

Sand Castles

LUXURY * LIFESTYLE * REAL ESTATE

OCTOBER 25, 2018 - SPECIAL 5TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

- ADVENTURES IN AFRICA
- 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PONTE VEDRA INN & CLUB
- JUDGE JEANINE PIRRO VISITS PONTE VEDRA BEACH

Ponte Vedra 
Recorder
Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

Welcome to the fall issue of Sand Castles



Janet Westling
Contributing Editor

Welcome to the fall issue of Sand Castles, a luxury, lifestyle and seasonal publication.

Five years ago, I met with the publisher and editor of the Ponte Vedra recorder with an idea I had for a quarterly publication called Sand Castles. As a beaches

resident and realtor, I saw the need for a lifestyle and real estate publication with a focus on local stories and events that highlight properties and people who live, work and play at the beach!

We launched our first issue on Oct. 31, 2013 during Florida/Georgia weekend as we welcomed our Georgia fans to Florida! We may be rivals when it comes to football but off the field Georgia and its residents are the No. 1 feeder state when it comes to buying real estate on our First Coast!

Today, as we celebrate our five-year anniversary, we are grateful not only for the readers who support the Ponte Vedra Recorder but for everyone who has helped make this publication a success. Over the past five years we have featured real estate stories from over 60 real estate agents and brokerages from the Beaches to Jacksonville. Our local Market watch written by a broker is a regular feature and in this issue we hear from Kevin Waugaman from Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR. Our contributing writers have covered our nonprofits from the Wolfson Children's Hospital to a grand hotel, the award

winning Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, which appeared in our first issue and this year celebrates its 90th Anniversary! We wrote three Inside the Legends That Lie Among Us stories, and we are reprinting our first legend, as we honor the memory of a war hero, author and physician, Dr. Harold Baumgarten, who died on Dec. 25, 2016.

Many travel writers have shared their adventures and travel tips through the years and we feature two stories, one from Gil Barrera and his adventurous climb on Mt. Kilimanjaro, and our second story is written by Linder Sherrer and her family safari to Africa!

Nine realtors showcase their listings from as far away as a historic home in DeLand, south to Vilano Beach and back home to Ponte Vedra Beach on the boulevard.

Local chef Alice Hickox and owner of Lettuce Do Dinner shares some wonderful recipes for tailgating during the Florida/Georgia game.

Over 50 neighbors and friends joined me at my home in Sawgrass on Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018 to meet Judge Jeanine Pirro. She visited Ponte Vedra Beach last week

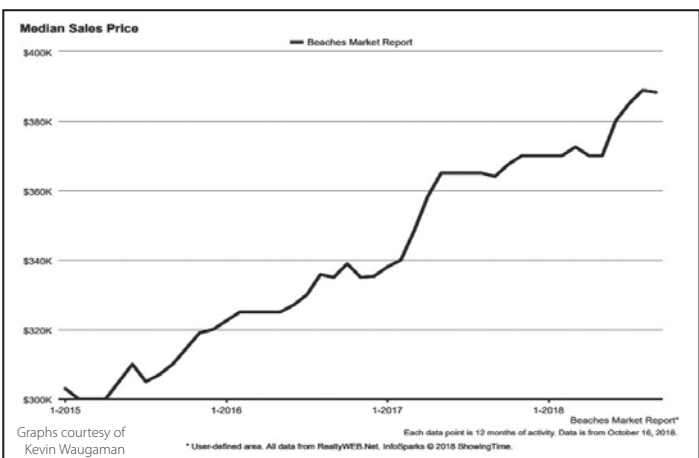
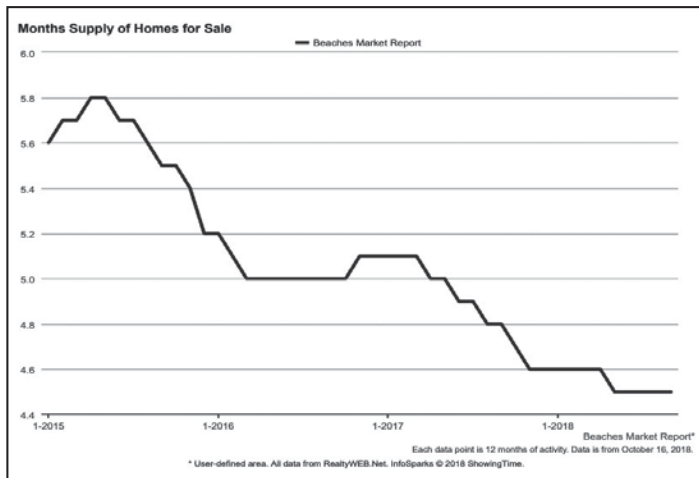
on her book tour, for her best-selling novel, "Liars, Leakers and Liberals: The Case Against the Anti-Trump Conspiracy." Judge Jeanine held the audience captive during a 45-minute talk followed by questions from the audience! Read about this fascinating story in a book review written by Jesse Hagy, who is a freshman at Bates College.

Judson Clarkson with Pools by John Clarkson shares the second part of his story on how to prepare your home for a hurricane. We were fortunate that we were spared the necessity to use this helpful information.

Our home is our castle and at the beaches it is our castle in the sand. From palm trees to sand dunes, golf courses and resort living, Jacksonville, Ponte Vedra Beach and the Beaches communities offer the most desirable real estate in Northeast Florida.

Janet Westling, REALTOR, GRI, CIPS
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Florida Network Realty
Sand Castles creator and contributing editor
Award-winning section
www.janetwestling.com

MARKET WATCH ▶ Look beyond the headlines



From Mayport South to Mickler's Beach; Fourth quarter, 2018

By Kevin Waugaman
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

THE BIG PICTURE

Nationally, demand remains strong even with the headwinds of continued inventory shortages and rising interest rates.

Many renters still would prefer to own as rental rates continue to increase. Some headlines are reporting a slowdown in home sales; however, if enough inventory existed across markets, all indications say there would be more sales reported this year than last year.

Housing supply is starting to modestly increase, which will begin to reverse the inventory crunch trend, and that is great for a sustainable market. We are still far from a healthy level to keep up with demand but are moving toward a normal market. There is not now a decline in home prices nor have we entered a buyer's market. The rate of appreciation of home prices, however, will continue to slow.

THE LOCAL TRENDS

For the First Coast Beaches (the island from Mayport south to Mickler's, from ocean to Intracoastal Waterway), it remains a seller's market.

One of the best indicators of market health is the balance between supply and demand. Limited supply is the continued

issue in the lower price points. As seen in the three-year trend on the Months Supply of Homes for Sale, we remain in the overheated four-and-a-half-month range. This means it would only take current demand four and a half months to absorb the current level of supply. A "normal" market would be around six months supply. The lower the number, the hotter the market.

When looking at supply and demand in the \$1 million plus luxury market, there is continued strength and the inventory is also picking up. The number of homes for sale in September increased 12.3 percent up to 164 units available, while the number of pending sales nearly doubled over September 2017 from nine to 17 units. The result is a 9.6-month supply of homes on the market compared to an 11-month supply one year ago. It would seem, across all price points, sellers are in great position assuming an asking price reasonable to market value and strong marketing horsepower.

When looking at median price per transaction for all price points for the 12 months ended September 2018, there has been an increase compared to 2017 due to market appreciation. In the 12 months ended September 2018, the average price for Beaches residential sales was \$388,250 versus \$364,000 for the same period last year, a 6.7 percent improvement. In our last report in January, we recognized a 10.4 percent year-over-year improvement, so you can see that prices are still increasing, yet at a decelerating pace. Average days on market is 45



Oceanfront home in Ponte Vedra Beach will WOW you

By Kim Martin-Fisher
Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty

This magnificent estate is located on a 150-foot, elevated lot with a gated entry and porte-cochere, with lush landscaping and a stunning entryway up a stone staircase to the front door.

The first time I entered the home, it took my breath away. Walls of windows and what seems like forever ocean views are captivating. This is an entertainer's dream home perfect for large gatherings, intimate settings or just hanging out.

In 2014, the seller updated and extensively renovated this home from a new metal roof to top to bottom designer finishes. This oceanfront coastal home includes decks to a poolside game room with a built-in bar, a floor to ceiling wine cabinet, a spa-like changing room with a full bath, a huge storage room and a second laundry room.

The oceanfront setting has a chessboard game area and a private beach walkover. There are multiple seating areas to take in the ocean views and the Ponte Vedra lifestyle. Find your way to the beach via five decks and balconies.

The master suite has a two-story wood beamed ceiling that includes a loft area with a fireplace, two balconies and three large closets. The master bath has custom wood countertops, vessel sinks, a massive tub with a walk-in shower and glass tiles that remind you that you are at the beach, designer lighting and the best in finishes.

This home at 1129 Ponte Vedra Boulevard in Ponte Vedra Beach has a total



Photos courtesy of Kim Martin-Fisher and Jennifer Martin Faulkner

1129 Ponte Vedra Blvd.

of five bedrooms, six full baths and one powder room with a total of 7,304 square feet, including a game room/media room off the pool area, two laundry rooms, a kitchen with two islands, custom cabinetry, Wolf and Miele appliances, another wine cooler and a Sub-Zero refrigerator with separate freezer and refrigerator drawers.

Most of all, the views will ignite your senses. This home provides a one-of-a-kind lifestyle close to all that Ponte Vedra Beach has to offer with enough property for your privacy.

This property is represented by Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty, listed by Kim Martin-Fisher and Jennifer Martin Faulkner and offered for \$5,449,000.

Score big points with these healthy tailgating recipes

By Alice Hickox
Lettuce Do Dinner

The best time of the year is upon us: cooler temperatures, dramatic sunsets and the dawn of the holiday season. But for me, football season is always the true marker that fall has finally arrived, often weeks before Mother Nature would have us guess.

As much as I would love to say that I actually sit down and watch football, the real thrill for me is the social aspect of it — friends, family and FOOD! Whether it's gathering in our various homes, or tailgating when the weather is cool, football season brings excitement. But most of the time, I can be found watching the game from the kitchen, looking up mostly to see what I just missed when the entire living room goes into a roar!

As a personal chef, I take a lot of pride in creating healthy, lightened up versions of traditional comfort foods. Many of my clients seek out my service to help assist in dietary goals; whether it's following a doctor or dietician's protocol, or assisting in their own personal health goals. I'm always researching, experimenting and creating healthier renditions of family favorites. In this case, it's football favorites! So, if you are like me, and want all the delicious foods you crave while watching your favorite team, I'd love to share a great turkey burger and flat bread recipe that won't leave you missing the fattier versions of beef burgers and traditional pizza. So, kick things off with these delicious recipes that will score big points at the next game!

RECIPES continues on Page 30

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Market Watch

Continued from 20

compared to September 2017 at 48 days.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Over the next 18 months, it will be important to look beyond the headlines.

Even though the market remains strong, future housing data will lead to reports of possible recession, housing slowdowns and market declines. Make sure you understand the context before pulling a panic trigger. In some areas, it will be a return to normalcy, and yet still may feel like a slump. In other areas, there may very well be pricing corrections. In some cases, data is simply presented in a manner that can be confusing. Fundamentally, we are in a state far more predictive of stability than the years prior to 2006-2007.

Chief Economist of the National Association of Realtors Lawrence Yun believes there is no housing recession over the horizon and says, "Since the word 'bubble' is on the minds of many consumers, it is worth laying out why today's conditions are fundamentally different compared to a decade ago. Back then, lending standards were non-existent, with subprime loans everywhere. By contrast, the lending standards today are still stringent, as evidenced by the higher than normal credit scores of those who are able to obtain a mortgage. That is why mortgage default and foreclosure rates are at historic lows.

On the supply side, there was overbuilding with 2.1 million housing starts during the bubble years. Today, we are just scratching 1.3 million."

In order to look beyond the headlines on the state of the local real estate market, utilize your trusted real estate advisor. It is also important to use a professional to receive analyses on specific property you own or are considering. Many pros will do this with no charge and no obligation. This information can be helpful even if you aren't considering a purchase or sale. Perhaps you are completing a personal financial review, or would like to make sure you are carrying the right level of homeowner's insurance in light of appreciation over the past five plus years. Whatever the reason, make sure you have someone to turn to in order to have the local and relevant real estate information you need.

The decision to sell or purchase real estate deserves great attention to personal objectives. The overall market conditions noted above convey the real estate environment for our area. It is extremely important to drill down to an even more hyperlocal level when evaluating a sale or purchase of real estate. Make sure you consult your real estate professional for analysis on price trends in specific neighborhoods and on the property you are considering selling or buying. This way, you can make a great decision based on your personal circumstances.

Statistics from NEFAR MLS 1/1/2015-9/30/18 for residential property type located on the island from Mayport south to Mickler's, from ocean to intracoastal waterway.

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Featured Properties
 240 Ponte Vedra Park Dr.
 Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

SAWGRASS COUNTRY CLUB



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 \$1,965,000 | Call Jacquelyn Bates

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18 Cumberland Island Cir.
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 \$585,000 | Call Pam Henry



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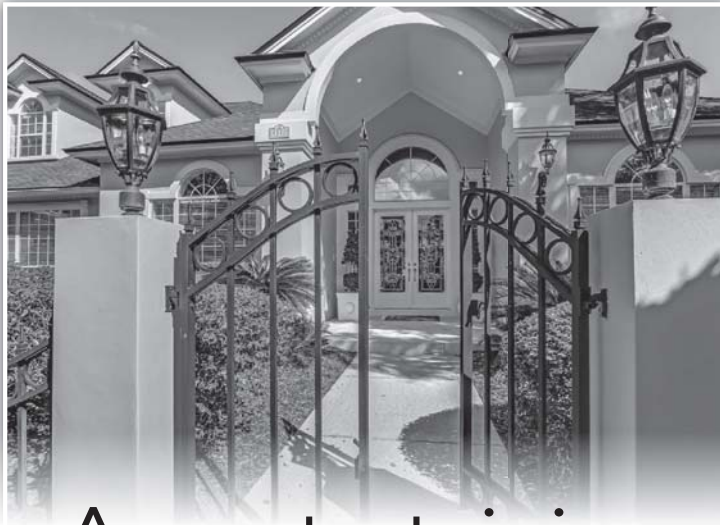
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An entertaining executive's haven

By Clare Berry
Berry & Co. Real Estate

Ponte Vedra Beach has many distinctive neighborhoods, but only one has uniformity of parcel size and views.

That neighborhood is Sawgrass Island, accessible only by traveling over a bridge off Seven Mile Drive in Sawgrass Players Club. Here, every homesite is approximately an acre, and all are surrounded by towering old oaks — pines and palms — as well as the TPC Sawgrass golf courses — either the Stadium, home of THE PLAYERS Championship, or the Valley.

The lucky new owner of 8022 Pebble Creek Lane East will enjoy the privacy 1.12 acres affords — hard to find in Ponte Vedra Beach — as well as views of water and golf, the No. 2 fairway of the lush and natural TPC Sawgrass Stadium course to be exact. The current owners enjoy watching passing golfers in the distance, as well as the birds that fish in the adjacent waters and nest nearby. This is an oasis of serenity near easy access to work, schools, shops and restaurants. The property's outside living space is expansive. It includes a shady covered area that extends along the rear of the home, a summer kitchen, a freeform pool and a putting green! Native landscaping surrounds the fenced backyard. This backyard has been ideal for entertaining a

crowd, rain or shine.

This 6,000-plus square-foot home was built by fine custom home builder Frank Gamel. The timeless design features generously-sized rooms, high smooth ceilings, five bedrooms with en suite bathrooms, warm wood floors, multi-step crown moldings, classic Palladian windows, a separate office with built-ins and storage one finds only in custom homes. From the leaded glass entry, you step into a gracious foyer with windows all around, to take in all the beauty outside, and an open plan that expands in every direction, providing the circular flow perfect for parties. The dining room features a wall of built-ins and still easily accommodates a table for 12. There are two family rooms (one up and one down), three fireplaces and a roomy three-car, side-entry garage with generous storage. The kitchen features Thermador stainless appliances and plentiful food prep and serving areas — perfect for everyday needs as well as for parties.

This is truly a home that has it all — prime location, timeless design and quality construction. It's perfect for the entertainer in you, and at the end of the day, when no one's around, it provides a refuge from the hustle and bustle of the day.

This property is represented by Berry & Co. Real Estate, listed by Broker Clare Berry and offered for \$2,095,000.



Photos courtesy of Clare Berry

8022 Pebble Creek Lane East



Relax, unwind, escape and enjoy

By Michelle Floyd
First Coast Sotheby's International Realty

Welcome home to your own private paradise where you can leave the hectic pace of the everyday behind and focus on the serenity afforded by the long views of coastal marshes, ancient old oaks, tropical palms and tidal estuaries.

Located at 307 15th St. South, this nearly two-acre property is conveniently located in the heart of Jacksonville Beach. It is just a short bike ride to the beach and steps away from the 18-hole championship golf course across the street, but also discreetly tucked away among lushly landscaped grounds with a meandering paver path among the 100-year old trees leading to the pristine Florida marshes and Intracoastal Waterway. On a chilly night, enjoy the ambiance and warmth of the open-air firepit with plenty of seating for guests, or spend a lazy weekend afternoon on the Intracoastal Waterway in a kayak launched from the private dock. You'll discover fishing, bird life and secluded islands virtually untouched by humans.

All of these outdoor opportunities beckon from the expansive decks that extend the entire width of the home, but you may find it difficult to pull yourself away from the exquisitely finished interior spaces. The spacious great room is an unexpected blend of form and function, simultaneously accommodating a grand

piano, wine cellar and bar. The combination of these make this unique space the consummate place for entertaining, particularly in conjunction with the nearby butler's pantry and nicely appointed kitchen, suitable for a gourmet chef.

When friends and family gather together in the heart of the home, there is ample space for everyone in the family room and breakfast areas that comfortably extend from the kitchen. This area also boasts a separate study and work area.

Even with such a terrific capacity to accommodate a crowd, this home's layout allows for plenty of privacy. There are three distinct bedroom wings, two with master suites. The upstairs master suite enjoys breathtaking sunset views over the marshes and tidal waters; plus, it features an inviting sitting area with a fireplace. The room simply inspires serenity.

Guests enjoy private access to their area via a separate entrance, highlighted by a foyer and ornate staircase. With stunning views and abundant natural light, guests may be so "at home," it will be difficult for them to leave!

Perfectly designed and immaculately maintained, bring your kayak and your binoculars to see for yourself how suitable this home is for all your needs.

This property is represented by First Coast Sotheby's International Realty, listed by Michelle Floyd and offered for \$1,373,000.



Photos courtesy of Michelle and Jack Floyd

307 15th St. S., Jacksonville Beach



Luxury Full Service Interior Design

Photo by: Jessie Preza

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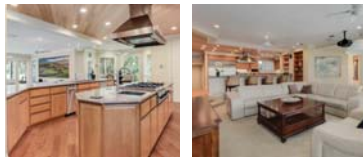
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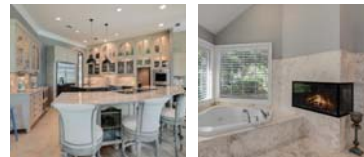
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A FAMILY'S ADVENTURES IN TANZANIA

By Linda Sherrer

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

A photo safari has always been at the top of our family's bucket list. This summer, I made that dream a reality for our family of 12, including four grandchildren ages 7-12.

After months of research, I found a fantastic safari provider, Mark Homann of Homann's Africa. The planning began in January for a July trip, which is winter in Africa and an ideal time to visit, with temperatures ranging from the 70s during the day to 50s at night.

On July 7, our family began its journeys from various locations in the U.S. to Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. Several went thorough Dubai, and others through Paris and Amsterdam. By whatever route, it's 22 hours in the air or about 12,000 miles, but worth every second.

We arrived in Tanzania late and our accommodations were at the Legendary Lodge, a mid-1920s coffee plantation converted into a wonderful and welcoming hotel. The next day, the trek across Tanzania began with an hour-and-a-half single engine plane "ride" to the Legendary Serengeti Camp several hundred miles west of Arusha and Kilimanjaro.

The Legendary Camp's tent accommodations and the "reasonably" dependable electrical service were fine, but the 14-member pride of lions that claimed the area as "home" was a bit ... interesting, especially as they roared just outside our tents! Nobody, however, enjoyed that aspect of the trip more than Christy, Todd and Cate. The nearly grown cubs actually came to Christy and Todd's tent, took the kerosene lantern that marked the path from the dining tent and decided to play soccer with it. Thankfully the flame was out!

We spent three nights at the camp and the animal viewing was beyond description — hippos, wildebeest, lions, zebras, giraffes, Cape buffalo, jackals, hyenas, cheetahs and leopards. We were in the midst of the famous migration of the wildebeest and zebras. The most vivid memory was seeing, from no more than 20 feet, a lioness take down and kill a wildebeest to feed her four cubs. You might think that was a shock for folks from Atlantic Beach, but as Cate said, "It's the circle of life." The two guides we had were incredible, so knowledgeable, personable, funny and so wonderful with the grandchildren and their voluminous questions.

Our next destination was the absolutely incredible Mwiba Lodge, far south on the Serengeti. The animal viewing, again, was incredible. We also had an extraordinary experience with an indigenous, nomadic group called the Hadzabe. Very primitive with ancestry dating back to the African Pygmy tribes, they are hunters and gatherers and are sadly heading toward extinction. Additionally, we visited a Maasai village, and I, always ready to participate, carried water in a 5-gallon bucket on my head from the local watering hole while dressed in traditional Maasai robes and jewelry ... priceless!

Probably the highlight of our stay at the Mwiba Lodge came on our last night when our twin grandchildren were served a birthday cake since their 13th birthday is coming up shortly. Our granddaughter, Holland, blew out the candles and proceeded to try to cut the cake. Our guides had made a beautifully decorated cake out of solidified elephant dung! A few minutes of furious cutting and frustration were followed by the Lodge staff getting a really good



Photos courtesy of Linda Sherrer



laugh and then serving us a terrific birthday cake, one the twins will never forget.

Our last animal-viewing experience was from July 17 to 19 at a spot in the southern Serengeti called Little Chem Chem. Once again, we were in tented accommodations with great and very imaginative cuisine. The highlight at Chem Chem was the elephants. We were within a few feet of them and one had a "stare down contest" with our grandson, Will, who sat, transfixed, only a few feet away!

On July 19, we bid a tearful farewell to our wonderful guides and flew to Zanzibar to spend three days on Mnemba Island. Words cannot describe this piece of paradise in the Indian Ocean. If you can believe it, this was our R&R after the safari! The accommodations defy description, the chef was extraordinary and the scuba diving was terrific with visibility of nearly 100 feet!

On July 22, we left the island and began a 31-hour trip back halfway around the world from Zanzibar to Orlando. In retrospect, I believe I gave the family something so much more valuable than material presents; I gave memories of an incredible experience that will live a lifetime.



For a story on another local group's trip to Tanzania, this time to hike Mount Kilimanjaro, flip to page 42.

First Coast

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Two oceanfront condos merged into one offers all the perks of a single-family home

By Jennifer Sexton

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Florida Network Realty

Today's luxury homebuyer looks for a home that stands out in a crowd and captures their heart. When the homeowners of this stunning unit at the WatersEdge, located at 123 1st Street South, #402, in Jacksonville Beach, took on the project of combining two units, they realized how rare such oceanfront space was within a smaller boutique-sized condo building with only 18 units.

This magnificent four-bedroom/four-bath oceanfront condo now measures an impressive 4,473 square feet and offers 180-degree panoramic views of the ocean. One can enjoy all the benefits of living in a spacious single-family home without the inevitable stress of maintenance. The HOA fee includes water, electric, gas, trash and exterior insurance. Storage is never an issue with ample closet and storage spaces in the unit, plus the owner is granted two additional storage closets on the fourth floor.

Drive up to your oceanfront retreat and let the security gates open and gently close behind you as you park in one of two covered private parking spaces. Two additional designated spaces are just outside of the garage in case you have guests. Zoom up to the fourth floor, enter your home and exhale as you're met with unobstructed views of the Atlantic and a modern bright and open floorplan. The entertainer inside you will enjoy the finely appointed kitchen that flows

into the oceanfront dining room, as the owners spared no expense with professional Thermador stainless-steel appliances. The dining space is centered by a gas fireplace and offers access to an oceanfront glass balcony complete with a summer kitchen. Kick your feet up in the massive family room while watching football or enjoying the views of the moon reflecting over the water and listening to smooth jazz over the surround sound.

Three of the four bedrooms are conveniently en suite with walk-in closets, while the larger fourth suite is a self-contained area with a bathroom and closets that can be used as a theater room, office or an in-law/teenager hideaway. All rooms feature custom-cushioned window seating so one can relax and take in the mesmerizing backdrop. Indulge in the master retreat with glorious views, a second balcony, a second gas fireplace, two walk-in closets, a jetted tub and a walk-in shower with two shower heads.

This extraordinary condo is large enough to comfortably host the kids, grandkids, out-of-town guests and your pets! With its central location just south of Beach Boulevard on the oceanfront, you can venture out to a festival at the SeaWalk Pavilion, stroll on the beach for miles, fish, surf or simply enjoy your favorite beverage poolside. Welcome home!

This property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, listed by Jennifer Sexton and offered for \$1,475,000.



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Sexton



123 1st St. S, #402, Jacksonville Beach



Photos courtesy of Heidi Zawacki

Displayed are a few examples of how Zawacki has added pieces of furniture or subtle accents that have transformed her living room without spending too much money.



DECORATING ON A DIME

By Heidi Zawacki

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

I know we all love to flip through magazines dreaming that our homes can look like this or that, but guess what? It can! And you can do so without spending too much money.

I love to envision how that piece of furniture can look like that or wonder where they found that unique chair. My approach is similar: I have the look I like, and I have really started to make the changes by first getting my base color for our home. I love creams, whites, soft blues and linens. I have found that lightening up a room by adding a coat of paint or painting a dark piece of furniture really makes a room pop!

Take a look at these pictures of our living room and how I have added piece by piece the furniture that I have found so that I could decorate on a dime! I found two cream-colored bamboo tables at an estate sale for \$150 each. I peeked underneath and found the brand: Tomlinson and Co. I looked online and found that they were over \$2,000 for a pair!

I needed another texture, so I found a unique gold table at HomeGoods for \$299. The mirror on the top gives off a

pretty glow when the morning sun hits it. I have recently found a new passion of the timeless design item, the blue and white porcelain. I have always loved it and finally hit a jackpot of an estate sale in Marsh Landing Country Club and was able to get a lot of pieces, so my collection had a nice boost!

Another way to lighten up a room is getting some white sheers. You can find inexpensive white sheers for \$20 to \$40 a panel at Target. You would be surprised to find the amount of light you'll feel immediately!

Mixing inexpensive won't make your home feel cheap if you find a way to nicely incorporate slipcovered pieces or accents of gold and linen texture. I had these older dated slipper chairs that were refreshed by creating a custom cream-colored slipcover!

Below are some of my favorite places around Jacksonville to find that unique piece or transform something from boring to beautiful!

- Consignment Barn, San Jose Boulevard
- Antique Market, San Jose Boulevard
- Decorative Fabrics/Agnes Agatha, Phillips Highway
- China Cat Estate Sales (www.chinacatestatesales.com)
- B. Langston Estate Sales (blangston.com)

The John B. Stetson Mansion

By Joanelle Wood Mulrain

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Florida Network Realty

The John B. Stetson Mansion in DeLand, Florida, is an 1886 masterpiece that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and as one of the “Top 300” historic homes in America. It is known to be the first luxury estate built in Florida before the 20th century. Noted Philadelphia architect George T. Pearson also designed Elizabeth Hall at Stetson University, as well as Stetson’s 34,000-square-foot home in Philadelphia (now gone).

Henry Flagler built a railroad spur to the estate to get construction materials to the residence and so Stetson’s friend, Thomas Alva Edison, could install one of the world’s first home electric systems. The original, intact electric circuit box is adorned today with hand-written tags by Edison.

The Mansion’s nearly 10,000 square feet of space blends the past and present, which features high-end, modern conveniences. The three-story main residence (8,200 square feet), school house/guest house (800 square feet), carriage house/garage (1,750 square feet), zen-inspired meditation garden, pool, cellar, putting green, greenhouse and gazebo sits on 2.3 acres of manicured, matured landscape within a gated compound. It features nine bedrooms, 13 baths, six gas fireplaces, a professional kitchen, additional kitchens and areas for catering.

Around 95 percent of the original residence is fundamentally intact, including original shingles. Many of the Edison appointments were kept and carefully stored as modern lighting was installed. Opulent, Gilded Age craftsmanship details include a carved wooden wall with original glass from a 19th century French chateau. There are approximately 10,000 leaded glass window panels, shimmering copper leafing in the main hallway with glass embedded in the ceiling and its intricately designed parquet wood floors are nationally recognized.

When the present owners found it forgotten and hidden away, they bought it, invested blood, sweat and tears and commenced on a two-year renovation with intentional subtlety. They secured more than 325 high-end vendors and sponsors from the U.S. and Canada to join the cause. The grand opening was positioned as a benefit to fund DeLand’s Museum of Florida Art’s youth programs.

The grand mansion has had many visitors through the years — names synonymous with success: Astor, Vanderbilt, Carnegie, Mellon, Flagler, DeBary, Tiffany, President Grover Cleveland and more.

The Stetson Mansion is a unique property — it is a private residence, yes. But, it is also a turnkey business opportunity for a new owner as an attraction with an



Photos courtesy of Joanelle Wood Mulrain



international brand name that benefits the DeLand community and beyond. It increases regional tourism — as evidenced by its TripAdvisor ratings of “excellence.” It has multi-functional uses, such as other American venue models. It could be connected into a triangle of tourism with

Villa Vizcaya and The Ringling. It offers five-star docent-guided history tours and event venues for events, such as live piano and a concert series, weddings, product launches, gift shop/café, educational workshops, performances, movie screenings, celebration dinners, dining/tea/garden/arts

and cultural events, nonprofit headquarter opportunities/a fundraising site, family gatherings, celebrity/writer/musician/cultural residencies, corporate or university alumni meetings and business opportunities for experiential learning.

For two months the Mansion and grounds are turned into a magnificent Christmas Tour where the owners dress the mansion with over \$100,000 dollars of beautiful and extravagant holiday ornaments and where 12,000 or more attend. Significant proceeds are donated annually to a local charity.

With more than 68 million tourists coming to Florida annually — 1,000 moving into Florida daily — this is an opportunity to own a piece of Americana and brand it with legacy.

The price is \$3.2 million. The value is priceless as this is one of America’s historical gems and certainly one of the leading Florida and Southern masterpieces.

This property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty and listed by Joanelle Wood Mulrain.

Recipes

Continued from 21

This turkey burger recipe is lean and juicy! Turkey burgers can often be dry and lack flavor. So, one of my secrets to making sure you have a juicy burger is to add some



Photos courtesy of Alice Hickox

Lean and Juicy Turkey Burgers

(Serves 4)

- 1 pound lean ground turkey
- 1/2 medium onion, finely minced or grated (juice drained off)
- 2 tablespoons ketchup
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon sea salt

finely minced or grated onion, as well as a few table spoons of ketchup. For two simple ingredients, they pack a lot of moisture and flavor. To lighten this burger up even more, you can skip the bun and serve open face over a grilled portabella mushroom cap and topped with all of your favorites.

- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 4 whole wheat hamburger buns

Grate or finely mince onion. If grating, use the finest side of the grater. It will accumulate a lot of juice, so drain that off.



Combine the onion and the rest of ingredients, mixing with your hands just until thoroughly combined. Form into four patties. Preheat the grill or griddle pan and brush with oil or spray with nonstick cooking spray. (Ground turkey likes to stick). Grill four to five minutes per side of medium heat, being careful not to overcook and dry out. Top with your favorite burger toppings.

And now for an easy, delicious flatbread recipe that has "fancy" written all over it; try this in lieu of pizza at your next gathering.

Rosemary Flatbread with Grapes, Bacon and Goat Cheese

(Serves 4)

- 1 package of Naan Indian Bread (found at Publix and Costco)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 sprigs fresh Rosemary, roughly chopped
- 20 fresh red grapes, halved
- 3 strips of lean, center cut bacon
- 1 small log fresh goat cheese
- 1 small bag part skim mozzarella cheese, grated
- Honey (optional)

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit. Cook the bacon in nonstick or a cast iron skillet for five to six minutes or until crispy. Drain on paper towels and cool. Once cooled, crumble bacon. Meanwhile,



wash and dry grapes, then halve each grape length wise. Remove the rosemary sprigs from the stem and rough chop. Take each flatbread and brush with olive oil. Sprinkle a thin layer of mozzarella cheese, then crumble goat cheese on top of mozzarella. Take the halved grapes and press into cheese. Sprinkle with crumbled bacon and rosemary. Bake for about seven minutes until cheese is melted, being careful not to overcook edges of bread as it's pre-cooked. Just before serving, drizzle with honey and cut each flatbread into four equal pieces.

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The Ponte Vedra Carlyle: The perfect location for the perfect lifestyle

By Janet Westling

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Florida Network Realty

In real estate you often hear buyers and sellers talk about their location of their property. In fact, it is one of the most important factors in your real estate investment.

The Ponte Vedra Carlyle, a 47-unit condominium located at 600 Ponte Vedra Boulevard, is located in the center of one of the most prestigious areas in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Built in 1995, across from the Atlantic Ocean in Ponte Vedra Beach, the Carlyle Condo offers its residents a unique experience with a personal concierge at the front desk to check in guests and monitor the gated security.

A superior location, the Carlyle is adjacent to the Ponte Vedra Beach Lodge & Bath Club Fitness center and pool and just steps to the hotel and ocean.

Step inside Unit 109 at the Carlyle on the Boulevard. Experience a spacious, sophisticated and beautifully designed home in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach.

This first-floor unit is warm and inviting, with 2,122 square feet and three bedrooms

and two and a half bathrooms and an abundance of windows throughout. The grand living room features a gas fireplace and is flanked by built-in bookcases and French doors.

Savor your morning cup of coffee in your roomy kitchen and cozy dining space watching your favorite show. Invite your friends to join you at the beach, just steps away and dine at one of Ponte Vedra's finest resorts. In the evening watch the sunset off your veranda and retire in your stunning en suite master bedroom.

Enjoy all that Ponte Vedra Beach has to offer, with a membership initiation included to the Lodge & Club. The Lodge & Club, a AAA Four diamond boutique hotel, opened its doors to guests and members in 1989. Its distinctive Old World charm and beautifully designed Mediterranean architecture attracts guests and members from all over the world.

Your guests can stay in one of the lodge's 66 oceanfront rooms and suites. In the morning, join them for a long walk on the beach, or a swim in one of the two heated pools and exercise in the fitness center next door to the Carlyle. Finish your afternoon with High Tea at the Lodge or dine in one of the Lodge's four restaurants.



Photos courtesy of Janet Westling



About 34,000 residents call Ponte Vedra Beach home. Thousands come from around the world to play on its beautiful uncrowded beaches and enjoy world-renowned golf courses and tennis facilities each year. Visitors are often astounded to hear tales of Ponce de Leon landing on its shores as well as German saboteurs during World War II. Its past is intriguing, and its present is exciting.

Walk the beach, watch waves roll in from foreign shores and put a shell to your ear to hear whispers from the past. Then breathe deeply of the ocean breeze and you will catch a hint of Ponte Vedra living, which all will agree is simply the best.

This property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, listed by Janet Westling and offered for \$748,000.



Photos courtesy of Jacquelyn Bates

**917 1st St. South, #702
Jacksonville Beach**

Jacksonville Beach condo offers best of beachside living

By Jacquelyn Bates

Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty

Located in the southeast corner of Marbella, the most exclusive and prestigious condominium in the Jacksonville Beach area, this spectacular property offers three bedrooms, an office, three and a half baths and 4,435 square feet of luxurious beachside living.

The property also features a chef's kitchen with granite, Viking six-burner gas range, Thermador double ovens and a center island opening to a spacious family room with built-ins, wooden beams and expansive windows with beach views. There is a formal living room with a gas fireplace and coffered ceilings and a gracious dining room with tray ceiling and columns. The office has a custom desk, built-ins and sliders to the west side balcony. The property also has two en suite guest rooms with balcony access. Overall, it features interior finishes that combine

traditional and coastal accents and appeal.

Entertain or just relax on the expansive oceanfront terrace that wraps around from east to south, which is perfect for capturing sunrises. Or savor the sunsets from the western terrace. Privacy is promised with only 22 homes in the building, two on each floor and each with its own elevator entry.

Additional highlights include security, a building superintendent, club room, fitness center, garage parking and climate-controlled storage. This property is convenient to all Jacksonville Beach has to offer, including shopping, restaurants, the SeaWalk Pavilion and the Pier. It's also close to the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and less than 30 minutes to the airport. The best of the best ... come "sea" and savor!

Located at 917 1st St. South, #702, in Jacksonville Beach, this property is represented by Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty, listed by Jacquelyn Bates and offered for \$1,965,000.



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1129 Ponte Vedra Blvd.
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5BR | 6BA | 1HB 7,304 sq. ft.
\$5,449,000



1 Ocean Ridge Ct.
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
5BR | 5BA | 1HB
\$4,975,000



2403 S. Ponte Vedra Blvd.
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
6BR | 5BA 7,070 sq. ft.
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120 Regents Pl.
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
4BR | 5BA | 1HB 5,012 sq. ft.
\$2,150,000



349 San Juan Dr.
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
5BR | 4BA 4,484 sq. ft.
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8021 Pebble Creek Dr.
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5BR | 5BA | 1HB
\$1,595,000



129 Blooming Ln.
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To be constructed
\$870,000



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Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
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\$855,000



1864 Beachside Ct.
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3BR | 2BA 1,828 sq. ft.
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Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
5BR | 4BA 2,455 sq. ft.
\$2,895,000



ek Ln. E.
ch, Florida
5,163 sq. ft.



8039 Whisper Lake Ln. W.
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
4BR | 3BA | 1HB 3,822 sq. ft.
\$1,350,000



128 Lamp Lighter Ln.
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
4BR | 4BA 4,369 sq. ft.
\$1,139,000



169 River Marsh Dr.
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
4BR | 3BA | 1HB 4,511 sq. ft.
\$1,095,000



Unit 303
ch, Florida
3,293 sq. ft.



600 Ponte Vedra Blvd. Unit 101
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
2BR | 2BA 1,675 sq. ft.
\$649,000



650 A Ponte Vedra Blvd.
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
2BR | 2BA | 1HB 1,759 sq. ft.
\$429,000



185 Bermuda Ct.
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
2BR | 2BA 1,147 sq. ft.
\$260,000

90 YEARS OF PONTE VEDRA INN & CLUB



Photos courtesy of
Ponte Vedra Inn & Club

By John Peyton

President, GATE

This year marks the 90th anniversary of Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and 35 years since my father, Herbert H. Peyton, and the team at GATE acquired Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. It has been a tremendous pleasure for our family to be part of such an iconic and historic facility.

We have a great appreciation for the fact that Ponte Vedra Inn & Club is more than just a club or just a resort, it is an extraordinary destination for both members and guests. That is why over the years, we have invested heavily to ensure that we provide best in class facilities, services and amenities. In recent years, The Surf Deck Grille, our oceanfront restaurant, was reimaged, allowing us to delight members and guests with a full-service oceanfront dining experience paired with local and sustainable ingredients. Both the Peyton and Atlantic Houses have recently been remodeled, as was the fitness center and golf club house. Late last year we opened a new facility that offers cryo and compression therapies. These are terrific treatments to expedite the healing of muscle pain following strenuous exercise.

Even after these enhancements, we aren't sitting idle and are embarking

on two large-scale projects to further enhance our property. First, the Ocean House, which was constructed in 1961, will be torn down to make way for a new guest facility. The new Ocean House is expected to open in early 2021 and will feature 41 state-of-the-art, high-end guestrooms and suites. Plans are also underway to expand The Spa and add additional treatment rooms and lockers. This 18-month process should commence sometime next summer and will allow us to better serve spa guests.

In addition to investing in the property, our leadership also recognizes that hiring and retaining the best employees is paramount to the success of Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. From recruitment to ongoing training, a high priority is placed on ensuring that we have the very best talent to serve our guests.

Investments in our employees and our facilities are key elements in our ability to retain our Five-Diamond Award rating from AAA for 17 years in a row. The team works diligently every day to create unique and memorable experiences for our members and guests. After all, families have been enjoying our special place in North Florida for many years and we look forward to being a part of their memories for years to come.

90 YEARS continues on Page 35

Tips on preparing your pool for hurricanes

This is a two-part article on how to prepare your pool for hurricane season. The first part appeared in the previous edition of Sand Castles in July.

By Judson Clarkson

Vice president of residential pools,
Pools by John Clarkson

In the first part of this article, I discussed whether people should drain their pool or lower the water level in preparation for a hurricane. During this second part, I will discuss what to do if you decide to drain your pool, other preventative measures that should be taken and what should be done after the hurricane passes.

If you choose to drain your pool before the storm (and likely needed after the storm), there should be a hose bib in your pool equipment. Attach a garden hose and run it to where you would like to drain the water on your property, turn on your pump to run the system, open the hose bib and water from your pool will start draining. Keep an eye on the progress or set a timer to keep checking the level so you don't get distracted and let the pool drain below the waterline.

Other preventative measures include adding chlorine to your pool, even if you have a salt chlorinator, and circulating it as much as possible before shutting the equipment off. It is recommended to turn off all electric power to the pool equipment at the circuit breaker. If you have a gas heater, it is recommended to shut off the valve supplying gas in case the line gets compromised during the storm. If you live in a low-lying area and are concerned with your equipment area flooding, it is possible to disconnect your pump and store it in a dry room as a flooded pump will likely need parts replaced. In most cases, pool owners opt to shut off the equipment and then wrap any exposed electrical equipment with a waterproof material.

The last general question we get is, "Should I throw my pool furniture into my pool?" It is ideal to place any loose furniture and objects that live in the pool area inside the garage or house. If that is not possible, you can place them gently inside your pool to prevent them from becoming projectiles in the storm. The downside is the furniture could scrape and consequently damage the plaster finish on your pool.



Photo courtesy of
Pools by John Clarkson

The other concern is the chemicals in your pool may cause damage to your furniture.

After the hurricane has passed, drain the pool as needed to its normal level. If there is a heavy amount of debris inside the pool, use a pole and net to manually remove the debris as needed so the pump and filter don't get clogged. Once the pool is clean, inspect all the electrical equipment and make sure all valves are in the proper position. If everything is dry and all connections appear to be intact, turn the power back on at the breaker and get the pump running. If you hear any strange noises or smell anything burning, shut the equipment off and call a professional. If the equipment fires off, it is time to test your chemistry. It is ideal to stock up and store chemicals in a safe place before the

storm so you can then shock the pool and add chemicals as needed. You may need to vacuum sand out of your pool and depending on how much debris goes through your filter, you may need to replace your filter elements after you get the pool back up and running. Monitor your system closely to ensure everything is operating properly.

If a storm heads our way and you don't feel comfortable doing some of the tips above in preparation or after the storm has passed, contact an FSPA approved pool professional who will be able to assist you. Keep in mind, however, in the days leading up as well as the weeks after, professionals will be inundated with service calls as we all try to get through the storm safely.

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Photo courtesy of Ponte Vedra Inn & Club

90 Years

Continued from 34

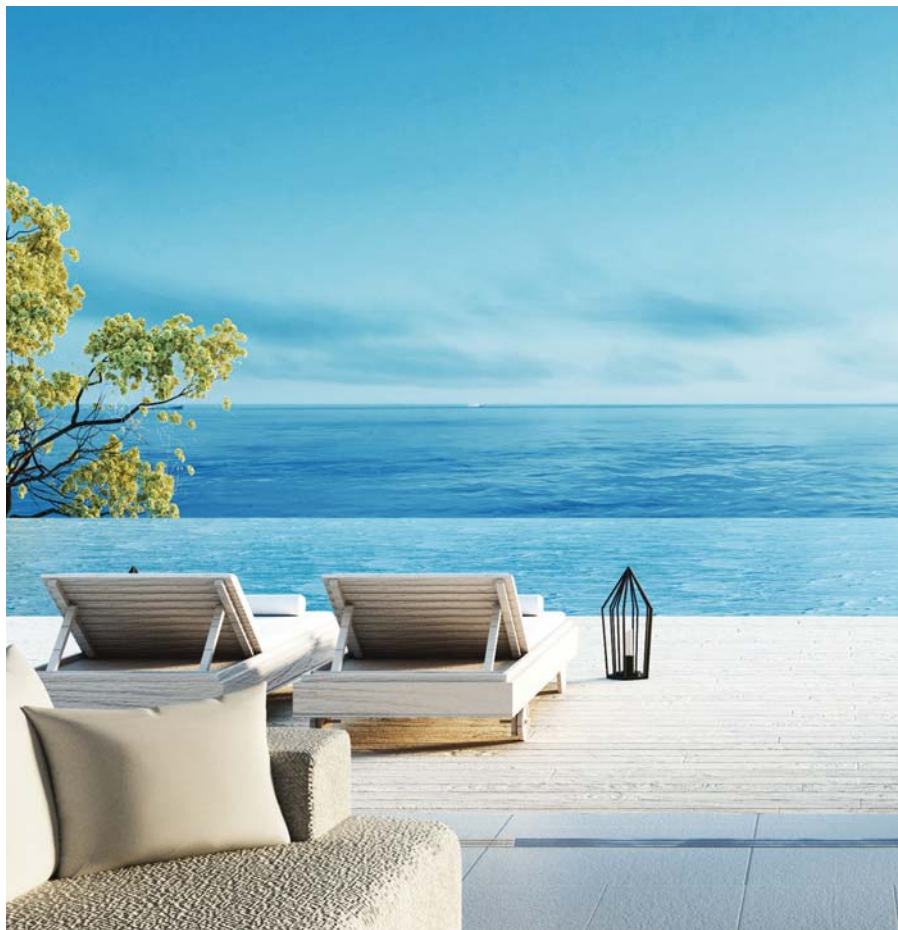
We hope that you have had the opportunity to celebrate our milestone anniversary with us by attending one of our themed events, experiencing our unique services in the spa or tasting a specialty drink in our bars. It has been an exciting time for us and already we are looking forward to celebrating our centennial in 2028 and beyond.

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INSIDE THE LEGENDS THAT LIE AMONG US

An interview with Dr. Harold Baumgarten, Jacksonville Beach resident and D-Day Survivor

This article was originally published Oct. 31, 2013 in the first edition of Sand Castles. It is being reprinted to honor the life of Dr. Harold Baumgarten, who died on Dec. 25, 2016.

By Janet Westling

Sixty-nine years ago, on June 6, 1944, Harold Baumgarten, a 19-year-old army private from the Bronx landed on a Normandy beach in France. The much-awaited invasion began at dawn on a cold, stormy morning with high seas, turbulent waters and 15-foot waves.

The landing did not go as planned. Under heavy German fire from bunkers on the top of the cliffs, Baumgarten and one other soldier from his landing crew of 30 made it to shore.

He sustained five wounds in 32 hours. Three were life threatening. He was one of the lucky ones. Over 10,000 allies were injured or killed that day, and 2,499 Americans died. This D-Day survivor lived to tell his story.

For 44 years, Hal Baumgarten never spoke about D-Day. He returned from the war, continued his education, married his wife, Rita, raised three children, endured 24 corrective surgeries and became a physician healing others.

But in 1988, on his first trip back to Normandy, that changed. Looking out on the beach, he could see his buddies who died.

"On a visit to the American cemetery in section D was the grave of my lieutenant and all my guys who landed with me," recalled Baumgarten. "I looked up at Rita as I knelt over the graves with tears in my eyes and said that I now know one of the reasons God saved me: He wants me to be the spokesman for these people. They can't speak anymore; no one will ever know their names or who they were. So, I started speaking."

D-DAY REMEMBERED, SOLDIERS NOT FORGOTTEN

From the French to the British, to CNN, the History Channel, Tom Brokaw, Tom Hanks, Steven Spielberg and the World War II Museum, Baumgarten has spoken to and been interviewed by them all — and more. He has shared not only the horrors of war with great detail but vividly recalls the names of his buddies who died on an Atlantic beach in Normandy, France, across the ocean from where he lives today.

Baumgarten and his wife Rita live in a beautiful condo overlooking the Atlantic Ocean in Jacksonville Beach.

They have lived here for over 22 years. Baumgarten practiced medicine in private practice in Jacksonville for over 30 years. He spent the last six years before his retirement as a physician with the Veterans Administration Clinic.

Baumgarten has written two books with the prodding of his friend, the author and historian Stephen Ambrose, whom he met in Louisiana at the University of New Orleans.

"You can't just speak about it," Ambrose told him. "You have to write about it."

In 1994, "Eyewitness on Omaha Beach" was published. The revised edition was published in 1999. His second book, "D-Day Survivor" was published in 2006. Today, his books are used in the History department at West Point and VMI.

On June 6, 2000, Baumgarten was the veteran speaker at the opening of the World War II Museum in New Orleans.



Photos provided by Janet Westling

Dr. Harold Baumgarten, a Jacksonville Beach resident and D-Day survivor who passed away in 2016, stands with his autobiography. He said he recalls telling his wife, Rita, during a visit to the American Cemetery that God saved him so that he could "be the spokesman for these people."



The actor Tom Hanks, who played Captain Miller in Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan" followed Baumgarten on stage.

"He is the real thing; I am just an actor," said Hanks. "His story is amazing."

After the speech, director Spielberg approached Baumgarten to tell him that the opening scene of "Saving Private Ryan" was inspired by Baumgarten's oral history of events. Today they are friends and Baumgarten was a surprise guest onstage at the Kennedy Center honoring Spielberg.

In August, I sat down with Baumgarten for over four hours in his home. It was a beautiful summer day, the sky was clear and the ocean seas were calm. I listened as Baumgarten shared his recollections of D-Day. He started from the beginning with his induction in the military and assignment to the 116th Infantry of the 29th division.

THE STRONG, THE BRAVE, THE BEST ... OUR GREATEST GENERATION

Assigned to the Stonewall Brigade, located in the crown heights of Plymouth, England, Baumgarten of company A/116th Infantry began to train for the "First Wave" on D-Day.

"We didn't know it at the time," recalled Baumgarten. Gen. Charles Gerhardt of the 29th was the former quarterback of the West Point football team. (In 1916, Gerhardt was the quarterback for West Point in the 30-10 upset win over Notre Dame, their only loss that year. The Fighting Irish were led by famed freshman George Gipp.)

"He knew Eisenhower and Bradley because they were athletes at the Point," he said. Baumgarten's outfit included players from the championship baseball team, championship football team and championship boxing team of the European theater of operation. Part of their training was 20-mile marches across England setting records.

"So, our general said to Eisenhower, 'We are the best here, so you have to let us be the first to land on D-Day,'" Baumgarten said. "So, they put us under the command of the First Infantry."

For three months along the coast of England and Wales, they climbed cliffs, conducted practice landings and made preparations for the largest amphibious invasion in world history. They were told to burn their original gear and given new gear. It was then they knew they were going to be the first to land. Their first wave gear included morphine, bandages, a gas mask, seasick pills and a combat jacket with grenades.

Sun, sand and serenity in TPC Sawgrass

By **Julianne Parish**
Watson Realty Corp.

Become a part of the coveted Sawgrass community, host to the world-famous PGA tour event, THE PLAYERS Championship. This home sits on the TPC Dye's Valley golf course, one of the finest courses in the country. Nestled between mature trees in the sought-after Players Club, this stunning brick home offers picturesque windows and soaring ceilings, allowing for bright, expansive views.

The unique, spacious floor plan is perfect for enjoying friends and family or finding your own tranquil retreat in one of the many separate living spaces. The home features a gourmet kitchen complete with Carrera marble countertops, a large cooking island, a double oven, high-end appliances, a wine chiller and a huge peninsula to accommodate kids or guests while cooking.

Newly renovated bathrooms include a fabulous master bath with a soaking tub and a separate



8120 Seven Mile Drive

frameless shower, a Jack-and-Jill bathroom and three more bathrooms. This home provides five expansive bedrooms, formal dining, an office, a bonus room off of the four-car garage and a separate guest suite with private entrance. The list goes on and on. In total, this residence features 4,287 square feet of interior living space, plus a sparkling swimming pool and spa, a screened-in

lanai and a serene backyard overlooking the golf course. This home is minutes to A-rated schools, beaches, shopping, night life and restaurants. Enjoy exclusive membership to Sawgrass Country Club and its variety of dining and social events. Relax at the 24,000 square feet of Sawgrass Beach Club with Olympic-sized pools, seaside bars, dancing, casual dining or



Photos courtesy of Julianne Parish

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Visit the property website to take a 3D virtual reality tour and to view a video, floor plans and dollhouse views: sites.eagleeye-media.net/8120sevenmiledr/?mfs.

This property, which is located at 8120 Seven Mile Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach, is represented by Watson Realty Corp, listed by Julianne Parish and offered for \$999,999.

Baumgarten

Continued from 36

THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM: A PARADE AND PRAYERS

In April 1944 a parade took place at their camp in Blandford, England. The first battalion of the 116th Infantry 29th Division marched in the parade while the 29th division band played. Gen. Eisenhower was in attendance. Two-thirds of the men who marched that day never returned home.

A few days before deployment, Baumgarten and a few other Jewish soldiers were told they could attend Jewish services and Sabbath dinner before they shipped out.

The services were held in the small English village of Dorchester in their local Baptist church. The villagers placed the Jewish Star over the Cross and for a short time, the church became their synagogue. The church members donated their food rations to provide a Sabbath dinner to the young Jewish men who were preparing to ship out. Baumgarten attended the service and prayed. On D-Day, he wore a jacket that bore the Star of David and the words "From the Bronx." He wanted to let that Germans know who they were fighting.

The First Wave, also known today as the suicide wave, was the first to land on June 6, 1944. They went to shore at the western part of Omaha Beach at Dog Green sector, which was the most heavily defended. Their mission, explained Baumgarten, was to take the beach, capture the towns of Isigny-sur-Mer, St. Lo, Pointe du Hoc and eventually Germany.

THE WAR ROOM

Inside Baumgarten's home is a room he calls the "War Room." The walls are lined with photos that



Rita and Harold Baumgarten with actor Tom Hanks

have a special place in his heart. They include, among many, the photo of French President Jacques Chirac, who awarded the French Legion of Honor to Baumgarten in 2005; as well as Tom Brokaw, who interviewed Baumgarten on NBC Nightly News; and Bob Dole at his 80th birthday celebration and opening of the Bob Dole Institute of Politics in Lawrence, Kansas. Prominently displayed is the print of his outfit the Stonewall Jackson Brigade. In 2007, he received a proclamation from the Florida Senate. After, he spoke at Florida State University, where Tom Brokaw set up an endowment in his name in their War Museum for \$400,000.

Today, Baumgarten, 88, conducts interviews with print and television journalists, and gives speeches at colleges, libraries and museums. When speaking, he refers to himself as a survivor with a mission to make sure these men are never forgotten. He recently was interviewed for Vanity Fair TV and the History Channel in 2014. Baumgarten and his family plan to attend the 70th Anniversary of D-Day on June 6, 2014, in Normandy.

Over 16 million men and women wore our uniform in World War II. This is the story of one, but all were and will forever remain heroes.



Rita Baumgarten with husband, Harold.

Photos provided by Janet Westling



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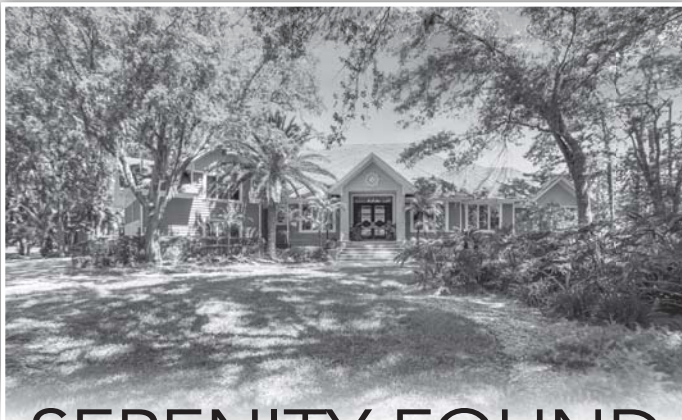
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SERENITY FOUND in Ponte Vedra Beach

By Belk Ingram
Ponte Vedra Club Realty

Ponte Vedra Beach is synonymous with both golf and white sandy beaches, and this home keeps you in close proximity to both!

Gracing a 1.2-acre pristine lakefront lot in Marsh Landing Country Club, this five-bedroom home embodies privacy, peace and tranquility, making it sure to impress. As the lucky new owner, you will enjoy 180-degree lake vistas and natural areas unlike any other. Prepare to find paradise waiting for you inside the custom mahogany double glass front doors of this 4,600-plus square-foot stunner!

The fabulous first floor includes three bedrooms, an oversized living room with a custom 6-foot stone gas log fireplace and coastal elegance features with tongue and groove ceilings in the great room, kitchen and sunroom. There are not one but two sunrooms in this home, both perfect for morning coffee to start your day. The gourmet kitchen, perfect

for the cooking aficionado, includes a Sub-Zero stainless-steel refrigerator, double oven, Viking professional gas cooktop and exhaust.

The spacious third-floor bonus room includes a professional grade audiovisual theater system great for Friday's family movie night after a long week!

Only the finest of interior finishes include 3/4-inch solid oak flooring, Italian stone, granite and marble countertops, a wet bar with wine cooler, privacy Plantation shutters throughout, two fireplaces, a security system and intercom. Other highly notable features include a sprinkler system, central vacuum system and continuous hot water circulation.

Nearly every room of this one-of-a-kind home has been upgraded by the current owners. This home, featuring Anderson windows and doors, was built off grade with high elevation and experienced no flooding from past hurricanes. Ownership includes exceptional street appeal on this premier, highly sought-after location.

Preferred membership initiation fee pricing for the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, The Lodge & Club, Epping-Forest Yacht & Country Club and The River Club is available to the purchaser of this property exclusively through Ponte Vedra Club Realty.

Located at 104 Linkside Circle in Ponte Vedra Beach, this property is represented by Ponte Vedra Club Realty, listed by Belk Ingram and offered for \$1,239,000.



Photos courtesy
Belk Ingram

104 Linkside Circle



EXQUISITE ESTATE in Harbour Island offers 180-degree panoramic views

By Jennifer White
Kearney Real Estate

Located in Northeast Florida, Ponte Vedra Beach is a seaside haven known for its pristine beaches and famous resorts with championship golf. Ponte Vedra is home to the PGA Tour, the ATP, THE PLAYERS Championship and is in close proximity to the renowned Mayo Clinic and downtown Jacksonville, home of The Jacksonville Jaguars. Ponte Vedra is located within St. Johns County, one of the wealthiest counties in Florida that boasts A-rated schools ranked at the top of the state.

Marsh Landing Country Club, a premier private club located in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach, offers an 18-hole golf course, tennis, fitness and clubhouse. The developers of MLCC painstakingly preserved indigenous trees and plants while master planning this beautiful community!

Harbour Island, an exclusive enclave within MLCC, features a private yacht basin and custom estate homes with distinguished and varied architectural styles.

The home at 24760 Harbour View Drive, with its 180-degree panoramic views of the

Marsh and Cabbage Creek and a navigable water way to the Intracoastal, is a prime example of the breathtaking architecture and rich landscaping that Harbour Island is known for. Custom built by Frank Gamel, this Southern, Tidewater-style stunner with eastern exposure and privacy galore is nestled on 1.72 acres. It is warm and inviting from its lush, indigenous landscaping, to its wraparound porch with rocking chairs and porch swing.

This home boasts five bedrooms, six and a half baths with a fitness room, a butler's pantry and an impressive office with river-reclaimed cypress flooring and custom alder built-ins. No detail was overlooked, from the Hardie board and brick façade, to the slate composite roof with metal accents.

The gourmet kitchen is fully equipped and overlooks the large, inviting family room with floor to ceiling picture windows showcasing the marsh and Intracoastal. You can live the indoor/outdoor lifestyle by opening your stacking doors to the lanai featuring a fireplace and infinity salt water pool with hot tub. The master suite is located on the first floor with the three other bedrooms with en suite bathrooms, and the second office/flex space is located upstairs. The fifth bedroom/bathroom is located above the two-car garage.

This home comes with a 40-foot slip located within the yacht basin and can easily have a dock in the backyard. This home is a 10-plus and won't disappoint!

This property is represented by Kearney Real Estate, listed by Jennifer White and offered for \$2,275,000.



Photos courtesy
of Jennifer White

24760 Harbour View Drive



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**STUNNING CLASSIC WITH
BEACH ACCESS**

Picturesque home in a charming neighborhood off Ponte Vedra Blvd. Features large kitchen, a downstairs master, study & game room. Access available to the Old Ponte Vedra Condos amenities. 3 bedrooms & 2.5 bathrooms. \$649,500



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**IN THE HEART OF
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This lovely 3BD, 2BA pool home is situated on a quiet corner lot with fresh exterior paint, new windows and contemporary updates. The outdoor living spaces are awesome with decks surrounding the pool and two side yards. \$698,000



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Located on one of the most extraordinary lots in all of The Plantation, this property recently underwent a makeover and is move-in ready. The beauty outside of the home is reflected throughout with stunning views of the pool, lake, and golf course creating the ideal space for indoor-outdoor living. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. \$998,000



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904-982-7330



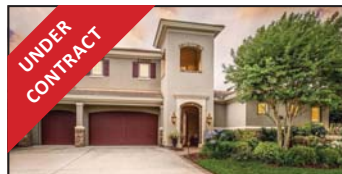
THE POINTE AT PONTE VEDRA

Luxury 3BR/2BA, 1,700sf condo just steps from the beach. Enjoy the fabulous views from this 2nd floor unit. Pristine with modern updates and ready to move in. Includes a private 1-car garage with covered walkway to unit. \$650,000



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904-739-1626

To be included in the next issue publishing January 31st, please contact April Snyder (904) 285-8831, ext. 3937 apri@sopcfla.com



VILLINI AT GLEN KERNAN

This stunning Provence-inspired 4BR/3.5BA, 3,637sf home exhibits exquisite attention to detail & quality construction by Pineapple Corporation as well as a no-commute lifestyle. Step into the main residence where walnut stained floors gleam in the artful stairway, custom wine room & throughout this move in ready home. The open chef's kitchen has a Thermador gas cooktop, double ovens, and Country French cream cabinets. \$675,000



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**Call Rosemary Kristoff
904-333-4841**

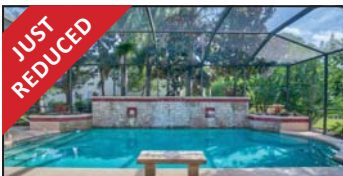


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Oceanfront turnkey property features a 2 bedroom/2 bath Condo, which comes completely furnished. This gated community features amenities such as pool/spa, clubhouse, basketball/tennis courts, and beach walkovers. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. \$999,000



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Wonderful 4/3 pool home in desirable Sawgrass Players. Your heated pool & fabulous screened-in lanai is great for entertaining included with summer kitchen & covered porch. The foyer enters into a large living & dining. The updated kitchen has granite countertops, backsplash, and ss appliances, and desk. The newly remodeled master BR has custom cedar lined his & hers California closets. Just reduced \$20,000. Now \$600,000.



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**Call Janet Westling
904-813-1913**

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please contact April Snyder
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april@opcfla.com



PONTE VEDRA RESIDENTS CLIMB MT. KILIMANJARO

This is a two-part article on a local group's summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro. The first part focuses on the trip's preparation for the climb and travel to the destination. The second part will focus on the climb itself and will be printed in the next edition of Sand Castles in January 2019.

By Gil Barrera

Never having read Ernest Hemingway's "The Snows of Kilimanjaro," its title always conveyed to me a sense of a distant and exotic location. It was certainly one that I never thought I would visit in my lifetime. In December 2017, however, my good friend, Will Montoya, asked me if I would be interested in going to Africa to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro sometime in August 2018.

Without hesitation, I answered yes. While this would not be our first ever hiking/climbing trip, it would definitely be the most challenging. We would be joined by fellow Ponte Vedra Beach resident Charles Callaghan, as well as other mutual friends from St. Johns County and the Orlando area.

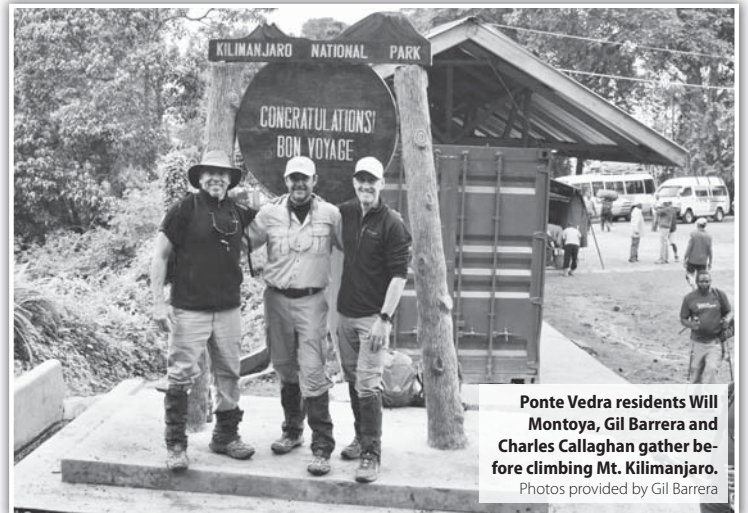
Preparations for the trip began almost immediately, which involved checking the outfitter's website for their recommended training program to be physically ready for the hike, as well as what equipment and gear we would be required to bring. A review of the gear list revealed I would need to purchase a larger capacity daypack as well as an assortment of cold weather clothing that would be needed in the latter stages of our climb. In addition, the web-

site was helpful in conveying the country entry requirements and recommended immunizations when traveling to Tanzania.

To be physically prepared, my focus was to improve my stamina and endurance through consistently more rigorous cardio and lower body workouts as the date for our trip approached. Although good physical fitness was stressed, it was not a guarantee for success on the mountain and conquering the effects of high altitude. The latter is more of being genetically predisposed to acclimate to higher altitudes and how quickly your body can become accustomed to a reduced oxygen environment. Unfortunately, the best way to train for high altitude is to train at high altitude, a geographically difficult challenge when you live in Florida.

Before we knew it, our departure date had arrived. After stopovers in Atlanta and Amsterdam, we arrived at Kilimanjaro International Airport on Aug. 18 at 9 p.m. local time. Once we cleared customs and collected our luggage, we were met by a representative from our outfitter, Ultimate Kilimanjaro, who would be driving us to Moshi. Nearly 23 hours after departing Jacksonville, we were all ready to get to our hotel and get some rest.

The plan had been to sleep in the following morning and get adjusted to the new time zone. That came to an abrupt end at 5 a.m. when we were awakened by thunderous music and signing emanating from a church located directly behind our hotel. Not to be outdone, the mosque located one block further up the street fired up its loudspeakers calling all the faithful to prayer.



Ponte Vedra residents Will Montoya, Gil Barrera and Charles Callaghan gather before climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro.
Photos provided by Gil Barrera

At this point, it was clear that sleep time was over, so we went ahead and got ready for breakfast.

After breakfast, we had the opportunity to go in town for some shopping and sightseeing. We visited a gallery where many local artists displayed beautiful hand carved objects and paintings depicting scenes of local wildlife, Maasai tribesmen, and of course, Kilimanjaro. Needing some extra socks for the trip, Will asked our guide if there was a store nearby where he could purchase some. He took us to the Tanzanian version of REI, where you could "rent" but not purchase socks and underwear. Needless to say, the rental option didn't sound very appealing, so we ended up finding another store to make the purchase.

We returned to the hotel early in the afternoon for our briefing with the guides that would be leading our trip. Robert, our lead guide, explained to us what we could expect during different portions of our trek. He also emphasized the need to pack your trail duffel with only your must-have items as the trail porters were limited to carrying 33 pounds, including your sleeping bag. We were responsible for the contents of

our daypacks and we could carry as little or as much as we desired. This was also our first opportunity to meet the other hikers that would be joining our group: Chuck and Susan from Washington, D.C., Paul and David from Montreal and David and Cord from Cape Town, South Africa.

After an early dinner, we returned to the hotel to organize and weigh our gear. Once that task was complete, everything not needed on the hike was packed and set aside to be left behind in the hotel's storage closet. I even remembered to get my earplugs out prior to going to bed. The church and mosque were not going to wake me up two days in a row!

The following morning, we got up early to finish our last-minute packing before meeting for breakfast. Around 8 a.m., our bus, along with our guides, arrived at the hotel to finish last-minute paperwork and to conduct our initial health check measuring our oxygen saturation and heart rate. This would establish a baseline for our twice daily health checks for the remainder of the trip. At 9 a.m. sharp, we departed the hotel for the three-hour drive to the Londerosi gate located on the western edge of Kilimanjaro National Park.



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Judge Jeanine Pirro

BOOK SIGNING

JUDGE JEANINE signs in at Sawgrass

By Janet Westling
Contributing Editor

Judge Jeanine Pirro, the author of “Liars, Leakers and Liberals: The Case Against the Anti-Trump Conspiracy,” signed in at Sawgrass Country Club at the Westling house on Thursday, Oct. 18.

Over 50 friends and neighbors met the bestselling author, judge, former prosecutor, TV personality and host of Fox News’ “Justice with Judge Jeanine,” which airs every Saturday at 9 p.m.

Since its launch on July 17, 2018, Pirro’s book has been a bestseller, and even the President has weighed in on it, tweeting, “Our great Judge Jeanine Pirro is out with a new book, ‘Liars, Leakers and Liberals, the Case Against the Anti-Trump Conspiracy,’ which is fantastic. Go get it!”

Judge Jeanine spoke for 45 minutes with an engaging account of the “deep state’s” plot to unseat the 45th president of the United States. The research she conducted was extensive and made a case that was compelling, believable and led her to uncover the facts behind the anti-Trump conspiracy. Everyone who attended the book event left with five copies to share with friends.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Lauren Bradshaw, Jean Hettinger and Lauren Del a Cruz



Tamara Renuart and Diana Radi



Rep. Cindi Stevenson, Christine Ondek, Gloria Dongara, Silvia Nett Fisher and Shamiran Eivaz



ABOVE: Shamiran Eivaz, Jenny Smith, Francesca Rutherford, Janet Westling, Tracie Rampley and Michael Rutherford



Lana Kiesel, former Vietnam POW Hank Lessane, Linda Lessane, Suwanne Shuntich and Lou Shuntich



LEFT: Pirro speaks to guests during the book signing.

Review: Judge Jeanine’s new book provides inside look at opposition of Trump presidency, reflects on TV personality’s life

By Jesse Hagy

In “Liars, Leakers and Liberals: The Case against the Anti-Trump Conspiracy,” Judge Jeanine Pirro exposes the widespread hypocrisy and calculated lies of the “deep state” while also detailing her close relationship with President Trump and his family.

Her longtime friendship with President Trump allows her to provide a unique perspective on the Donald Trump before the politics and the relentless attacks by the media. Judge Jeanine interviews a numerous number of important figures inside the White House, including Jared Kushner and John Kelly, which gives the reader an inside look at the people behind Trump government’s agenda. In this book, she holds both Democrats and Republicans accountable for their words and actions against President Trump.

Judge Jeanine specifically calls out “Rotten Ryan” — Paul Ryan — for his lack of leadership as speaker of the house and for not supporting President Trump or his agenda. She blasts Ryan for failing to provide adequate funding for Trump’s border wall in the March 2018 Omnibus Spending Bill. The bill allotted \$1.6 billion for the wall, which was more than \$10 billion short than had been promised.

Beyond politics, the book provides an inside look at some of the obstacles that Judge Jeanine had to overcome to work and prosper in a mostly man’s world of the judiciary. (When running for district attorney in 1993, she had to issue a statement saying that her husband would take care of her kids if she couldn’t get home at night.) She also provides a glimpse into some of her personal battles including one with cancer, which she fought head on, barely even taking a day off work. Judge Jeanine explains how uranium is not just used for making bombs, but is also extremely important for nuclear medicine. She expresses her anger at the Uranium One deal for this reason.

Whether conservative or liberal, readers across the political spectrum will benefit from the lessons and insights that Judge Jeanine imparts in her book. It is undeniable that Judge Jeanine has been successful both on and off TV. “Liars, Leakers, and Liberals: The Case Against the Anti-Trump Conspiracy” is a must read for anyone who wants to learn about the innerworkings of the opposition to the Trump presidency and Judge Jeanine’s incredible life.

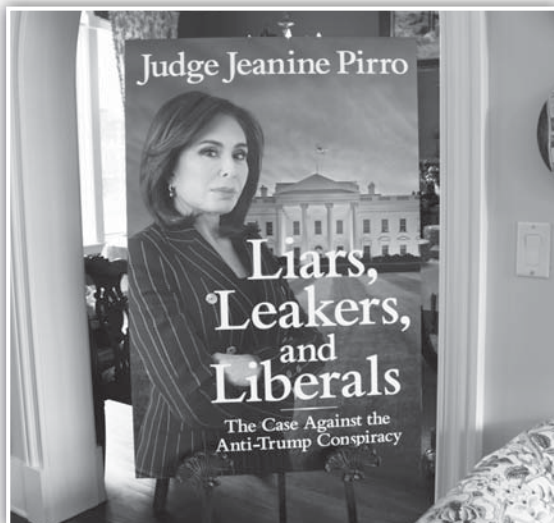


Photo by Susan Griffin

Judge Jeanine Pirro’s book cover on display at a recent book signing.



Beautifully renovated VILANO BEACH CONDO provides endless amenities

By Michele Segas and Lindsay Viering

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

Are you looking for a great beach home? Would you like to scale down from your primary residence or search for a turn-key, affordable vacation home with expansive ocean views? It doesn’t get better than Villages of Vilano, an oceanfront community situated between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intra-coastal Waterway.

Welcome home to Vilano Beach, a charming community located just north of historic St. Augustine and just south of Ponte Vedra Beach, home of the PGA Tour. Sit on your porch and watch the sun rise over the ocean, while sipping your favorite beverage. Play tennis or pickleball while private landscapers take care of the grounds. There is also 24-hour security and a fully equipped gym and sauna. Inclement weather? No problem: Enjoy the heated indoor pool as well as an outdoor pool for the summer months.

Park your car in the enclosed underground parking garage with an attached storage closet for all of your beach toys. The community offers a private walkover to the beach with a covered cabana and picnic table for your entertainment needs. And there is more to offer you in this seaside community. Enjoy boating? Your very own



110 Ocean Hollow Lane, #313
St. Augustine



Photos courtesy of Michele Segas and Lindsay Viering

boat ramp and launch is on the west side of the island community, guiding you to the Intra-coastal Waterway. Boat storage, you say? Park your boat and trailer in the designated boat and RV parking lot or purchase a boat slip to moor your boat dockside.

This beautifully renovated two-bedroom/two-bathroom condo is located on the top (third) floor with an elevator to whisk you up or down! The

condo has a coastal vibe with a neutral pallet throughout. The second bedroom has a Murphy bed, offering office space as well as a guest room for your friends and family.

Located at 110 Ocean Hollow Lane, #313, in St. Augustine, this property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, listed by Michele Segas and Lindsay Viering and offered for \$318,000.



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