Maundy Thursday Service in the Sanctuary

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2018
7pm · Good Friday Service in the Sanctuary

SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2018
6:30am · Sunrise service in the Oasis Garden
8am service in the Sanctuary with Brass & soloist Wil Kelly
9:30 & 11am services in the Sanctuary with Brass, Choir & Bells
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Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Parks and Recreation

Kids rush to gather Easter eggs in a St. Johns County park.

Easter events

Continued from 8

SJC Parks and Recreation Egg Hunts


St. Johns County Parks & Recreation will be hosting four Easter egg hunts to celebrate the Easter holiday on Thursday, March 29 and Saturday, March 31. Starting at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, children ages 8 and under can visit either Veterans Park in St. Johns (located at 1332 Veterans Parkway) or Palencia Park in St. Augustine (405 Palencia Village Drive) to have their pictures taken with the Easter Bunny, and then participate in the egg hunts at 11. Saturday's events will adhere to the same schedule, but will take place at Treaty Park in St. Augustine (1595 Wildwood Drive) and Al Wilke

Park in Hastings (6140 Main St.).


Parks & Recreation will also be partnering with First Coast YMCA for a free underwater Easter egg hunt Thursday, March 22 at the Solomon Calhoun Community Center pool, located at 1300 Duval St. in St. Augustine. From 6:30 to 7 p.m., kids ages 5 to 12 are invited to bring their swimsuits, towels and a bucket to collect eggs left underwater and trade them in for prizes. Call (904) 704-4644 or contact mccasson@feymca.org to register.

Visit pontevedrarecorder.com and search Easter for information on additional events taking place locally in celebration of the holiday.

Compiled by Samantha Logue



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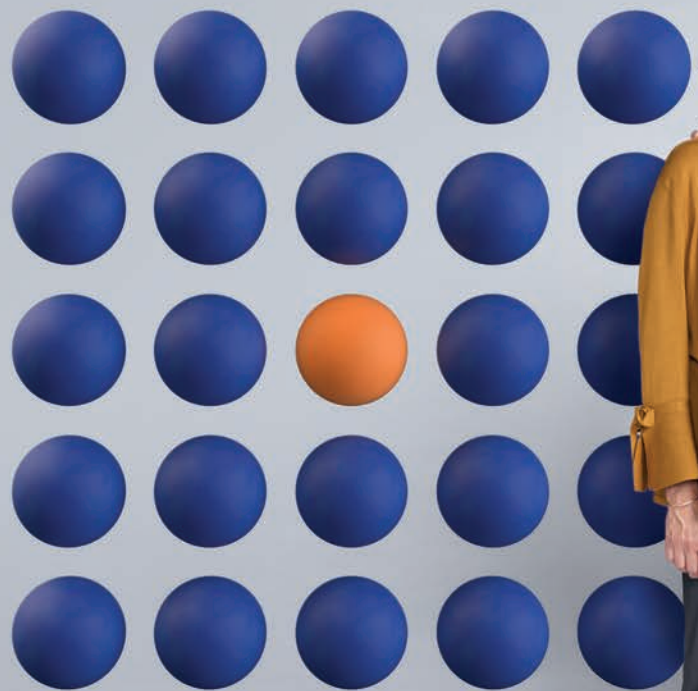
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ALL ABOUT PETS

S.A.F.E. kicks off Pet Pal program

By Jon Blauvelt

S.A.F.E. Pet Rescue, Inc. in St. Augustine Beach recently launched a program that allows animal lovers to house long-term shelter dogs on a short-term basis.

The Pet Pal program kicked off in February and is designed for people who are unable to adopt a dog for a lifetime but are still interested in the companionship of a furry friend. That amount of time varies per person, said S.A.F.E. Founder and President Robin Kantner-Nordan, but it can range from a weekend to several weeks.

The initiative started, said Kantner-



A few of the dogs eligible for S.A.F.E.'s Pet Pal program include Chocho (far left), Rocky (top left), Tiger (top right) and Sheba (left).

Photos courtesy of S.A.F.E. Pet Rescue, Inc.

Nordan, after the nonprofit organization realized that many of its shelters' long-term dogs were being overlooked. Pet Pal launched to help these dogs find homes, even if only for a short period of time, while also providing company and enjoyment for the person taking care of the dog.

In many cases, Kantner-Nordan said these people are unable to adopt a dog on a full-time basis because of their employment situation or financial state. The program is also perfect for seniors or responsible college students who feel they are too old or young, respectively, to take on a full-time pet, she added.

In each case, S.A.F.E. works with the

interested party, pairs the person with a dog and delivers the dog to the home to ensure it's safe and comfortable. Kantner-Nordan said the dogs arrive freshly groomed and flea-free, and the organization provides food and necessary medications and equipment, such as a bed, crate, collar, leash, etc.

"Whatever the dog needs will be provided to make this time away from the shelter enjoyable and a wonderful experience," said Kantner-Nordan in a text message to the Recorder.

The S.A.F.E. founder added that the organization will offer a small financial stipend to the people who take in the dogs as a token of appreciation. She noted that the experience is helpful to S.A.F.E., as it provides information about the dogs that would have previously been unknown, such as how the dog behaves in the home environment.

Overall, Kantner-Nordan said the program offers dogs that are both small and large, and young and old.

"We have a dog for every personality," said Kantner-Nordan, who did note, however, that puppies are excluded from Pet Pal.

Interested people should visit any S.A.F.E. location or contact Kantner-Nordan at (904) 325-0196. Those in Ponte Vedra should contact Lisa Wargo at (914) 420-5769.

For more information about S.A.F.E., visit www.safe-pet-rescue-fl.com.

K9s for Warriors awarded \$125K grant by Petco Foundation

Petco Foundation recently donated a \$125,000 grant investment to K9s For Warriors of Northeast Florida, the Ponte Vedra-based organization announced.

The grant was made possible through the Petco Foundation's annual Helping Heroes fundraising campaign, in partnership with Natural Balance Pet Foods. Each October during the campaign, Petco customers are invited to donate online and in Petco stores across the country to support the work of service, therapy and working animals.

The Petco Foundation investment will help with rescuing and training more K9s For Warriors service dogs, and aid in the nonprofit's expansion plan for its new, additional campus near Gainesville.

"We appreciate Petco's investment and understanding of the critical nature of our mission," said Brett Simon, president of K9s For Warriors. "We look forward to rescuing more dogs to rescue more warriors with this grant."

K9s For Warriors has become the nation's largest service dog provider for disabled veterans struggling with PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury and/or Military Sexual Trauma. The organization has rescued dogs from Florida, Georgia, Texas, California, the Carolinas and more. Since 2011, the nonprofit has graduated 407 warrior-canine teams, and rescued an estimated 850 dogs.

For more information about K9s For Warriors or the Petco Foundation, visit www.k9sforwarriors.org or www.petcofoundation.org.

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ALL ABOUT PETS



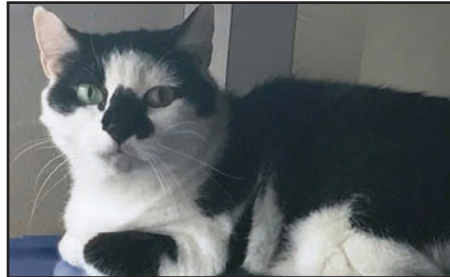
Community Hospice & Palliative Care offers Pet Peace of Mind program

The Community Hospice & Palliative Care Pet Peace of Mind® program allows hospice patients to complete their end-of-life journey with the comfort and companionship of a pet, without having to worry about their pet's current or future needs.

Many people know that pets understand when something is wrong, or sense when their owners are not feeling well. This unique bond, according to Community Hospice, is much more significant for hospice patients. Their pets offer comfort and companionship when it's needed most—especially when words are too hard to say.

The Pet Peace of Mind® program provides solutions during this challenging time by assisting patients with basic in-home pet care, delivering pet food, vet services and placement of the pet when the patient dies. Since starting in 2014, the Community Hospice program has provided over 147 services for dogs and cats of their patients, as well as adopted out 64 pets to new homes. Currently, the program has two dogs and eight cats that are looking for “forever” homes.

For information on how you can foster or adopt one of the pets in this program, as



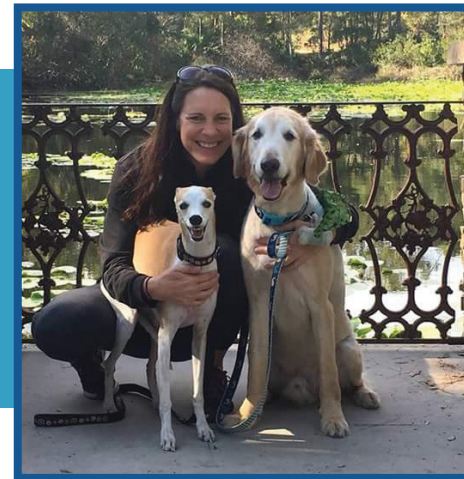
Photos courtesy of Community Hospice & Palliative Care
Cat Angel and dog Baby are two of the pets in Community Hospice & Palliative Care's Pet Peace of Mind program.

well as volunteer or donate, please contact the Community Hospice & Palliative Care volunteer coordinator, Chris Whitney, at (904) 407-5204 or CWhitney@communityhospice.com.



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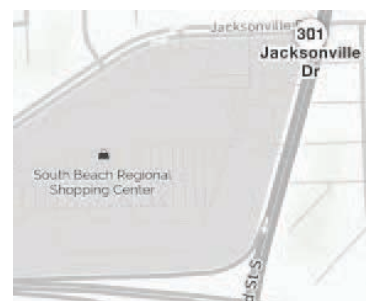
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Thursday, March 22	Friday, March 23	Saturday, March 24	Sunday, March 25
<p>'Coming to America' at Palms Presbyterian Church Palms Presbyterian Church will host a special event entitled "Coming to America? Who Should We Welcome? What Should We Do?" on March 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. This event on immigration issues 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 S. 3rd St. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>North Florida Land Trust benefit party Master Photographer Doug Eng has joined together with artists from Southlight Gallery to host My Real Florida: A Benefit Party for North Florida Land Trust. The benefit party and gallery opening will be held March 22 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Southlight Gallery, located on the second floor of the Wells Fargo Building at 1 Independent Drive in Downtown Jacksonville. For more information, contact Genevieve Fletcher at gffletcher@northfloridalandtrust.org or at (904) 479-1962.</p> <p>Boardwalk Talk w/ Dr. Keith Ashley Dr. Keith Ashley will present a Boardwalk Talk at the Beaches Museum & History Park in Jacksonville Beach March 22 at 6 p.m. in the historic 1887 chapel. The address will focus on Jacksonville's contribution to Florida archaeology. For more information, visit www.beachmuseum.org/events/133/boardwalk-talk-dr-keith-ashley. Beaches Museum and History Park is located at 381 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>'Outsmart the Scammers' with Karsten Jacobson, CFP® Karsten Jacobson, CFP® will host a financial education class entitled "Outsmart the Scammers" March 22 from 11 a.m. to noon at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. The presentation will cover several topics including how to spot red flags indicating a fraudulent encounter, how to defend against scammers and more. RSVP by phone at (904) 285-9898 or via email at Linda.Kobetitsch@edwardjones.com. Seating is limited.</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>'Pacific Rim: Uprising' at IMAX Theater at World Golf Hall of Fame Jake Pentecost, son of Stacker Pentecost, reunites with Mako Mori to lead a new generation of Jaeger pilots, including rival Lambert and 15-year-old hacker Amara, against a new Kaiju threat. This film is showing at the IMAX Theater at World Golf Hall of Fame March 23 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>Author Rik Feeney at FWA Ponte Vedra Writers meeting Author and book coach Rik Feeney will explain how to use Kindle Publishing to become a published author at the next FWA Ponte Vedra Writers meeting March 24 at 10:30 a.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. Additionally, Feeney will discuss the issues authors should consider before publishing – such as determining topics, titles, covers and pricing – and how to navigate Kindle Publishing guidelines. For more information on FWA, visit www.floridawriters.net. The Ponte Vedra Library is located at 101 Library Blvd.</p> <p>'Medea' at Flagler College Flagler College's Theatre Department will perform "Medea" at Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College March 22 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>Bethune Cookman gospel choir concert Grace United Methodist Church and St. Paul AME Church will host a concert by the Inspirational Gospel Choir from Bethune Cookman University, Saturday, March 24, at 6 p.m. at St. Paul AME Church, 85 ML King Ave. in St. Augustine. The event is free of charge and open to the public.</p> <p>Dolphin paddle of Salt Run Join Anastasia Watersports and Marineland Dolphin Adventure for an interpretive paddle of Salt Run at Anastasia State Park March 24 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Visitors are invited to hop into a kayak, paddle onto Salt Run and keep an eye for birds, turtles, manatees and dolphins. Anastasia Watersports staff will provide details on the ecosystem and wildlife at the park. Anastasia State Park is located at 300 Anastasia Park Road in St. Augustine. For more information, call (904) 460-9111 or visit www.floridastateparks.org/park-events/Anastasia.</p>	<p>Palm Sunday Worship at Palm Valley Community Center 1st Baptist Church of Ponte Vedra Beach will provide Palm Sunday Community Worship in the Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Blvd., PVB at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 25, 2018. Public is invited! Contact information at 1stpvb.org.</p> <p>Old Town Art Show The Old Town Art Show will feature artists and craftsmen from around the country showcasing their work. This year's event will be held March 24-25 at Francis Field in the historic downtown area of St. Augustine. Event hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free.</p> <p>Booker T. Jones at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will host soul music artist Booker T. Jones March 25 at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.) Jones is a Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee, Musicians Hall of Fame inductee, GRAMMY Lifetime Achievement Award recipient and winner of four GRAMMY Awards. His current album, "Sound the Alarm," features collaborations with modern soul and R&B artists including Mayer Hawthorne, Anthony Hamilton and others. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pvconcerthall.com or call (904) 209-0399.</p> <p>'Corpse!' at Limelight Theatre Limelight Theatre will present 'Corpse!', a comedy thriller set in 1936 London, through March 31. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.limelight-theatre.org. The March 25 performance will start at 2 p.m. Limelight Theatre is located at 11 Old Mission Ave. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Salt air farmers market This farmers market will feature homegrown produce, breads, gourmet food, sauces, soaps and more. The market, to be held at 9505 Oceanshore Blvd. in Marineland, is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Email contact@saltairfarmers-market.com for more information.</p>

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Monday, March 26	Tuesday, March 27	Wednesday, March 28	Thursday, March 29
<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>Book Talk Café with Laura Lee Smith St. Augustine author Laura Lee Smith will discuss her latest novel "The Ice House" March 26 at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library's Book Talk Café program. "The Ice House" is a tale of a man on the verge of losing his livelihood and losing his relationship with his son. This event will take place at 6:30 p.m. The Ponte Vedra Library is located at 101 Library Blvd.</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>YMCA's Treadmill Tuesday Tiebreaker Treadmill Tuesday Tiebreaker, taking place March 27 from 6:20 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., is a competition between the Tampa Bay and Northeast Florida communities for the greatest distance traveled on a treadmill in 12 hours. The event is open to YMCA members and nonmembers across the Tampa Bay and Northeast Florida communities. Participate by completing a 30-minute treadmill workout at any of the First Coast YMCA branches or by posting a photo of a treadmill workout on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram using the #TreadmillTuesday hashtag and @FirstCoastYMCA.</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 27 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>Life Enrichment Day Retreat The Life Enrichment Day Retreat is designed for those with memory changes who want to remain mentally, physically and socially active, while giving caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. This program is offered daily at Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra. For more information call 904-417-7354 or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com.</p> <p>Instructional art session Vilano Beach Art Programs will offer an instructional art session at the North Shores Improvement Association Community Center on Vilano Beach each Wednesday through June from noon to 3 p.m. For more information, visit vilanobeachfl.com/a1a-multi-use-trail/14-events/49-art-program or call Sarah Carrigan at (847) 899-0808.</p> <p>Jacksonville Spring Fair Southwood Entertainment will host the Jacksonville Spring Fair at EverBank Field through April 1. The festival will feature amusement rides, fun houses, contests, a petting zoo and more. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.jacksonvillespringfair.com. EverBank Field is located at 1 EverBank Field Drive in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Seder dinner Commemorate the Passover meal Jesus shared with his disciples at St. Johns Episcopal Cathedral March 28 from 7 to 10 p.m. Admission costs \$15 for adults and \$10 for children up to age 12. RSVP by contacting Donna Meyers-Perry at dmeyers-perry@jaxcathedral.org or call (904) 356-5507. St. Johns Episcopal Cathedral is located at 256 East Church St. in Jacksonville.</p>	<p>Christ Episcopal Church workshop Savvy Job Hunters Ministry will host a workshop March 29 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Christ Episcopal Church Parish Center Conference Room (second floor). The event will feature resume reviews and a networking opportunity. To register, email pamottesen@gmail.com.</p> <p>Jim Hain at Sierra Club Program Join Jim Hain, senior scientist and project leader of Marineland Right Whale Project, as he describes the history and current actions being taken to protect the endangered North Atlantic Right Whale. This event will be held March 29 at 6:30 p.m. at the Jacksonville Southeast Public Library, located at 10599 Dearwood Park Blvd. For more information, email brianparadise@comcast.net.</p> <p>Megan Wall discussion on guardianship Join the Council on Aging for a discussion on guardianship with Megan Wall from St. Johns Legal Aid at 11 a.m. Guests are encouraged to dress in an Easter outfit. Call (904) 280-3233 for more information or email activities coordinator Danielle Johnson at djohnson@sjohnscoa.com.</p> <p>Yoga for Survivors The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a Yoga for Survivors class March 29 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>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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TPC SAWGRASS HOME OF THE PLAYERS  *March 2018*

GREAT CHEFS
Great Chefs is back... with a twist. The night will start on the lower lawn with a "battle of the food trucks" before guest sit down for their dinner prepared by the best Chefs in Jacksonville. Who will reign supreme in 2018?
Thursday, March 29th

Call Christina Caruk at (904) 543-5105!
 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.

Business Weekly

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Gateway Village Center to open soon in Palencia

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Lisa Barton Team hosts customer appreciation party at Fantasy Farms

The Lisa Barton realtor team recently celebrated its customers by hosting a customer appreciation party at Fantasy Farms in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Held on Sunday, Feb. 25, the event included a barbecue dinner, beer and wine and a scavenger hunt for kids. The event also allowed attendees to get up close and personal with Fantasy Farms' animals.



Marsha Keller, Lisa Barton, Holly Trout and Tonya O'Quinn gather at the customer appreciation party at Fantasy Farms on Feb. 25.

Photos by Susan Griffin



A resident of Fantasy Farms



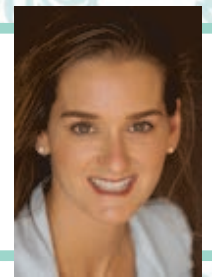
Catering by Sawgrass Events

RE/MAX
Coastal Real Estate
Ponte Vedra Beach
Office 904.285.5640
Email julielittlebrewer@comcast.net

Julie Little Brewer
REALTOR®



Cell 904.545.6911



MARSH LANDING GOLF & CC

New Construction on the 15th Fairway. 5BR/5.5BA. 1st FI Office. Beautiful Homecrest Cabinetry with Quartz Counters. 6 Car Garage. Pool & Summer Kitchen. Completion Est. Late 2018. 6,000 SF.
MLS#914685. \$2,099,000



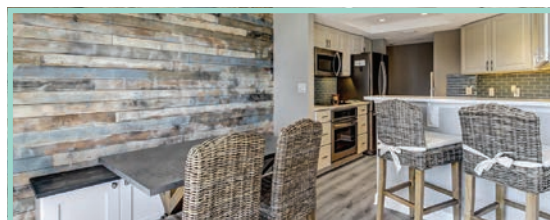
PONTE VEDRA BEACH

Beautiful Estate Home on 1.38AC Private Preserve Lot. 5BR/4.5BA. Freshly painted, 1st FI Master Suite. Summer Kitchen, Screened Saltwater Pool/Spa. Paver Fire Pit & Lounge Area. 4,229SF.
MLS#893131. \$980,000



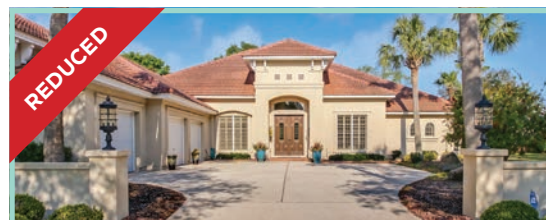
JACKSONVILLE BEACH

Remodeled Ocean Front Condo. 3BR/2BA. Ocean Vistas from Family & Dining Rooms. Kitchen w/ Shaker Cabinets. 1 Garage Space + 2 Deck Spaces. 1,595SF.
MLS #902135. Price Reduced \$605,000



OCEANFRONT JACKSONVILLE BEACH

Newly Remodeled Ocean Front Condo. 3BR/2BA. Ocean View Balconies. Kitchen w/ White Cabinetry, Milan Quartz Counters. 2 Assigned Parking Spaces. Private Storage Unit. 1,446SF
MLS #924701 \$450,000



GLEN KERNAN GOLF & CC

20K Price Reduction. Mediterranean Design Overlooking the 15th Hole. 4BR/4BA. Chef's Kitchen. Large Lanai. Preferred Rear Easter Exposure. HOA Fees Prepaid Through 2018. 3,590SF
MLS#915883 \$875,000

RE/MAX Hall of Fame

Three Ps: Problems, pensions and planning



By Ric Schilling

Ric Schilling
Columnist

Those who have read this column for some time will recall that I have written frequently about the coming crisis in public pensions – those plans for state and local government employees. We saw

that issue first hand in the Detroit bankruptcy a few years ago, and it is becoming a huge issue in many northern cities and states where these liabilities have been underfunded for decades.

Now, the crisis is spreading to the corporate world as well, as seen with the \$31

billion shortfall in GE's pension plan. It wasn't that many years ago that GE's pension plan had a multi-billion-dollar surplus, yet it is now in the hole by \$31 billion and growing. What happened?

The company started underfunding their required annual contributions some years ago in favor of buying back their stock to strengthen the stock price. That decision has now saddled them with a huge liability that will undoubtedly impact their flexibility in dealing with the current financial challenges they face.

Like many companies, GE assumed that plan assets would earn 7-8 percent per year yet invested a substantial portion of those assets (+/- 40 percent) in bonds, which have earned very little over the last decade. So, the underfunding was exacerbated

by the plan consistently underperforming against the actuarial assumptions used to calculate required annual contributions.

Another actuarial assumption that proved wrong was participant longevity. Pension plans have been hesitant to revise longevity assumptions upward as this will increase required contributions, yet no one can deny that people are, on average, living some years longer than most plans assume.

Years ago, many companies were more willing to increase benefits such as healthcare and pensions than wages as the impact on current financial results was less significant. However, these benefits have a dramatic liability associated with them that can accumulate in a substantial way

SCHILLING continues on Page 18

The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach receives Distinguished Club award

The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach recently announced that it has been awarded the Distinguished Club award, as determined by the annual Distinguished Clubs award program conducted by BoardRoom magazine.

"We'd like to congratulate The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach for earning Distinguished Club status," said John Fornaro, publisher of BoardRoom magazine, "Special recognition also goes out to The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach's General Manager, Rob Schlingmann, CCM, CCE, CAM, as well as the club's board of directors, its department heads, and the entire staff for their efforts in providing an excellent member experience."

According to the Plantation, it is the only private residential community in Northeast Florida to earn this status. BoardRoom magazine's merit-based Distinguished Clubs award program uses a club-specific rating system that recognizes the club, its management and its staff based on proprietary criteria and evaluation process that distills and measures a club's member experience.

"After many years of preparing, we had our evaluation and have now been recognized as one of the top private communities in America," Schlingmann said. "I thank all of the efforts of the staff and membership that assisted us to achieve this goal."



Photo courtesy of Dalton Agency

Shearwater hosts its second annual Living Certification Program at its Kayak Club amenity center.

Shearwater hosts second annual Living Certification Program

Shearwater, a new master-planned residential community on County Road 210, recently held its second annual Shearwater Living Certification Program at the Kayak Club amenity center, with close to 100 real estate agents registered to take part in the event.

This year's program included an overview of Shearwater's lifestyle programming and amenities, additional information on The Falls (Shearwater's newest neighborhood) and the advantages of being a Shearwater Living Certified real estate agent. Attendees also heard from keynote speaker Andrew Fletcher, a real estate agent and team leader of the Fletcher Group of Coldwell Bank and Vanguard Realty, on his "4 Steps to Earning 6 Figures in Real Estate."

Additionally, each of Shearwater's seven homebuilders had the opportunity to speak and shared information on current and future projects.

"I learned so much about Shearwater's homes after hearing from the builders directly," said Michelle Ortelli, a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty. "We were also able to tour the model homes after the session. The Shearwater Living Certification Program is a great

way to gain first-hand knowledge about the community and set ourselves apart in this industry."

As one of the only communities in the area to offer a real estate agent certification program, Shearwater will provide certified agents with exclusive benefits and resources, including:

- Shearwater Certification Concierge – a staff member dedicated to providing agents with a high level of personal service
- Exclusive web page to access Shearwater resources online
- Exclusive use of the 2018 Shearwater Living Certified Agent logo
- A private landing page to access materials, professional photos and upcoming event information online.
- Assess to Stream, the new Shearwater resident newsletter
- Early-bird access to Shearwater's keynote speaker events and realtor programs

Learn more about Shearwater at the Kayak Club, which is located at 100 Kayak Way in St. Augustine, or visit www.shearwaterliving.com. Interested homebuilders can tour a model home from Dream Finders Homes, Shearwater's newest builder, this summer.

GreenPointe Communities names Liam O'Reilly senior development manager

GreenPointe Communities, LLC, has appointed Liam O'Reilly as senior development manager, tasking him with leading the company's land development efforts.



Liam O'Reilly

His responsibilities encompass all aspects of new community entitlement, design and development from early due diligence to final lot turnover. O'Reilly is based in the company's

Jacksonville headquarters.

"We are pleased to welcome Liam to our team and we believe his all-encompassing experience will be advantageous to our company," said GreenPointe Holdings President and Chief Executive Officer Ed Burr. "His technical knowledge, coupled with his understanding and passion for real estate development, will support GreenPointe's future growth."

With nearly a decade of professional experience, O'Reilly previously managed land development for a national homebuilder and has proven success in land acquisition and development with an emphasis on large master-planned residential communities from early entitlements through construction, according to GreenPointe Communities. His experience as a Professional Engineer covers a wide variety of projects, including the planning, design and construction of all types of private real estate development including single and multi-family, residential, commercial, retail and mixed-use development.

"As a civil engineer, I worked on numerous projects, and the more time I spent working on developments, the more enthusiastic I became about being part of the entire development process," said O'Reilly. "I'm passionate about the real estate development industry, and I am ecstatic to join GreenPointe Communities. The company has an esteemed reputation for its exceptional, high-value communities."

Born and raised in Jacksonville, O'Reilly earned a bachelor's degree from Florida State University and is a licensed Professional Engineer. He is an active committee member of Urban Land Institute North Florida and an active National MS Society volunteer.

KMF
JMF

KIM MARTIN - FISHER,
REALTOR
JENNIFER MARTIN FAULKNER,
REALTOR

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335 Ponte Vedra Blvd.
335pontevedraboulevard.com
6BD | 7BA | 2HB | 7,854 sq. ft.
Offered Fully Furnished with Artwork
\$14,200,000



723 Ponte Vedra Blvd.
Hampton Style Oceanfront
5BD | 5.5BA | 5,041 sq. ft.
Built in 2014
\$5,925,000



965 Ponte Vedra Blvd.
965pontevedraboulevard.com
200' Direct Oceanfront Lot
\$4,395,000, With Plans \$4,950,000



567 Ponte Vedra Blvd.
567pontevedraboulevard.com
5BD | 4BD | 2,455 sq. ft.
\$2,950,000



641A Ponte Vedra Blvd.
Renovated Breakers II
3BD | 3BA | 2,228 sq. ft.
\$1,595,000



4011 Ponte Vedra Blvd.
4011pontevedraboulevard.com
5BD | 5BA | 4,202 sq. ft.
\$1,250,000



260 Royal Tern Rd.
260royalternroad.com
4BD | 4BA | 4,075 sq. ft.
\$799,989



140 Blooming Lane
azaleaestatesatpv.com
5BD | 4.5BA | 3,226 sq. ft.
\$757,000



4360 Seabreeze Dr.
Isle of Palms
4BD | 2BA | 2,286 sq. ft.
\$715,000

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: KIM (904)



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kimmartinfisher@gmail.com

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BANKER

VANGUARD

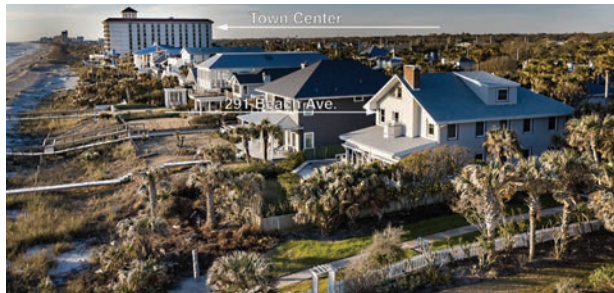
240 Ponte Vedra Park
Ponte Vedra Beach

EXCEPTIONAL PROPERTIES

PRESENTED BY KIM MARTIN-FISHER & JENNIFER MARTIN FAULKNER



121 Bristol Place
121bristolplace.com
5BD | 7BA | 2HB | 9,489 sq. ft.
\$3,925,000



291 Beach Ave.
291beachavenue.com
6BD | 5BA | 4,595 sq. ft.
Plus Cottage & 2BR Apartment
\$3,665,000



2461 South Ponte Vedra Blvd.
Oceanfront Contemporary
4BD | 4.5BA | 5,145 sq. ft.
\$3,380,000



26221 Marsh Landing Pkwy
26221marshlandingparkway.com
6BD | 5BA | 4,693 sq. ft.
\$1,285,000



809 Baytree Lane
809baytreelane.com
5BD | 5.5BA | 4,211 sq. ft.
\$948,000



200 Laurel Lane
200laurellane.com
4BD | 3.5BA | 3,462 sq. ft.
\$868,500



320 S Ocean Grande Dr. U#: 302
Ocean View Penthouse
3BD | 3BA | 2,036 sq. ft.
\$512,500



44 Tarpon Bay Ct.
Coastal Oaks at Nocatee
2BD | 2BA | Plus Study | 2,069 sq. ft.
\$465,000



2100 Ocean Drive South 3A
Oceanfront End Unit
2BD | 2BA | 1,168 sq. ft.
\$425,000

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Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Neighborly launches home improvement initiative benefiting Jacksonville veterans

Neighborly, a community platform of specialty home services franchises founded by the Dwyer Group, recently announced the launch of an initiative to honor a veteran with complimentary home repair services. Nominations in Jacksonville will be accepted through March 31 at www.getneighborly.com/nominate.

“Neighborly is dedicated to serving our community and connecting homeowners with trusted home service providers in virtually every category,” said Lisa Zoellner, a chief strategy and marketing officer at the Dwyer Group. “With the launch of The Neighborly Project, we’re able to utilize our vast community of experienced service professionals to honor veterans who have put their lives on the line to pro-

tect and serve our nation. Several members of our leadership team and franchise owners are proud veterans, so kicking off this initiative in Jacksonville by recognizing these American heroes was a natural fit, and we look forward to expanding this project nationwide.”

The initiative – called The Neighborly Project – is open to the public, but nominees must fit the following criteria: a former enlisted serviceman or woman who was honorably discharged from service (preferably served in a deployed location); a homeowner living in an older home that could benefit from Neighborly’s services; and a homeowner who plans to live in the Jacksonville area for the foreseeable future and is willing to participate in inter-

views and share his or her story with the community. The recipient will be selected in April with home repairs beginning afterwards.

“Being a part of The Neighborly Project allows businesses like mine to make a huge impact in the neighborhoods where we live and serve,” said Michael McCalley, the owner of Mr. Handyman serving the Greater Jacksonville area. “Neighborly is dedicated to serving the community with our time and our talents, and we look forward to working together with the deserving veteran.”

To nominate a veteran for the Neighborly Project, visit www.getneighborly.com/nominate. For more information, email neighborly@dwyergroup.com.

Schilling

Continued from 15

over time. That’s what has happened at GE and many other American corporations. How this all works out is anyone’s guess but if these corporations all end up transferring their underfunded plans to the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation (PBGC for short) — a government agency in the business of managing troubled pension plans from the private sector — we may all ultimately be on the hook for these problems.

I believe the lesson here is to not entrust your future security entirely to anyone else – have a sound financial plan and create your own pension plan so you don’t have to rely solely on others for your financial security. Remember, a corporation’s first and foremost obligation is to benefit its stockholders, not its employees or retirees. Don’t depend on someone else who you don’t want to be in control, to care for you in the future. Be your own protector.

Frederic “Ric” Schilling is a Florida native, born in Jacksonville, Fl. Ric is President of Senior Guardians of America, a local North Florida firm specializing in tax reduction, long term illness planning, asset protection, probate avoidance and life income planning. Ric is a National Speaker and Advocate on Senior Issues and has been featured by the Florida Times Union and WJXT, TV-4 in Jacksonville as an authority on Estate Planning and Retirement Issues. Senior Guardians has an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau and is a member in excellent standing with the National Ethics Association. Contact Frederic: 904-371-3302 or 888-891-3381 Please visit: www.seniorguardian.com

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Gateway Village Center to open soon with new businesses in Palencia

Gateway Capital Development, Inc. recently announced that Gateway Village Center – a new commercial development located on U.S. Route 1 north of Palencia – will open soon with new businesses.

The development will feature a nearly 5,000-square-foot Circle K convenience store, including 20 gas pumps and a car wash. In addition, Gateway Village Center will include a nearly 14,000-square-foot retail center and adjacent 4,200-square-foot freestanding



Photo courtesy of Gateway Capital Development, Inc.

Construction takes place on Gateway Village Center, which will include a Circle K convenience store and gas station, retail center and freestanding Heartland Dental office.

Heartland Dental office.

According to Gateway Capital Development, the retail center is 97 percent preleased, with stores expected to open in summer 2018. The company said tenants will include Joint Bagel Company, CT Nails & SPA, Market Street Boutique, Your Pie, Craft Pizza, Christy’s

Dream Gourmet Ice Cream and Cinco de Mayo Authentic Mexican restaurant. One 1,750-square-foot store is still available to lease, according to the company.

Gateway Capital Development said the Heartland Dental Office will open in the fall. Circle K is opening by the end of the month.

Gateway Council announces Women of Distinction honorees

Northeast Florida’s Girl Scout council will honor local female leaders at its upcoming 2018 Women of Distinction fundraiser.

The Women of Distinction award recognizes local women for their professional accomplishments, service to others and community impact.

This year, seven female leaders will be honored. The women nominated exemplify the Girl Scouts’ core values of honesty, fairness, caring, responsibility and service to others, as well as community, inclusivity, respect and sisterhood. The 2018



Martha Baker



Tamara Baker



Giselle Carson



Camille Harrison



Mary Kelli Palka



Nicole Thomas



Penny Thompson

honorees include community volunteer and advocate Martha Baker; Tamara Baker of Baker Klein Engineering PL; Giselle Carson of MarksGray, P.A.; Camille Harrison of Florida Blue; Mary Kelli Palka of The Florida Times-Union; Nicole Thomas

of Baptist Health; and consultant Penny Thompson.

The Women of Distinction 2018 awards will be held Thursday, April 19 at 5:30 p.m., at the Jacksonville Marriott, which is located at 4670 Salisbury Road. Sponsor-

ship opportunities are available. To become a Women of Distinction sponsor or to purchase a ticket, visit www.Girlscouts-gateway.org/wod2018, or contact Tricia Rae Stancato at tstancato@girlscouts-gateway.org or (904) 421-3484.

Chapman joins Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently announced the addition of Robin Chapman to its Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office.



Robin Chapman

“I am pleased to welcome Robin Chapman to the Ponte Vedra office,” said Kevin Waugaman, broker/manager of the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office. “She is ready to hit the road running right out of the gates and came to us highly recommended by several of our Ponte Vedra agents. With her strong ties to the community of Northeast Florida, I am positive she’ll succeed here at Florida Network Realty.”

Chapman previously worked with Philips Lighting and Alset LED, both regionally and nationally. In these positions, Chapman specialized in the beautification and sustainability of roadways for communities. Working with the U.S. Council of Mayors, city councils and engineers, Chapman developed designs for cities, universities, businesses and developments that were in the process of upgrading to modern, energy-efficient, cost-effective lighting.

Chapman has lived in Northeast Florida for 30 years and has worked many projects locally as well, including Nocatee Parkway, San Marco redevelopment and the Dames Point Bridge, among others.

“I love Jacksonville,” Chapman said.

CHAPMAN continues on Page 20

“Meet Your Realtor...”

The Lisa Barton Team was recognized by Berkshire Hathaway (BHHS) as the number one producing team in all of Jacksonville/St Augustine with more than \$38 million in sales in 2018. At the annual awards ceremony, BHHS also celebrated 30 years of success with a record-setting year with total sales of more than \$1 billion. Our special thanks to all of you who have made this possible.



Our personal success is a reflection of the trust and support from our clients and friends, and also from the numerous referrals that you have shared with us. As we have continued to grow, our promise remains the same—to act as trusted advisors to you and your family—in all aspects of the sale or purchase of a home. We, as a team, are proud to be part of an industry leading firm—Berkshire Hathaway Home Services.

LARGE PRICE REDUCTION! 200ft on the Intracoastal in Ponte Vedra Beach, PRICED TO SELL!!



No water damage from Hurricanes. The last 100 ft vacant lot on Roscoe sold for just under \$700K. Great Investment Opportunity. This gated estate takes full advantage of the outdoors w/ lush landscaping, screened pool/spa & covered boat dock w/ 2 boat lifts along w/a floating dock. A outdoor firepit & Koi pond complete this beautiful backyard oasis. The home has 4 bedrooms/3 baths, 2900 sq ft w/ 3 car garage. Large open kitchen/family room for entertaining. There is a second owner's suite w/ ensuite bathroom & private living space. Roof was replaced in 2014, other major components have been replaced/updated as needed. St. Johns County "A" Rated Schools. Must be seen to be appreciated! Price is now \$1,374,900. MLS# 903629



For more info, contact
Kellie Jankowski
Broker Associate, REALTOR®, MBA, SFR
(904) 838-8919
KJ.MarcJosephRealty@gmail.com



MARC JOSEPH REALTY INC

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SAWGRASS COUNTRY CLUB



NEW PRICE



Welcome to the gold coast of Sawgrass Country Club! Unparalleled easterly views of water & the 1st and 2nd holes of the South Nine are more than a perk when you purchase this Little Bay Harbor condo. Remodeled kitchen, bathroom countertops & cabinets, wet bar with handsome cherry cabinets and fridge and a spacious two-car garage. The list goes on. An invitation to carefree Sawgrass fun.
2 BD ~ 2.5 BA **\$379,000**

Jacquelyn Bates
904.626.8295
Jacquelyndbates@gmail.com



PV2-LV40863

205 WOODY CREEK DR.



Just reduced in The Woodlands! Beautifully finished featuring 5BD, 4.5 BA & 3,688 SF with updated kitchen. Relax on the screened porch that looks out at the fire-pit and private backyard. **MLS# 919178 / \$749,000**

13759 WINGFIELD PL.



Come home to Pablo Bay! This gorgeous home offers 5BD, 3BA and almost 3,000 SF. You'll love the HUGE fenced backyard! Recently painted and terrific floor plan! **MLS# 920543 / \$459,000**

101 LANTERN WICK PL.



Stately brick beauty in Marsh Landing featuring 4 BD & 4 BA with completely renovated kitchen & bathrooms. This beautiful lot backs up to a tidal creek and comes with a private dock. **MLS# 926458/ \$975,000**

Call the Lisa Barton Team...

904.705.1382 (Cell)
904.473.0106 (Office)
Lisa@LisaSellsPonteVedra.com
www.LisaSellsPonteVedra.com



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Should you make extra mortgage payments or boost your investments?



By Karsten Jacobson, CFP®

Karsten Jacobson
Columnist

Every month, you pay your mortgage, and depending on your circumstances, you may be able to afford to put in additional payments – perhaps sizable ones.

But should you? Or, if you really have the extra money, should you invest it?

Initially, you might think it would be quite nice to rid yourself of that mortgage sooner, rather than later. But is it really the burden it seems?

Actually, you get some real benefits from a mortgage. It certainly provides something of great value to you – your home. If you got your mortgage – or refinanced your home – within the past decade or so, you are borrowing money at a pretty favorable interest rate, by historical standards. And even assuming a mild rate of inflation – such as what we've had for the past several years – you'll essentially be paying off your mortgage with cheaper and cheaper dollars over time. Plus, your

interest payments may well be tax deductible. (The new tax laws limit deductions on new mortgages of \$750,000 or more. For questions on your specific situation, consult your tax professional.)

So, given these advantages, an argument could be made that you should be in no hurry to pay off your mortgage. Still, you might be tempted to make the extra payments because you'll be building home equity. After all, isn't this equity valuable? It is – to a degree. The larger your home equity, the more money you'll get to keep when you eventually sell your home.

But in the meantime, that home equity may be less useful than you might imagine. For one thing, just building more equity won't make your home more valuable – it will rise (or fall in value along with whatever's happening in the housing market). By contrast, you could take the extra money and buy more shares in an investment such as stocks – and the more shares you own, the more valuable your investment will be if the price per share rises.

Also, if you were to experience a temporary job loss or some other financial emergency, your home equity might not help you much; if you're not working, you

could even have trouble getting a home equity loan. Conversely, your investment portfolio can offer you greater liquidity, depending on your specific investments. Most investment vehicles, such as stocks and bonds, generally can be sold quickly, without much difficulty. (Keep in mind, though, that if you were forced to sell investments when their price was down, you could take a loss on the sale.)

Clearly, you could gain some advantages by using any extra money to invest, rather than paying down your mortgage. Nonetheless, you may simply get emotional and psychological satisfaction by speeding your progress toward the day when your house is paid off – and that type of satisfaction certainly has value. You'll need to weigh these intangible factors carefully in deciding whether to increase your investments or make extra mortgage payments – because, ultimately, you need to feel that you're doing the right thing, for the right reasons.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor. Karsten L. Jacobson, CFP®, is a financial advisor for Edward Jones at 2208 Sawgrass Village Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Chapman

Continued from 19

“It's a dynamic community that's small and intimate, yet growing and developing. It's fun to be part of the growth of Northeast Florida.”

With several years of experience as a realtor, Chapman's goal at Berkshire Hathaway is to not only help her clients achieve their dreams of homeownership, but to develop relationships with them. Working in a community that she loves, Chapman is eager to help her clients find a house in a neighborhood that they can call their home for years to come.

Chapman also teaches health and fitness classes at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and The Lodge & Club, specializing in Pilates, yoga and spinning. She lives in Ponte Vedra with her life-partner, who owns a local restaurant, and their 3-year-old Australian Shepherd, Scout. Chapman has two grown sons who also work in Jacksonville in logistics.


The Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office is located at 333 Village Main St., Suite 670 in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, Chapman can be reached by phone at (904) 813-4291, or at Chapman.chapman@floridanetworkrealty.com and www.rchapman.floridanetworkrealty.com.

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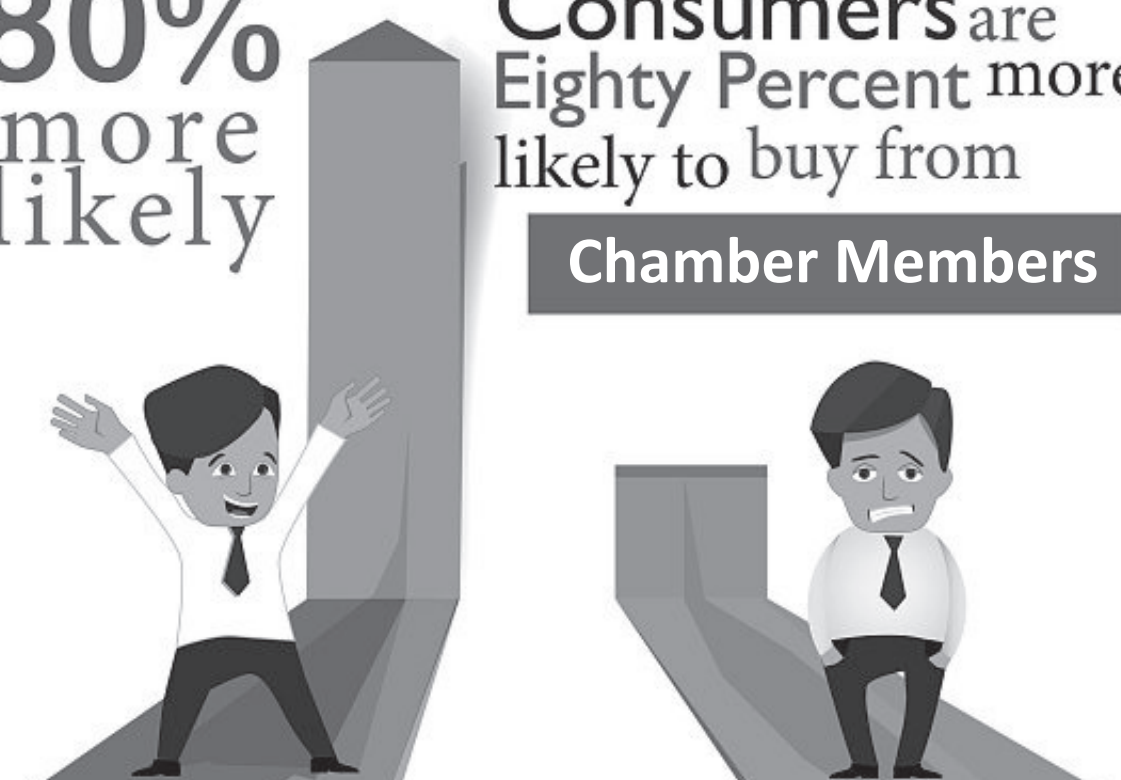
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PV2-LV45854

TriBridge Residential resubmits plans for 500 Atlantic to City of Neptune Beach

TriBridge Residential has resubmitted plans for 500 Atlantic, a mixed-use pedestrian-oriented development located near the intersection of Atlantic Boulevard and Third Street in Neptune Beach.

Formerly the site of K-Mart, the strip mall has been only 45 percent occupied since 2016. The redevelopment will transform the site into a mix of residences, shops, a grocer and restaurants. Newly-constructed streetscapes and trails will create walkable connections to the adjacent Beaches Town Center and the larger community.

“TriBridge has maintained a presence in Jacksonville and the Beaches for the past 20 years,” Managing Partner Steve Broome said. “We are accustomed to working in high-profile areas and partnering with neighborhoods. Several of our team members live in the Beaches area, and we understand the charm of its unique environment and amazing residents. We have listened to the comments and concerns of the community and taken great care to design a neighborhood that will integrate with and enhance what is working so well already in Neptune Beach.”



Photo courtesy of Clockwork Marketing Services

A Rendering of 500 Atlantic displays TriBridge Residential's development plans.

After holding multiple community meetings and gathering public input for several months, TriBridge and its development team went back to the drawing board to make sure the proposed neighborhood would fit within and offer maximum improvements to the Neptune Beach com-

munity. The company said the entire project was redesigned to address such concerns as privacy, density, parking and traffic, with \$2.3 million sourced toward improving community infrastructure. Significant factors in the revised project include:

- Multi-family density reduced by

more than 25 percent: The number of residences has been reduced from more than 300 to 230, decreasing the amount by more than 25 percent. This results in 14 units per acre; code allows for 17 units per acre.

TRIBRIDGE continues on Page 22

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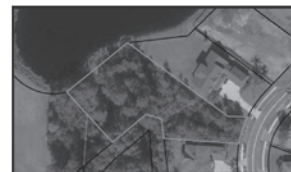
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Kathleen Floryan



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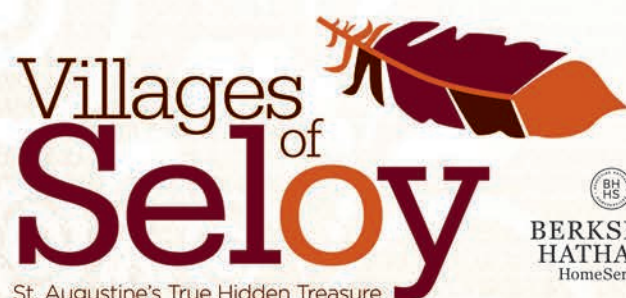
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TriBridge

Continued from 21

■ **Parking built per code:** All required parking will be provided, and no parking variances will be sought.

■ **Reduced building height and**

increased landscape buffer: Privacy factors in the design of the buildings include privacy screens at all courtyards, an enhanced landscape buffer that exceeds requirements along the adjacent single-family neighborhood property line, no balconies facing the single-family neighborhood and a reduction in the number of stories from three to two in areas closest to the existing neighborhood.

■ **Maintaining 110-foot buffer to single-family property line:** The development is situated 110 feet away from the adjacent single-family property line.

■ **Proposed traffic light installed on Atlantic Boulevard:** There have been favorable discussions with the Florida Department of Transportation to install a traffic light at the entrance to 500 Atlantic to assist with traffic calming measures.

■ **Addition of safe pedestrian crosswalks over Atlantic Boulevard:** Pedestrian crosswalk improvements and additions are proposed at the intersections of Third Street at Atlantic Boulevard and Third Street at Lemon Street to enhance pedestrian access to the Beaches Town Center.

■ **100 percent funding for trail to Jarboe Park:** 100 percent funding has been secured to create a multi-purpose trail connecting Lemon Street with Jarboe Park, the Beaches Branch Library and nearby neighborhoods.

■ **Replacement of Neptune Beach's aging infrastructure:** One mile of sewer infrastructure along Forest Avenue will be replaced, addressing an existing overflow problem and replacing aging infrastructure that currently impacts Neptune Beach Elementary, the Neptune Beach Senior Activity Center and surrounding areas.

■ **Improvement of water quality:** The reduction in impervious area and a storm water pond on site will aid in the management and improve the quality of water flowing into nearby streams.

For more information about 500 Atlantic, visit www.500atlantic.com.

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PV2-LV46183



ABOVE: Megan Kennedy and Rob Clarke of the Starling at Nocatee and Virginia Perkins gather at the facility's grand opening celebration held on March 15.



RIGHT: Gloria Dongara, Toni Boudreaux and Kari Zerrahn pose for a photo at the Chamber "After Hours" event held at Starling at Nocatee on Feb. 28.

Photos by Susan Griffin

Starling at Nocatee holds grand opening

Starling at Nocatee held a grand opening celebration on Thursday, March 15, to celebrate the facility's assisted living facility and memory care community, which opened their doors in December 2017.

The event featured a St. Patrick's Day theme with traditional Irish food, drinks, live entertainment, a performance by Spark, Del Webb's dance team, and raffles.

The assisted living facility and memory care community encompass "phase 1" of Starling at Nocatee. The independent living community that is known as "Phase 2" is in the beginning stages of construction and is expected to be complete by spring 2019.

Starling at Nocatee hosts Chamber of Commerce 'After Hours'

A few weeks before the grand opening, Starling at Nocatee also hosted an "After Hours" event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber



Lindsey Hall and Anita Portman at the Starling at Nocatee grand opening event

of Commerce.

Held on Wednesday, Feb. 28, the event provided attendees the opportunity to network after work and enjoy food and drinks.

Easter Bunny visits Nocatee Farmers Market

Held this past Saturday, March 17, the Nocatee Farmers Market featured a special visit from the Easter Bunny.

In addition to offering photo opportunities with this holiday legend and an Easter egg hunt, the "Spring Fling"-themed event celebrated the changing of the season and featured a petting zoo and live music by the J Crew Band. Overall, the market hosts over 70 local vendors each month, selling everything from fresh produce, to crafts, jewelry, herbs, unique foods and more.

The date and theme of the next Nocatee Farmers Market in April is to be determined.



Photos by Susan Griffin

The Easter Bunny awaits his next visitor at the Nocatee Farmers Market on March 17.



The farmers market's petting zoo allowed visitors the opportunity to get up close and personal with some of the animals.



The J Crew Band performs at the Nocatee Farmers Market on March 17.

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First 'Suddenly Single' program held at Recorder office March 5

By Jon Blauvelt

The first "Suddenly Single" program took place at the Ponte Vedra Recorder office on Monday, March 5, introducing a monthly series for men and women designed to provide support to those experiencing separation or divorce.

Mary Whitman Ortiz, a dating and relationship coach, speaker and author, served as the speaker of the March 5 session. The next meeting, to be held Monday, April 2 from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m., at the Recorder, will feature Kendall Fordham as its speaker. A financial planner for Raymond James, Fordham will speak about the common financial mistakes made before, during and after a divorce. RSVP to Trudy Toche at (903) 819-6581.

Toche, the creator of "Suddenly Single," said nothing like this existed in the com-



Photo by Susan Griffin

Trudy Toche and Mary Whitman Ortiz pose at the first "Suddenly Single" program on March 5

munity, so she decided to create it herself. The series, said Toche, will provide attendees the opportunity to learn about topics that will help them positively move forward in their lives, such as finance, nutrition, parenting issues and more.

"Whenever you're educated, you're empowered," said Toche.

Another meeting is scheduled for May 14, but the speaker is to be determined.

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Cub Scouts Pack 277 enjoys annual Blue and Gold Banquet

Cub Scouts Pack 277 held its annual Blue and Gold Banquet on Friday, March 9, at Christ Episcopal Church.

With approximately 225 people in attendance, the awards dinner featured several pack advancements, as well as the presentation of Arrow of Light awards — the highest level of recognition in Cub Scouts — to seven fifth grade students: Teddy Breland, Isaiah Burrell, Matthew Fitzpatrick, Ray Gottschalk, Barron Harris, Warren Johnson and Joey McMahon.

Chartered by Christ Episcopal Church, Cub Scouts Pack 277 is one of the largest packs in the area with more than 75 scouts ages 6-11 years old. First graders start out as tigers and receive their tiger badges at the Blue and Gold Banquet. Second graders receive their wolf badges, third graders receive their bear badges and fourth graders receive their webelos 1 badges. Fifth graders start out as webelos 2 and then transition to the Boy Scouts. Rick Wicker serves as the cub master of the pack, with other leaders designated for each grade.

Local restaurants and families donated food for the community event. Woody's Bar-B-Q



Photos by Isabella Dunn

A group of Cub Scouts gathers for a photo at the Blue and Gold Banquet.

served as the gold level sponsor, donating iced tea, lemonade, mashed potatoes, gravy and macaroni and cheese. Publix, Lucky's Market, Chick-fil-A, Napoli's, Ruth's Chris Steak House, 3 Palms Grille, Metro Diner and Ana Maria's Kitchen also contributed as silver level sponsors. Fresh Market, Trader Joe's, Winn-Dixie, Pusser's and Sierra Grille served as bronze level sponsors.

Volunteers from Ponte Vedra High School and Landrum Middle School helped to serve the food and clean up, while about 20 Cub Scout families helped to organize the entire endeavor.

Throughout the year, the pack takes part in other events, including the Soapbox Derby, Raingutter Regatta, Pinewood Derby and a cub scout basketball clinic. The scouts also take camping trips and participate in several service projects.



Pack 277 Cub Master Rick Wicker stands with his wife, Carrie Wicker, and son and Cub Scout, Nolan Wicker, at the Blue and Gold Banquet on March 9.

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MAY 1

TODRICK HALL AMERICAN
"THE FORBIDDEN" TOUR
MAY 4

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MAY 6

THE PAUL THORN BAND
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MAY 12

AN EVENING WITH
THE MARC COHN TRIO
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MAY 14

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MAY 16

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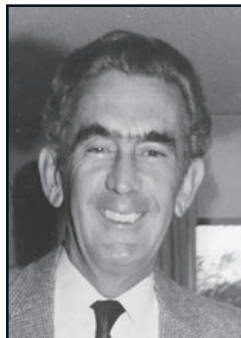
OBITUARIES

Ronald Burns

Ronald J. Burns (Ron) died on Monday, March 12, 2018, in Jacksonville, FL. He was born in Fall River, Massachusetts, on Dec. 8, 1927.

Ron was the oldest of four siblings and excelled in school. During his youth in Fall River and Pawtucket, Rhode Island, he worked as a bowling alley pin setter, newspaper delivery boy and soda jerk. He was valedictorian of his high school class and voted "Most Likely to Succeed." He joined the U.S. Army and served during World War II. He received an honorable discharge in 1947 and graduated from Brown University with a degree in economics in 1951. He later continued his studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

Ron launched his career as a senior security analyst for J.P. Morgan and as a financial executive at the insurance company now known as CIGNA, working in New York City and Philadelphia. In 1964, he joined the Home Insurance Co. in New York, where he rose to executive vice president, serving as corporate treasurer and chief investment officer.



Ronald Burns

He also worked in the energy business. In 1978, he moved to Boston, joining the Bank of Boston as chief investment officer. In 1985, he moved to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, where he founded Augustine Asset Management in Jacksonville, which grew rapidly to become a successful financial management firm. Ron served as its chief executive for many years before stepping down in his 80s. He also served as a corporate director at AmeriFirst Bank in Miami, becoming interim chief financial officer and later acting chief executive officer.

Ron was a natural athlete who could play almost any sport well. He was a lifelong golfer who for years maintained a single-digit handicap. He golfed at most of the world's great courses, from Augusta National to Gleneagles in Scotland, and he loved THE PLAYERS Championship at TPC Sawgrass. He was a longtime active member of the Sawgrass Country Club, The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and The Plantation Country Club in Florida, as well as the Shorehaven Golf Club and Wee Burn Country Club in Connecticut. Ron enjoyed playing tennis, basketball and family skiing vacations in New England. He loved to read, especially newspapers, and he often clipped stories to share with friends and family. He was a movie buff with close to 1,000 DVDs, and he could recite famous lines of dialogue. Among his favorite flicks was "Casablanca," the 1942 World War II classic. He enjoyed contemporary movies as well.

Ron is survived by his wife, Carol, of Jacksonville, and four children: daughters Rebecca Burns of Chicago; Donna Charlton (William) of New Vernon, New Jersey; Diana Derivan (Steve) of Norwalk, Connecticut; and son Greg Burns (Lisa) of Wilmette, Illinois. He is survived by seven grandchildren: Elizabeth Mendez (Mike), Laura Spiegel (Keenan), Bill Charlton, Vanessa Charlton, Matt Burns, Jenny Burns and Lindsey Burns. He has a great grandchild, Emily, born in 2018, and another on the way shortly. He is also survived by his sisters Pauline Gill (Tom) and Madeleine MacDonald (Mac), as well as his former wife, Trudy Burns. He was preceded in death by his brother, Robert, in 2017, and by his parents Lawrence and Adrienne Burns.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 13 at Holy Family

Catholic Church, 9800 Baymeadows Road, Jacksonville, FL 32256. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in his memory to Catholic Charities, 134 E. Church St., Jacksonville, FL 32202, or to Northeast Florida Community Hospice, 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257.

Arrangements by Neptune Society-Jacksonville, (904) 733-4510.

Frances Sledzik

Frances Marie Aniela Potrepka Sledzik died peacefully in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, on March 16, 2018, surrounded by her four children and family. She was 87.

The daughter of Julian and Aniela (Trybulski) Potrepka, Fran was born in Bristol, Connecticut, and graduated from Bristol Central High School. She worked at Lake Compounce, where she met the love of her life, Chester S. Sledzik. They were married at St. Stanislaw's Church in Bristol in 1961. They resided in New Britain, Connecticut, for 56 years. Chet pre-deceased her in April 2017.

In the 1950s, Frances worked at Tomasso Brothers as an executive secretary. She was an active member of Holy Cross Church. Fran held Bible study with her neighbors in her home and knitted prayer shawls for cancer patients. As a mother, she proudly sang with the Holmes School Do-Re-Me Mommies Choir. For years, Frances volunteered at her children's schools and the New Britain General Hospital thrift shop. Fran enjoyed playing golf as a member of the Shuttle Meadow Country Club.

Her cottage, "Finally," at Point O' Woods Beach in Old Lyme, Connecticut, was her sanctuary. Fran's favorite spread was lobsters off the dock, steamers and her homemade clam chowder, accompanied by a chilled glass of wine. The heart and soul of Frances was food. She foraged for mushrooms or grape leaves, canned pickles and made her own jam from wild rose hips that she picked near the shore. Fran was an amazing cook who tackled every recipe, but often improvised with her own creative touch. She had a spirited personality and a zest for life. Frances was an enthusiastic gardener, loved taking walks, had an appreciation for nature and animals, and always made sure the bird feeder in her back yard was full.

She was a loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother, and leaves behind Steven Sledzik, Esq. and his wife, Christine Zimbelmann, of Somers, New York; Mary Beth Sledzik-Diamond and Scott Diamond, of Moultonboro, New Hampshire; Sue Geisker and her husband, David, of Tarrytown, New York; and Peter Sledzik, Esq. and his wife, Kristen Van der Linde, Esq. of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Fran is also survived by and will be deeply

missed by her nine grandchildren, whom she spoiled with love. She is affectionately known to them as Nana, Babci or Grandma Fran.

The Sledzik family would like to express their deep gratitude to the wonderful and loving staff at The Palms in Ponte Vedra Beach and Northern Florida Community Hospice for their exceptional, compassionate care and kindness. Relatives and friends are invited to call Monday, March 26, 2018, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Burritt Hill Funeral Home, 332 Burritt St., New Britain, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. at Holy Cross Church in New Britain. She will be laid to rest with her husband at the Mater Dolorosa Cemetery in Greenfield, Massachusetts.

Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter, 200 Executive Blvd., #4b, Southington, CT 06489, or online at https://act.alz.org/site/TRR/Events/Tributes-alzheimersChampions?fr_tm_opt=new&pg=tcfund&fr_id=1060. To share a memory with her family, please visit www.burritthill.com.

Marie Albert

Marie Frances Albert, 86, died March 7, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery - (904) 285-1130 - www.pontevedravalle.com.

Margaret del Tufo

Margaret M. del Tufo, 90, died March 11, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery - (904) 285-1130 - www.pontevedravalle.com.

Charles Huggett

Charles Huggett, 73, died March 12, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery - (904) 285-1130 - www.pontevedravalle.com.

Anita Lentz

Anita Quinn Lentz, 91, of Jacksonville, died March 11, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Marvin Metheny

Marvin Douglas Metheny II, 75, of Jacksonville Beach, died March 13, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Kevin O'Gara

Kevin Francis O'Gara, 83, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died March 11, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Patrick Raymond

Patrick Garriott Raymond, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died March 12, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Norman Taylor

Norman Frank Taylor, 91, of Jacksonville Beach, died March 12, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

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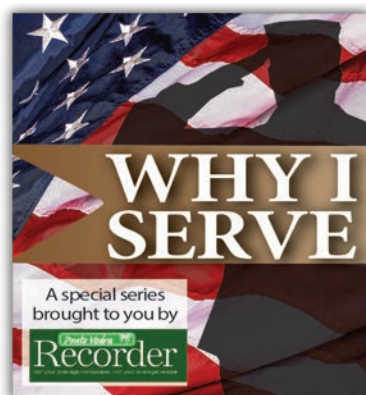
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Sports



PVHS boys lacrosse routs Creekside, falls to Bishop Moore

Photos, page 30

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NEASE GIRLS LACROSSE EARNS 12-11 WIN OVER ST. AUGUSTINE



FAR LEFT: Nease's Autumn Baker (14) controls the ball during the Panthers' 12-11 win over St. Augustine on Friday, March 16.

LEFT: Nease's Erin Cotter (2) aims for the net against St. Augustine last Friday. The Panthers' rematch with St. Augustine scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, was canceled due to weather.

Photos by Jeff Heinemann/
theimagecaddy.com

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THEME: BEFORE AND AFTER

ACROSS

1. "____ Fever," movie and novel
6. "Is" in the past
9. Name of the Blue Ox
13. Rome's Colosseum, e.g.
14. Fla. neighbor
15. Jig, in France
16. Volcanic rock, pl.
17. Basketball hoop
18. Opposite of adore
19. *Before - Rodham; After - _____
21. *Before - ____; After - Mumbai
23. Make mistakes
24. Prickle on a wire
25. Art degrees
28. Abominable humanoid
30. "American Horror Story: Hotel" hotel
35. Tangerine and grapefruit hybrid
37. Sailor's call
39. Tarzan's swing
40. Search without warning
41. Audition tapes
43. Shorter than maxi
44. King of ancient Crete
46. Time distortion
47. Bit of slander
48. Bobbysock
50. Row of vagrants
52. "All the Light We Cannot ____," novel
53. Auctioneer's quantities
55. El ____

57. *Before - ____; After - living room
60. Like misanthrope's remark
64. Pluck
65. Flying saucer acronym
67. Nary a soul
68. Sicker
69. Waikiki garland
70. Written corrections
71. English playwright Coward
72. Japanese capital
73. Fit out again

DOWN

1. Locker room supply
2. Caspian feeder
3. Denim innovator
4. Foolish
5. *Before - flour, water, shortening; After - _____
6. Announce Red Alert
7. *Before - Clay; After - _____
8. Brazilian dance
9. Kind of lettuce
10. Turkish honorific
11. Channel marker
12. Always, in verse
15. Run around
20. Artemis' companion
22. Middle-earth creature
24. Organic matter used as fuel
25. *Before - ____; After - Myanmar

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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.

26. "Encore!"
27. Move furtively
29. Muscle or strength
31. #17 Across, pl.
32. Quarter side, pl.
33. Empower
34. *Before - ____; After - Democratic Republic of Congo
36. *Before - William Michael Albert Broad; After - Billy ____
38. *Before - New Amsterdam; After - New ____
42. Like certain foods
45. Amazon, e.g.
49. #me ____
51. *Before - supper; After - _____
54. "Yours ____"
56. D in LED
57. Prince William's sport
58. Car shaft
59. Cambodian currency
60. Mint product
61. Salon creation
62. Hostile to
63. Just in case
64. M in rpm
66. ATM extra

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ABOVE: Attackman Walker Az-zaro winds up and scores for the Sharks in Ponte Vedra's 20-4 win over the Creekside Knights on Wednesday, March 14. The team lost to Bishop Moore 7-6 on Saturday, March 17, and played Bolles on Wednesday, March 21, after the Recorder went to the printer.

LEFT: Long stick midfielder Riley McCormick faces off for the Sharks.

Photos by Jerry and Chris Norton

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