

Celebrating 50 years of the

PONTE VEDRA



# Recorder

August 15, 2019  
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75 cents

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com



**CHEERS TO  
50 YEARS!**  
Help us celebrate

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**Love Your Smile:  
Who's Who  
in Dentistry**

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**In the Arts**

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Photo courtesy of The Greatest Exchange

Eight young women traveled nearly 7,000 miles to participate in The Greatest Exchange, a cultural exchange program for college-age women from Kazakhstan. The nonprofit hosted a Night of Celebration at Waypoint Church at Nocatee Aug. 9. Founder Kelly Ray (front row, second from right), thanked host families, prayer partners and everyone who contributed to the success of the 2019 summer program. *For more, go to Page 7.*

## CAR OF THE WEEK

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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. Email submissions to [pvrecorder@opcfla.com](mailto: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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Also, check out the **Ponte Vedra Recorder** channel on YouTube.

### WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email answer to [pvrecorder@opcfla.com](mailto:pvrecorder@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.

Nine readers correctly identified last week's photo as the sign for Le Macaron. The winner by random draw was **Gwen McCully**. Congratulations, Gwen — you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



### ADOPT A PET

#### CAT OF THE WEEK

Rorie was an owner surrender. She is a large, spayed, 2-year-old female domestic shorthair. She is great with kids, cats, dogs and is housetrained. She wants you to pet her and love on her while she talks to you. Come see Rorie today at the Pet Center. #50884



#### DOG OF THE WEEK

Loki was an owner surrender. He is a small, neutered, 1-year-old male terrier mix. He is housetrained, good with cats, dogs and loves water. He has lots of energy, so he would be good with older children. He loves to be cuddled and held. Come see Loki today at the Pet Center. #50126



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 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 in St. Augustine, 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

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

Discover something **NEW!**

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**5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths \$1,175,000**



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**For more information, contact Kathleen Larriviere: 904.728.7059 | KLarriv@WatsonRealtyCorp.com**

Please join us at our Ponte Vedra Office on Thursday, August 15! | 615 Highway A1A, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082  
 Refreshments at **6:00 p.m.** | Presentation & Discussion on Reverse Mortgages at **6:30 p.m.** | **904.285.6300**

# Cheers to 50 Years!

## Jan, Peter and the Ponte Vedra Recorder

“It’s the story, of a lovely lady...” broadcast through airwaves for the first time in 1969. Half a century later, the show remains in reruns on cable. Try getting the Brady Bunch theme out of your head for the rest of the day.

The first issue of the Ponte Vedra Recorder published Nov. 7, 1969. To celebrate the wit, wisdom and history of the Recorder’s readership, newspaper staff is eager to learn about and share your clippings from past issues.

Take a look in the attic or in those boxes tucked away at the back of the closet to find past issues of the paper. Maybe you have a scrapbook with clippings of family weddings, births or graduations. Was a friend or family member honored for playing sports, volunteering or engaging in politics?

Whatever the subject, if you have pages from or complete issues of past Ponte Vedra Recorders, contact the staff at [pvrrecorder@opcfla.com](mailto:pvrrecorder@opcfla.com). You can scan take pictures of pages or clippings and send them in. Or, stop by the office and we’ll capture the images for you.



### SIMPLY THE BEST!

Ponte Vedra is abuzz with who won each category in the 2019 Best of the Best Ponte Vedra awards. The winners were published in a special section in the Aug. 8 edition of the Recorder and online at [bit.ly/19BestofPV](http://bit.ly/19BestofPV).

If you or your business is listed in the Winner’s Circle, be sure to stop by the office to pick up the certificate and window cling.

If you already have the certificate, snap a photo and email it to [pvrrecorder@opcfla.com](mailto:pvrrecorder@opcfla.com) with “Best (category you won)” in the subject line. In the body of the email, list the first and last name of each person in the photo from left to right.

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all who took the time to vote.

# Recent Town Hall meeting touches on residents’ concerns

Q&A forum allowed community members to ask county officials about several hot-button issues

By Amber Lake

St. Johns County representatives and officials took to the stage Aug. 7 to speak to residents directly, answering questions and listening to concerns. The public forum included District 4 County Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker, County Administrator Michael Wanchick, County Attorney Patrick McCormack and Commander Scott Beaver. The event was hosted at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Ponte Vedra.

During the Town Hall, recent local issues were raised, including traffic concerns, the Palm Valley wharf construction, Micklers Beach parking, the cell phone tower near the Bolles School and the Outpost development. Representatives were able to speak to community members directly concerning many controversial issues in order to provide insight from behind the scenes and dispel common misinformation.

### NAVIGATING GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner Blocker spoke toward navigating St. Johns County’s development growth.



Photo by Amber Lake

**The Aug. 7 public forum included County Attorney Patrick McCormack, Commander Scott Beaver, County Administrator Michael Wanchick and District 4 County Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker.**

“This is a tremendous challenge for us as we are putting new developments and homes and commercial facilities for the county,” Blocker said. “There is a cost to that to every resident. It puts more of a strain on our law enforcement and firefighters. We have to be very mindful of that.”

Wanchick said that the county has identified some “short term” improvements to ease the resulting traffic, which includes intersection improvements to Solana Road and Dolphin Cove on A1A westside.

In addition, Commissioner Blocker stressed his dissatisfaction with the current impact fees attributed to homebuyers, which he says are the highest in the state.

“Impact fees are unfair to the community,” Blocker said. “They were designed to help alleviate the effects of growth, but they are no longer effective. If you have an active retired couple and they moved to the Dellwood community in Nocatee and they buy a home, they pay a substantial amount of impact fees to live there. They might drive a golf cart and they might have one vehicle, but they will pay tremendous impact fees. Then you have a young family with three or four children moving in a resale home in Nocatee, they pay no impact fees whatsoever. That’s inherently unfair to the community.”

TOWN HALL continues on Page 5

# Rep. Stevenson hosts mobile office hours

For the convenience of residents of District 17, State Representative Cyndi Stevenson will host sessions of “Mobile Office Hours” in August.

■ Aug. 20 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Ponte Vedra Branch Public Library (101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082)



Cyndi Stevenson

■ Aug. 21 from 10 a.m. to noon at the St. Johns County Service Center Julington Creek Branch Multipurpose Room (725 Flora Branch Blvd., St. Johns, FL 32259)

■ Aug. 27 from 10 a.m. to noon at the St. Johns County Convention Center at World Golf Village (500 South Legacy Trail, St. Augustine, FL 32092)

This service is free and open to the public.

### BRIEFS

#### Vista Tranquila agenda item scheduled for Thursday at PZA meeting

The regularly scheduled public meeting of the St. Johns County Planning and Zoning Agency will be held at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 15 in the County Auditorium at the St. Johns County Administrative Complex located at 500 San Sebastian View in St. Augustine.

The County website states that the Vista Tranquila agenda item will not be heard before 3:30 p.m.

The presenter for agenda item titled “COM-PAMD 2019-03 Vista Tranquila – Transmittal” is Teresa Bishop, planning division manager. The summary on the county website: A Comprehensive Plan Amendment to change the Future Land Use Map from Conservation to Residential - A Coastal and CV, with a Text amendment limiting the development to a maximum of 66 single family residential dwellings units within approximately 74 acres contiguous upland acres; limiting the number of residential docks to 13; and prohibiting non-residential development except that the current Outpost operations may continue until residential development commences.

To view other agenda items of interest, visit [bit.ly/Aug15PZA](http://bit.ly/Aug15PZA).

#### FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps posted online

To view the current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps online, visit [www.gis.sjcfll.us/floodviewer](http://www.gis.sjcfll.us/floodviewer).

#### St. Johns Count boards and committees volunteer opportunities

Volunteers consider and make recommendations on a variety of topics including planning and zoning, development, libraries, parks and recreation, arts, culture and tourism. To view current openings, visit [www.co.st-johns.fl.us/Boards/CurrentVacancies.aspx](http://www.co.st-johns.fl.us/Boards/CurrentVacancies.aspx).

# St. Johns County Schools start year with 2,240 more students

The student count for the St. Johns County School District the first day of school, Aug. 12, was 39,159, an increase of 2,240 students or 6% over last year's first day number of 36,919. St. Johns County continues to be one of the fastest growing school districts in the state.

The high school student count was 12,213 with 2,847 students at Bartram Trail High School, 2,217 at Creekside High School, 1,137 at Pedro Menendez High School, 2,669 at Allen D. Nease

High School, 1,780 at Ponte Vedra High School and 1,563 at St. Augustine High School. There were also 271 students in attendance at St. Johns Technical High School.

Middle school attendance totaled 7,238, with student headcounts ranging from 727 at Sebastian Middle School to 1,321 at Pacetti Bay Middle School. The other first-day figures were Alice B. Landrum Middle School with 1,154, Fruit Cove Middle School with 1,208, R. J. Murray

Middle School with 704, Gamble Rogers Middle School with 866, and Switzerland Point Middle School with 1,258.

The district's K-8 schools totaled 7,965. Liberty Pines Academy had a first day headcount of 1,404, Patriot Oaks Academy with 1,284, Valley Ridge Academy with 1,246; Freedom Crossing Academy with 1,302, Palm Valley Academy with 1,623, and Mill Creek Academy with 1,106.

The elementary school population totaled 11,108. This count only includes

approximately 25% of all kindergarten students since schools stagger the kindergarten start date over a four-day period. Another 364 students are enrolled at the district's alternative, charter and Department of Juvenile Justice schools.

First Coast Technical College has 137 students who attended its adult education programs at the St. Augustine, Barge Port and North campuses. This number does not

**SCHOOLS** continues on Page 10

## Town Hall

Continued from 4

Blocker went on to say he was interested at looking at "mobility fees," which he says better "capture how people are mobile and how that is paid for."

Many community members were also interested in adding sidewalks, however Wanchick was quick to cite the county's severe lack of funding and limited budget for projects. Regarding the area's low taxes, he said it comes down to "where you want your quality of life and what are you willing to pay for."

Commissioner Blocker also said that although the budget is limited, they are looking at solutions.

"Right now, the sidewalk budget is about \$200K a year," he said. "It's woefully inadequate. We do need to increase that budget and hopefully we will. There is a safety issue and a quality of life issue so we will be addressing this."

The limited budget not only affects sidewalks but the lack of parking at Micklers Beach, according to the Wanchick. He did mention, however, that they are looking into possible "public and private partnerships" to help alleviate the overcrowded facility.

### MICKLER'S WHARF PROJECT

Concerning the recent wharf construction on Roscoe Boulevard and the controversy with possible safety issues, Wanchick said it is a "project they have a right to build."

"The wharf is an interesting project because the only reason it appeared before the board of county commissioners is because we own the roadway right there on Roscoe," he said. "We have no jurisdiction as a county over the wharf itself... There is this belief that we saw plans and or we improved plans to the wharf. The only plans we saw were conceptual plans which was attached to a permit application, which was granted by the county commissioners. We do not control the how the structure was built whatsoever."

The county did take note of the community's concern over the construction, however. Attorney Patrick McCormack said that the county is now looking into expanding the "neighborhood Bill of Rights," in order to improve public notice, which he regrets, "was not something that had happened in this scenario."

"Nobody likes a surprise," he said.

### CELL PHONE TOWER CONCERNS

Many residents have been concerned about a monopole cellphone tower that was constructed adjacent to the Bolles School playground. The pole was part of plans the PGA TOUR's construction of their world headquarters. Some parents were concerned that possible radiation emitted from the tower could be cancerous.

Wanchick said that the PGA TOUR was being very cooperative about the community's concerns and they were working toward a resolution. Although there has been no



Photo by Christine Rodenbaugh

**Mickler's Wharf at the end of Canal Road off Roscoe Boulevard is slated for completion sometime in October.**

"final solution," the TOUR is currently "looking at other options," and they are very hopeful for positive outcome.

"To the PGA TOUR's credit, I think we will find the best possible solution," Wanchick said.

### OUTPOST DEVELOPMENT

Many supporters of Save Guana Now attended the Town Hall in hopes to learn more about the county's position about the Outpost development before the final decision goes to the board in September, with the PZA meeting at 3:30 p.m. Aug. 15 in the County Auditorium, County Administration Building, 500 Sebastian View in St. Augustine.

"I have received, as of right before my being here, easily over 500 emails in opposition to this project," said Blocker. "We talked about community engagement that there has been substantial community engagement on this issue. The feedback is overwhelming."

Blocker went on to note that he has yet to see the final project and will evaluate it without bias.

"I know you have some concerns," he said. "I have some environmental concerns and I have some traffic concerns. But I still have to review the final product because it hasn't gone to the final vetting period. I'm willing to be impartial and make sure that this project is evaluated like if any citizen in this audience wanted to make adjustments to their land or their property, they should have the right and ability under the law to follow that process and be evaluated by the staff that is fair and impartial."

McCormick weighed in his perspective at the discussion, asking citizens that wanted to participate in the discussion to take note of "competent substantial evidence," the law calls for and present information that would directly appeal to the county's planning and development code.

"How many people like something or don't like something is not really within the criteria," McCormick said. "Ultimately, it's a fact-based, code-based type of thing. General comments like 'the traffic will be hazardous' (won't work). The board can't use that to base their decision. If there are comments like 'I checked with the sheriff's office and there were 13 accidents in these 13 miles stretch last year and here are the records.' That works."

## 'Stop the Stigma St. Augustine' event part of Overdose Awareness Day

The St. Johns County Poly-Drug Task Force is hosting a community event called "Stop the Stigma St. Augustine" from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Aug. 28, in front of St. Augustine City Hall at 75 King Street.

The aim of the event is to raise awareness of the stigma associated with substance use, and to remember loved ones lost to overdose deaths. This event is being held as part of International Overdose Awareness Day, which is held globally every year on or near Aug. 31. There were more than 800 events held worldwide last year, and more than 500 events held in the United States. This is the first time an event of this kind will be held in St. Augustine or St. Johns County.

The gathering will highlight guest speakers and community resources, host a prescription medication drop-off point, provide Narcan training and host a candlelight remembrance ceremony. There will be discussions on the ways stigma impacts prevention, treatment, recovery, and support, as well as opportunities to speak to community organization representatives.

"We want to offer anyone touched by addiction a gathering where they will not be judged or feel isolated," said Robert Chupella, cochair of the task force. "Stigma often prevents people from getting the help they need setting the stage for death by overdose. The task force is focused on helping to change the language which contributes to the stigma of substance use."

According to the American Society of Addiction Medicine, "Addiction is a chronic brain disorder not merely a behavioral problem or simply the result of wrong choices."

The task force invites everyone to get involved in Stop the Stigma St. Augustine. Family members and friends are invited to email photos of loved ones to [letsremember2019@gmail.com](mailto:letsremember2019@gmail.com) for a digital memorial. This is an opportunity for county residents to come together and help achieve change.

The St. Johns County Poly-Drug task force is providing community-wide efforts to address the opioid crisis and other related substance use issues. Monthly meetings are open to anyone interested, and are held at the St. Johns County Health and Human Services building at 9 a.m. every third Wednesday.

For more information, email Robert Chupella at [drbob540@hotmail.com](mailto:drbob540@hotmail.com) or [bomar540@hotmail.com](mailto:bomar540@hotmail.com).

*Cara Burky still pinches herself two years after realizing her dream to open the Blue Jay Listening Room in Jacksonville Beach. The Florida native had a strong role model in her mother who taught Burky to be confident and work hard to reach her goals.*

## Cara Burky

### What can you share about your background?

I moved to Neptune Beach when I was 6 months old and I've been here in our beaches community ever since. I went to PVPV, Ocean Palms, Landrum Middle, Nease High School and Florida State University for college. I was raised by the most incredible single mom, Cathy Thomasson, who owns a fabulous little boutique in Jax Beach called Sidney Cardel's. She was the spark that ignited my becoming an entrepreneur. She's the strongest, most hard-working person I know and I have always wanted to follow in her footsteps. She taught me all about girl power and how if I wanted something, I had to be confident and work hard enough to accomplish it myself.

### What artists influenced you most early on?

I grew up in the 90s so at a very early age I became obsessed with MTV Unplugged. I was fascinated by not only the music, but the stories behind the songs. It changed everything for me. And then I heard the Grateful Dead and The Allman Brothers and it was all over . . . music was going to be my life in one capacity or another.

### What genre of music do you enjoy playing the most?

I'm a sucker for a solo. Being into the jam band, southern rock scene kind of morphed by musical taste into really loving people like Derek Trucks and Warren Haynes whose guitar solos send you to another planet. I'm also a huge bluegrass fan. The musicianship it requires to play a quality bluegrass tune is unmatched. However, since I opened Blue Jay and have become a little older, I appreciate lyrics and storytelling so much more than ever before. Songwriters like Tom Waits, John Prine, Tyler Childers and Corey Kilgannon are on my playlist daily. So, basically, I'm all over the place! As long as it's quality, I can dig it.

### When did Blue Jay Listening Room open?

Blue Jay Listening Room has been in the works for quite some time. Before opening in my current location, in 2015 I started doing a once a month show in a previous space to see if I was on my own listening room planet, or if any other people might be interested in this kind of thing. Once I found out that I wasn't the only one who thought we needed a venue like this in our community, I did pop-up shows all over Jax to keep up the momentum while I searched relentlessly for a permanent location. Through the help of Heather Ireland, my Jax Beach liaison and guardian angel, I was able to find this space above Casa Maria Mexican Restaurant and after a brutal construction process we (FINALLY) opened in August of 2017.

### How has the music scene changed since opening?

The Jacksonville music scene is incredible. There are so many insanely talented up-and-coming musicians in our midst, it's really unbelievable to witness. Blue Jay has helped provide a space for artists to come and share their original songs, which is unfortunately not the case at restaurants and bars. Jax is a music scene of not only musicians but also genuine music lovers who are lifting each other up, supporting each other, encouraging going to each other's shows



and really showing that this sometimes cutthroat scene can be about community, not competition. I'm so proud to be even a small part of it.

### If you could get anyone to play at Blue Jay, who would it be?

Gosh, this is a difficult one. My dream list is Tom Waits, John Prine, Derek Trucks and Susan Tedeschi. Hey — ya never know!

### Who are some of the biggest names you've had at Blue Jay?

In my short two years of being open, I've been lucky enough to host some of my favorite musicians. Nathaniel Rateliff, John Paul White, Brett Dennen, members of the "Live From Here" family as well as the Allman Brothers family and the legendary Bernard Purdie are some of the most notable. I'm still pinching myself!

### Why did you choose the name "Blue Jay?"

In 1999, my Grandmother, Sylvia "Sidney" Thomasson passed away suddenly. She was, besides my mother, the best woman I ever knew and I know I speak for my entire family when I say she was our foundation, our rock and the reason we are who we are individually and as a family unit.

She was a beautiful woman, far ahead of her time. She was kind, well-spoken, progressive and one of my

greatest inspirations. She stood tall, smiled big, cried whenever we left her, all while simultaneously being the lioness, the huntress, the protector. Her family was her life and if you messed with any of us, well, Lord help ya.

She was my heart.

We held her funeral service on her front lawn in Leesburg, Florida overlooking the most beautiful lake. Her casket laid under the most beautiful oak tree on the most beautiful day.

One of the speakers, my Grandma's Sunday School teacher Sherra, was standing on the podium giving the sweetest speech when all of a sudden, a blue jay flew out of the oak tree above where my Grandma laid, did loopy-loops around the crowd and then flew back up in to the tree. Of course, we all noticed but didn't think much of it at first. Sherra shook it off and continued speaking until moments later, the same blue jay flew out of the tree again and danced around all of us as if it was trying to make sure it had our attention.

And boy, did it ever.

Sherra just smiled, laughed and said, "OK, Sylvia, we know you're here."

Ever since that day, my grandma has been a Blue Jay.

I could not have imagined a better name for this sacred space than the Blue Jay Listening Room — named after the woman who always had a song in her heart and who has forever placed a song in mine.



Avery Middleton (from left), Danny White, Katie Mahnken and Sofija Djukiz share a meal of traditional Kazakhstan food prepared by the eight young women who spent the summer working in the United States.



ABOVE: Katie Mahnken received flowers for her dedication to the girls. She is a Program Coordinator with The Greatest Exchange and lives in Kazakhstan for six months each year to find young women to participate in the program.

RIGHT: Kelly Ray, founder of The Greatest Exchange, welcomed guests to the Night of Celebration. "We are obediently doing what God called us to do," Ray said.



Photos by Christine Rodenbaugh  
Diana Kurmanyliyeva and Sabira Mukhatova pose at the photo booth.



Reagan Bushman (from left), Meg James, Kacey Bushman, Logan James, KJ Bushman and Riley Bushman attended the Night of Celebration Aug. 9 to support The Greatest Exchange.

## 8 women from Kazakhstan participate in The Greatest Exchange

By Christine Rodenbaugh

A Night of Celebration was bittersweet as eight young women from Kazakhstan took the stage at Waypoint Church at Nocatee on Aug. 9 to share their stories with host families, prayer partners and supporters of The Greatest Exchange. The girls gathered with new friends to share a meal of traditional Kazakh food, celebrate 10 weeks of an amazing summer and bid farewell to the United States, at least for now.

In 2011, Kelly Ray, founder of The Greatest Exchange, traveled to Kazakhstan with a friend to teach English and study Russian. Kazakhstan, sandwiched between Asia and Europe, is the ninth largest country in the world, and once was the second largest republic in the former Soviet Union (U.S.S.R.).

"What were the coldest, most tea-filled months of our lives turned into a tapestry of beautiful relationships," Ray stated on nonprofit's website.

That trip planted a seed in Ray's heart to find a way to show Kazakh people how valuable the cross-cultural relationship is. She returned to Kazakhstan 10 months later and met 26-year-old Aigul who grew up in an orphanage. Aigul wanted to know if there was a way for her to go to America and work to earn money to provide for herself and improve her English.

Ray said it took 10 months to complete the process to get Aigul employed, approved through Kazakh and U.S. governments, and finally able to book a flight to America. Another student Ray had met on the first trip, Aisulu, joined Aigul on the journey to Florida.

The girls lived with Ray for three months learning about American culture and earning money to take back to Kazakhstan. The community stepped up in a big way providing trips to Disney World, donating clothes and providing plane fare. Because of local generosity, the girls went home with 100% of the money earned while stateside.

Instead of calling it one and done, Ray founded The Greatest Exchange. This year's Night of Celebration marked the sixth summer of a cultural exchange that transforms the lives of the eight young women who venture nearly 7,000 miles from home and hosts who welcome the women into their homes.

For more information about The Greatest Exchange, visit [www.greatestexchange.org](http://www.greatestexchange.org).

## OBITUARIES

### John Alfred Bowers

John Alfred Bowers MD, 89, died at home after a brief illness on July 20, 2019. Born June 30, 1930 in Montgomery, Alabama, his family moved to Atlanta in 1934 where he would meet his future wife, Shirley Hall, in Sunday school at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. Alfred and Shirley were married in 1952 before moving to Augusta, Ga where Alfred attended the Medical College of Georgia.

While in Augusta, the couple's first 2 children, John and Alison, were born. The family then moved to Memphis for Alfred's medical residency, while he served in the U.S. Navy.

In 1961 Dr. Bowers moved his family to Jacksonville Beach, joining Children's Medical Group as a practicing pediatrician.

Between 1962 and 1964 Alfred and Shirley's children, Suzanne and David, were born. The family became early members of the fledgling Palms Presbyterian Church where Alfred spent many years as an Elder and, eventually, Elder Emeritus. He devoted countless hours to the Building and Property Committees,

playing a pivotal role in multiple construction phases.

Alfred was very active in the medical and civic communities in Jacksonville for 60 years, serving as the Chief of Staff for Beaches Hospital shortly after it was built, while attending newborns and children at Baptist, St. Vincent's, Memorial, Beaches, and Hope Haven hospitals. In addition, he served on the Board of Directors for the (then known as) Duval Home for Retarded Children in Deland.

He enjoyed traveling with his wife to Williamsburg as they jointly planned the home they built in Ponte Vedra Beach.

He retired from private practice after 30 years and then became the primary medical advisor to the Duval County Public School System, a role he retained for another 30 years.

He enjoyed his association and work with the Jacksonville Beaches Rotary Club and many other civic organizations.

Alfred is predeceased by his wife Shirley, and parents Lincoln and Maureen Bowers. Survivors include children John Bowers, Alison Bowers Findlay, Suzanne Bowers Shaw (Don) and David Bowers, grandchildren Mallory Findlay, Caitlin Findlay Slotnick, Andrew Shaw, Bob Bowers, Preston Shaw, Billy Bowers, and Annie Bowers, sisters Suanne Sauerbrun and Mary Jo Nix, along with 3 nephews, a niece and many cousins.

The memorial service will be held at Palms Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville Beach on September 6, 2019 at 11 a.m.

His cremated remains will be interred in a private family service in the church's columbarium. In honor of Alfred's lifelong career as a pediatrician and his devotion to his church, donations can be made to Palms Presbyterian Church's 'Children's Ministries Program' by sending a check directly to the church in Jacksonville Beach marked "Alfred Bowers-Children's Ministries". Flowers are welcome as well.

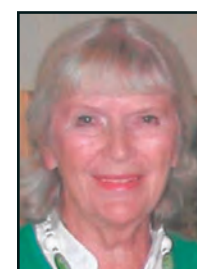
Please visit the online Tribute at [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.



### Constance Phyllis Wolschlag (Penny-Campbell)

With much sadness the family announces the passing of Constance Phyllis Wolschlag in Ponte Vedra, Florida, on July 29, 2019. Connie was born in Sydney, Nova Scotia, on September 24, 1932, to the late Gordon C. and Mary A. Penny.

Connie's working career took her from Sydney to Montreal, where she met and married Ian B. Campbell. Connie and Ian spent their 25 years together between Montreal, Ottawa and Florida. Upon Ian's death, she took up permanent residence in Ponte Vedra, Florida, where she, an avid tennis player, continued to play until recently when her health began to decline. In



Constance Phyllis Wolschlag

her later life, she was married to Richard Wolschlag until his passing in 2006.

Connie is survived by siblings; Eileen (late Roderick) MacNeil, Sydney, Nova Scotia; Ada (late Murray) MacIntosh, Sydney, Nova Scotia;

Charles (Joan) Penny, Ontario; Debra (Jerry) Verwey, Victoria, British Columbia; Christina (Michael) Torontow, Victoria, British Columbia; stepson, Ross (Sarena) Campbell, Toronto, Ontario.

She was predeceased by her parents, husbands, Ian B. Campbell and Richard Wolschlag, stepson Blair Campbell, and by long-time good friend Murle Harrison.

Inurnment will be at a later date in Ottawa. Visit the online Tribute at [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com). Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.



### Harry Jay DeBolt

Harry Jay DeBolt, 84, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Aug. 12, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

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<b>REDUCED</b>		<b>LODGE MEMBERSHIP AVAIL.</b>	
	<b>THE PALMS AT NOCATEE EAST</b> 3 BR   2.5 BA   1789 SF   \$299,000		<b>PONTE VEDRA EAST</b> 4 BR   3 BA   3738 SF   \$959,000
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	<b>PONTE VEDRA BY THE SEA ESTATES</b> 4 BR   4 BA   4002 SF   \$1,029,000		<b>PARADISE PRESERVE - ATLANTIC BEACH</b> 4 BR   3.5 BA   2989 SF   \$425,000

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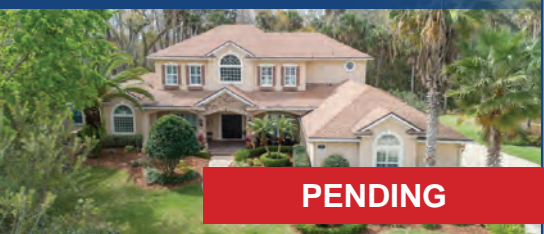
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# Ponte Vedra student continues musical journey

Paolo Gioia was born with perfect pitch, love for music

It was Friday, Jan. 13, 2006 and even though Paolo Gioia was not due to arrive for eight more weeks, he was determined to arrive on his terms. Born at only 3 pounds 14 ounces, Paolo spent 21 days in the NOVA NECU where he continued to develop and grow very quickly becoming one of nurses' favorite visitors.

The Gioias believe Paolo's music instruction began as a baby in mama's belly when she would place headphones on her belly to entertain and sooth him. This emersion of music continued as the Gioias would always play music in their home ranging from classical to hip-hop. At one point, Paolo demonstrated his particular love for Andre Bocelli by rolling his walker right up to the speaker anytime Andre would play.

When rolling Paolo around in his stroller Paolo would systematically check the acoustics in each room by belting out various tones. And when Paolo was able to walk, he taught himself to conduct, with a wand, the performance of Beethoven's Fifth. When a video of this was sent to the lead conductor of the Alexandria symphony orchestra, the maestro replied with an astounding appreciation stating that Paolo was not just waving his hands to the melody, instead he was actually preempting the next insertion of notes and actually directing.

While living in Alexandria VA Paolo attended Children's International, a pre-K IB school where the students were visited by the locally renowned musician Mr. B. After a few sessions playing instruments and singing to the students, Mr. B. told Paolo's parents about the student's extraordinary attention and interest in each of his sessions and suggested Paolo learn how to play the piano.



Paolo Gioia, age 13, studied intermediate jazz for saxophone at the summer camp.

During Paolo's first session, Mr. B. quickly taught Paolo what each note sounded like and proceeded to test the young man's musical knowledge. As Mr. B. played the notes, Paolo would name them with ease, which immediately impressed Paolo's father. However, Mr. B. was quick to ground the proud father stating, "That is pretty normal."

Mr. B. continued testing Paolo's knowledge by adding layers of complexity. Mr. B. placed a towel over his hands while he played various notes and asked Paolo to name them. Paolo answered without hesitation and with perfection.

Mr. B. looked at Paolo's father and said, "Now that is NOT normal."

Paolo was blessed with perfect pitch and the Gioias knew that it was essential they encourage Paolo to develop this talent. The Gioias moved from Virginia to Ponte Vedra in 2012. Paolo's mother immediately discovered the most dynamic

music program in the area for Paolo, Morris Music Academy.

Paolo began piano and voice lessons with Tracey Morris. In 2014, Paolo expressed an interest in learning how to play the saxophone, which, ironically, was the primary instrument Tracy Morris played professionally. From the first day Paolo laid eyes on that sax he was enamored.

Paolo's father only had two contingencies for Paolo. First, no matter how hard it is to learn, you never give up trying; and second, you take care of that instrument because it's an expensive one.

Tracy Morris was immediately impressed with Paolo's ability to fly through the normal challenges a 9-year-old would have with learning the sax, not to mention the record time he mastered the proper tone of a sax.

The training with the academy was rigorous but proved fruitful when it provided Paolo the opportunity to play a recital in



Carnegie Hall with Morris Music Academy. New York City is where his parents Ro and Salvatore met and quickly after they were married, they started a tradition of visiting the city once a year at Christmas time. The entire family has a love for the city and everything it has to offer which, made this opportunity even more special.

On Dec. 9, 2017, Paolo sang and played the saxophone at Carnegie Hall.

After such a significant accomplishment, the Gioias began researching new ways to push Paolo in his development. That's when they discovered the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan. Over the summer, 2,500 international students traveled to Interlochen to study music, theatre, visual arts, creative writing, motion picture arts and dance. The camp allows students to learn from amazing artists and educators, be inspired by the scenic campus, and create with other students who share a passion for the arts.

Paolo, age 13, studied intermediate jazz for saxophone at the summer camp.

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## Schools

Continued from 5

include those students enrolled in night programs that start today.

"The hard work and dedication from administration, teachers and support staff to make opening day the very best resulted in smiling students engaging with their friends and eager to learn," said Superintendent Tim Forson. "I am so proud of our students and staff. It was wonderful to be out in the schools to share in the excitement of the first day. Transportation, food service, custodial and maintenance staff

are doing an excellent job handling their responsibilities and taking care of students. All local law enforcement agencies, Allied Universal School Security Guards, Public Service Assistants and Crossing Guards are incredible in supporting our operations and adding another layer of safety and security to our campuses and surrounding areas.

"Lastly, I want to say a huge thank you to our parents and families as we manage the beginning of the school year."

SJCSD staff will continue to monitor attendance numbers, balance classrooms and refine bus routes throughout the coming weeks.



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Thursday, Aug. 15	Friday, Aug. 16	Saturday, Aug. 17	Sunday, Aug. 18
<p><b>Author Maggie Fitzroy at The BookMark</b> Local author, Maggie Fitzroy, will make an appearance at 7 p.m., Aug. 15 at The BookMark to present her new, historical romance novel, "Beacon Beach. The book marks Fitzroy's fourth novel and second fiction novel. For more information, call The BookMark at (904) 241-9026. The BookMark is located at 220 First St. in Neptune Beach.</p> <p><b>Lunch &amp; Learn seminar: Managing headaches</b> Board Certified Chiropractic Neurologist, Dr. Erika Hamer will discuss the wide variety of headaches, their causes, ways to treat and how chiropractic care can bring relief at this lunch and learn seminar at 11:30 a.m., Aug. 15 at Dr. Hamer's office. Lunch will be served first with the seminar starting at noon. The event is free of charge and open to all. To reserve a spot, call (904) 834-2717 by Aug. 14 to reserve a spot. Dr. Hamer's office is located at the Nocatee Town Center at 205 Marketside Ave, Ste. #200 in Ponte Vedra.</p> <p><b>Jacksonville Jaguars vs. Philadelphia Eagles at TIAA Bank Field</b> Football season is back! Join and watch the local Jacksonville Jaguars go up against the 2018 Super Bowl Champs, the Philadelphia Eagles. This will also be the first time Jags starting QB, Nick Foles, goes up against his former team. The game starts at 7 p.m., Aug. 15 at TIAA Bank Field. For tickets or more information, visit <a href="http://www.jaguars.com/tickets">www.jaguars.com/tickets</a>. TIAA Bank Field is located at 1 TIAA Bank Field Dr. in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Nocatour</b> Enjoy a personal golf cart tour through Nocatee's Greenway Trailway System, Nocatee Community Park, Coastal Oaks and Del Webb at 10 a.m., Aug. 15 at the Nocatee Welcome Center. There will also be a quick, guided tour at the new Spray Park and will be finishing with a walking tour of the award-winning Splash Water Park and the Fitness Club. The event is weather permitting. The Nocatee Welcome Center is located at 245 Nocatee Center Way in Ponte Vedra.</p>	<p><b>Brad Paisley Tour 2019</b> Brad Paisley will be performing at Daily's Place amphitheater at 7:30 p.m., Aug. 16. Tickets start off at \$48. For tickets or more information, visit <a href="http://www.ticketmaster.com">www.ticketmaster.com</a>. Daily's Place is located at 1 Daily's Place in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>2019 Jacksonville Tattoo Convention</b> Jacksonville is having its 15th annual tattoo convention this weekend, Aug. 16 through 18 at the World Golf Village Renaissance St. Augustine Resort. Explore the exhibitions and art of all attending vendors and enjoy the festivities with live tattooing, contests and special guests. Cost is \$20 for a one-day pass or \$35 for the weekend pass with military/first responder discounts available. Children 14 and under get in free with an adult ticket purchase. Doors open at 10 a.m. each day. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.setattoo.com">www.setattoo.com</a>. World Golf Village is located at 500 S. Legacy Trl. in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>Walk-in deli interviews at Publix at Sawgrass</b> Working in the deli means getting behind-the-scenes access to Publix's famous chicken tenders and "pub subs." Publix at Sawgrass Village is looking for new team members for its deli department and are doing walk-in interviews on Fridays from 1 to 4 p.m. Apply online at <a href="http://bit.ly/2Z3Dlpx">http://bit.ly/2Z3Dlpx</a> and stop by for an interview. Visit <a href="http://www.publix.jobs">www.publix.jobs</a> for more information. Publix at Sawgrass Village is located at 220 Front Street, in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Summer Fridays at the Cummer Museum of Art &amp; Gardens</b> Enjoy extended hours at the Cummer Museum on Fridays during French Moderns over the summer. The Museum and Gardens will stay open until 9 p.m., Friday nights. Enjoy the in and outdoors and partake in patio games, themed evenings, drink specials and activities for the whole family. The Cummer Museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville.</p>	<p><b>"Log Rap Dark Seas" movie premiere at Clean Ocean Surfboards</b> Clean Ocean Surfboards will be open from 6 to 9 p.m., Aug. 17 for the video premiere of "Log Rap, Dark Seas," edited by Log Rap. Art by Addie Gibson and Trenton Tarpits. Clean Ocean Surfboards is located in Sawgrass Village at 340 Front St., #740 in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Pit Sisters monthly adoption event</b> Join EarthWise Pet Jax Beach at its special adoption event with Pit Sisters from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aug. 17. Give a dog a new home while also getting exclusive deals on nutritious food and pet supplies at this fur-friendly event. The Pit Sisters Facebook page will post pictures of adoptees the week prior to the event. Pit Sisters dedicate themselves to "misunderstood dogs" by providing homes to harder-to-adopt dogs in need. EarthWise is located at 3846 Third St. S. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Ayla's Acres adoption event</b> On Saturdays, Aylas Acres hosts cat adoption events from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Augustine's Thriftique. Potential adoptees should fill out an adoption application at <a href="http://www.AylasAcres.org">www.AylasAcres.org</a> to streamline the adoption process. For more information, call Laura at (904) 377-6733. Thriftique is located at 142 King St. in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>Jax Taco Fest 2019</b> The first annual taco festival is finally coming to Jacksonville from 1 to 7 p.m., Aug. 17 at Hemming Park. Enjoy live music and over 50 varieties of tacos from the area's best restaurants, food trucks and eateries. Other Mexican options such as Mexican street corn, churros and nachos will also be available at the festival. This event is free to the public and will include a tequila expo, taco contest, kids zone, beer bar and more. This event is rain or shine. For more information, call (904) 515-5098 or email <a href="mailto:hello@hemmingpark.org">hello@hemmingpark.org</a>. Hemming Park is located at 135 W Monroe St. in Jacksonville.</p>	<p><b>Blue Jay Listening Room two-year anniversary</b> Blue Jay Listening Room is celebrating its two-year anniversary from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Aug. 18. Shop the market, featuring vendors like Jax Is Rad, Sailor's Siren and Gourmet Grilled Cheeses while listening to some live vinyl spinning from Coast to Coast Records. There will be drink specials and a raffle for a chance to win a Blue Jay membership. For more information, call the Listening Room at (904) 318-3020. Blue Jay Listening Room is located at 2457 S. Third St. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Sundays at Surfer the Bar</b> Every Sunday, join Big Fish Power Yoga for a free Music &amp; Flow class at Surfer the Bar. The class is held upstairs at the bar and runs from 10 to 11 a.m. every week. Bring friends and family and enjoy brunch and mimosas downstairs following class. Register under classes on <a href="http://bigfishpoweryoga.com">bigfishpoweryoga.com</a>. Surfer the Bar is located at 200 First St. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Sing with the summer choir at Palms Presbyterian Church</b> Join the Palms Presbyterian Church on Sundays in August to sing in the summer choir. No auditions are necessary, just show up for rehearsal at 10 a.m. in room 121 and prepare to sing at the 11 a.m. service. For more information, call Dr. Ronn Cummings at (904) 246-6427 x 122 or email <a href="mailto:ronn.cummings@palmschurch.org">ronn.cummings@palmschurch.org</a>. Palms Presbyterian Church is located at 3410 Third St. S. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Florida Yacht Club's Woodstock Festival 50th Anniversary</b> The Florida Yacht Club is throwing a celebration in honor of the Woodstock Festival's 50th anniversary from 2 to 6 p.m., Aug. 18. Dress in psychedelic and groovy attire and get ready for music, games and prizes. Listen to live music by The Bush Doctors while hula-hooping, tie-dyeing shirts or face painting. For more information, call the Florida Yacht Club at (904) 387-1653. The Florida Yacht Club is located at 5210 Yacht Club Rd. in Jacksonville.</p>

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PV2-LV45852

Monday, Aug. 19	Tuesday, Aug. 20	Wednesday, Aug. 21	Thursday, Aug. 22
<p><b>Trivia at Mellow Mushroom</b> Join Mellow Mushroom Monday evenings at 7 p.m. for trivia with Trivia Nation. This event is free to play and there are prizes for the winners. Mellow Mushroom is located at 1018-2 Third St. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Summer Mixer Series: Crafts and Drafts</b> The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach presents the "Summer Mixer Series: Drafts and Crafts with Intuition Ale Works," from 5:30 to 7 p.m., Aug. 19. Taste craft beers with Intuition and the Friends of the Cultural Center and enjoy a talk on this flavorful topic. There will be light hors d'oeuvres and an interactive draft-inspired craft project to get creative juices flowing. Tickets cost \$35 and guests must be 21 years of age or older. Bottles will be available for purchase by Intuition Ale Works during the event. This event is one in a series of tastings hosted by the Volunteers of the Cultural Center to support repair work and maintenance to the fountain at the front of the Center. The Cultural Center is located at 50 Executive Way in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Skinny JAX product line event</b> Skinny JAX is introducing its new skincare product line, Colore Science, with Rep. Lauren, from 4 to 7 p.m., Aug. 19. There will be live demonstrations of facial procedures with combinations of Colore Science products. Rep. Juliette, from Ortho Molecular Products, will be attending to answer any questions about the medical-grade vitamins and will also have samples for guests. Savour Sensations will have fresh, pressed juices and specialties, along with Southern Tea who will have its signature Hibiscus Tea and Mint Julip teas. Skinny JAX is located at 1492 Third St. S. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Yoga for survivors at the Y</b> Enjoy this free Ponte Vedra YMCA class at 10 a.m., Aug. 19 as an experienced and certified yoga instructor guides cancer patients, survivors, caregivers, and others with a range of motion and pain limitations through a gentle and safe yoga practice. Call (904) 202-5376 to reserve your spot. The PVYMCA is located at 170 Landrum Ln. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p>	<p><b>Free quit smoking class</b> Ever thought about quitting tobacco? Join a free Quit Smoking Now class from the North-east Florida Area Health Education Centers at the Flagler Hospital-Wellness Center. Classes meet once a week for six weeks from 11 a.m. to noon, starting Aug. 20. Free patches, lozenges and gum will be provided, along with a quit plan, workbook, water bottle, stress ball and more. For more information or to register, call Northeast Florida AHEC at (904) 482-0189. The Flagler Hospital-Wellness Center is located at 120 Health Park Blvd. in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>Social Security workshop at Ponte Vedra Beach Library</b> This educational workshop hosted at 6 p.m., Aug. 20 will provide information to help understand how Social Security works. After this class, attendees will be able to make informed decisions about Social Security and understand how the elections people make will affect monthly benefits. Topics include knowing the history of Social Security, maximization of Social Security, being aware of issues involving the solvency of Social Security, estimate your benefits and much more. There is no cost to attend. The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library is located at 101 Library Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>First Coast Card Club playing date</b> The First Coast Card Club will host its playing date at 2 p.m., Aug. 20, at a game store within the World Golf Village in St. Augustine. The event is free to attend with walk-ins and guests welcome. Contact the club organizer at (904) 829-0643 to RSVP, or for more information.</p> <p><b>Jax Beach Classic Car Cruise</b> Join car enthusiasts at this monthly car show at the Boardwalk Pavilion in Jacksonville Beach from 5 to 8 p.m., Aug. 20. For questions or more information, email <a href="mailto:info@betterjaxbeach.com">info@betterjaxbeach.com</a>. The Boardwalk Pavilion is located at 75 First St. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday Pier Farmers Market</b> On Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to noon, the Pier Farmers Market at the St. Johns County Pier offers fresh fruit, vegetables, bread and local arts and crafts, ranging from 60 to 80 different vendors. Visitors can find a variety of unique, quality goods from local businesses. After browsing, visitors can take a stroll along scenic St. Augustine Beach. The market helps the local economy by allowing local merchants to sustain their business and also offer fresh, local foods to the community. For more information, call (904) 315-0952. The St. Johns County Pier Park at the St. Johns County Ocean Pier is located at 350 A1A Beach Blvd. in St. Augustine Beach.</p> <p><b>Turtles of Florida</b> Join Park Naturalist, Kelly Ussia, from 3 to 4 p.m., Aug. 21 for "Turtles of Florida," a family-friendly presentation about the different turtles found throughout Florida. This is the chance to learn about these reptiles that live in many different habitats of the community. The program is free, with no reservations required. Seating is first-come, first-served. For more information, email Kelly Ussia at <a href="mailto:kussia@sjcfl.us">kussia@sjcfl.us</a> or call (904) 209-0335. The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library is located at 101 Library Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Cervicogenic headaches workshop</b> John Goetze Physical Therapy and Innovative Physical Therapy present a free workshop on Cervicogenic headaches from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Aug. 21. The workshop will cover topics such as what causes headaches, how to reduce headache symptoms, how physical therapy helps and more. Call (904) 280-2001 to register. Space is limited. The workshop will be held at John Goetze Physical Therapy located at 1400 Marsh Landing Pkwy., #112 in Jacksonville Beach.</p>	<p><b>Journey Around the Spa</b> Visit The Spa at the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club at 4:30 p.m., Aug. 22, for its fourth annual vendor event with an exclusive passport. Step into treatment rooms, where vendors will offer something special to the incoming "travelers." Get the passport punched at every vendor and be entered to win a Spa Gift Basket worth over \$1,000. This event will feature exclusive package offerings and the discounted prices. There will also be complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres. Participating vendors include Alastin, Obagi, Clarisonic, SkinMedica, Jane Iredale, Dr. Dennis Gross and more. Call the Spa at (904) 273-7700 to make a reservation. A \$50 deposit holds a spot for this event. The Spa at the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club is located at 302 Ponte Vedra Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Touchdowns &amp; Tailgates at Gift Boutique</b> Sip and shop at Gift Boutique for spirit wear, jewelry and fun accessories just in time for football season! Whether rooting for the Jags, college or high school teams, Gift Boutique has gear for all. Bring friends and a snack to share while shopping starting at 6:30 p.m. on Aug. 22. Gift Boutique is located at 186 Myrtle Brook Bend in Ponte Vedra.</p> <p><b>Jacksonville Jaguars vs. Miami Dolphins watch party at 8103 Clothing Inc.</b> Join 8103 Clothing Inc., along with The Block Skate Supply and Generation Jaguar for a Jags vs. Dolphins watch party from 8 to 11 p.m., Aug. 22. 8103 Clothing will be showing the game on a massive 12-foot projector screen outside in the skate plaza, along with flatscreens inside both stores. There will be free drinks provided by Bold City Brewery and Relevnt. The Blazn Buffalo will be serving up snacks for hungry fans and Pop-ups from Gen. Jag and Teal We Die will be open for business. 8103 Clothing Inc. is located at 1715 N. Main St. in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>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 <a href="mailto:Daniela@opcfla.com">Daniela@opcfla.com</a> or call (904) 686-3939.</b></p>

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# Local high school students volunteer summer vacation to read to underprivileged children

## Hugs Across the County hosts program to prevent summer slide

By Amber Lake

According to a recent study, in St. Johns County there were 876 homeless students in the 2017-2018 school year.

In a county with some of the best schools in the state, some kids are coming to class on empty stomachs and going to a home without a single book inside it.

The nonprofit Hugs Across the County wants to ensure all students get a chance to learn and have their basic needs met. High school students Sami Meyers and Alex Schupler spent their vacation managing the SummerSOAR program, which not only gives books to underprivileged elementary students, but also teaches them the love of reading.

“In Ponte Vedra and in our area, you don’t expect there to be kids like that,” said Schupler. “Even at Valley Ridge I would never expect because it’s a new school in Nocatee and it’s a big community, but the kids need us.”

READING continues on Page 18



Photo by Amber Lake

Alex Schupler (left) and Sami Meyers spent their vacation managing the SummerSOAR program.

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Photo courtesy of Alex Schuler

St. Johns County School students were read to by volunteers as part of the SummerSOAR program to prevent summer slide and foster a love of books.

## 3 Ponte Vedra Scouts BSA Troops attend same camp

Three local Boy Scouts of America Troops attended summer camp at Woodruff Scout Reservation in the Great Smoky Mountains near Blue Ridge, Georgia. The troops attend summer camps each year for a week in June or July. This year, boys Troop 288 of Ponte Vedra United Methodist Church and boys Troop 277 of Christ Church were joined by the new girls Troop 291, also of PVUMC. Several of the Troop 291 scouts have brothers in Troops 277 and 288. There were more than 70 scouts and 12 adults from Ponte Vedra attending.



Photo courtesy of

**Boy Scouts of America troop members enjoy whitewater rafting during summer camp at the Woodruff Scout Reservation in the Great Smoky Mountains.**

All three troops enjoyed the cooler mountain temperatures, as well as many adventures including horseback, climbing, whitewater rafting on the Nantahala and Ocoee rivers, aerial adventures, climbing,

archery, hiking, skiing, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, canoeing, fishing and rifle and shotgun shooting. Some members even attended an old-fashioned drive-in movie and others went bowling.

## St. Johns County Master Gardeners and Palm Valley Academy volunteers, students build 12 flower beds

A group of 30 volunteers built 12 raised garden beds at Palm Valley Academy on a July Saturday morning. The gardens will serve as living classrooms during the school year and will be tended to by students, teachers and volunteers.

The UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Master Gardener Program, coordinated by Horticulture Extension Agent, Terra Freeman, was awarded a \$1,500 grant from the Florida Master Gardener Legacy Fund to expand garden enrichment opportunities offered in county schools.

“Whether they are learning about soil science, growing vegetables or providing plants for pollinators, this community effort is sure to be appreciated by students for years to come,” said Horticulture Extension Agent, Terra Freeman.

The process involved constructing 12 raised beds using pre-cut lumber, followed by laying down thick layers of newspaper to naturally kill grass and weeds. In each bed, the newspaper was topped with a yard of compost and a bale of peat moss to provide a rich soil blend for growing vegetables or flowers. Each bed was topped with a layer of landscape fabric to keep the weeds at bay until the beds are planted.

“This was a great team effort, providing that many hands make for light work,” said PVA Principal Jessica Richardson. “In just over two hours, volunteers worked together to create 12 raised garden beds that will provide countless learning opportunities for all of our students. It was a wonderful way to spend a Saturday morning.”



**A group of 30 volunteers built 12 raised garden beds Saturday morning using wood, drills, shovels, and wheelbarrows.**



**The UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Master Gardener Program, led by Horticulture Extension Agent, Terra Freeman, was awarded a \$1500 grant from the Florida Master Gardener Legacy Fund to expand garden enrichment opportunities offered in county schools. The garden beds will provide hands-on opportunities to support classroom learning, which will be a coordinated effort between teachers, master gardener volunteers and other volunteers.**

Photos courtesy of Katrine Strickland

## After-school programs join forces to better serve youth

McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation Academic Resource Centers, Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida merge

Leaders at Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida and The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation recently announced the merging of their after-school programs to more effectively serve Jacksonville youth.

Through this partnership, Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida will merge McKenzie’s Academic Resource Centers, welcoming two Clubs and more than 300 underserved youth to the 25 Clubs and 2,500 youth served every day through local Boys & Girls Clubs.

Both organizations have a shared mission to help provide great futures for at-risk youth through academic tutoring, mentoring, job readiness and skill building programs.

“We are excited about the opportunity to combine forces with The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation,” said Paul Martinez, CEO and president of Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida. “We look forward to greatly impacting the lives of the youth we serve while preserving McKenzie’s legacy and commitment to Care, Give, and Grow.

The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation was founded in 2010 and is dedicated to empowering young people to discover their purpose in an increasingly complex and challenging world.

“We’re incredibly proud of the work the Foundation team has done to better the lives of children in Jacksonville,” said Stephanie and Blake Wilson, parents of McKenzie Noelle Wilson, the Foundation’s namesake. “By joining the Foundation’s program operations with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida, we know that together we’ll be able to accomplish even more great things in our local schools and communities to continue the McKenzie Foundation’s commitment to help young people realize their full potential.”

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## Who's Who in Dentistry

Pages 16-17



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# Oral health impacts overall health

A healthy mouth is good for more than just a pretty smile. Oral health can affect the entire body, making dental care more than just a cosmetic concern.

Many people know that poor oral hygiene can lead to gum disease, tooth decay and even lost teeth. But are you aware that failing to brush or visit the dentist regularly also can lead to more serious health issues? According to Colgate, recent research suggests that there may be an association between oral infections, particularly gum disease, and cardiovascular disease and preterm birth. Gum disease also may make diabetes more difficult to control, since infections may cause insulin resistance and disrupt blood sugar.

Your mouth also can serve as an infection source elsewhere in the body. Bacteria from your mouth can enter the bloodstream through infection sites in the gums. If your immune system is healthy, there should not be any adverse effects. However, if your immune system is compromised, these bacteria can flow to other areas of the body where they can cause infection. An example of this is oral bacteria sticking to the lining of diseased heart valves.

Other links have been found between oral health and overall health. In 2010, researchers from New York University who reviewed 20 years of data on the association concluded that there is a link between gum inflammation and Alzheimer's disease. Researchers in the U.K. also found a correlation. Analysis showed that a bacterium called "Porphyromonas gingivalis" was present in brains of those with Alzheimer's disease but not in the samples from the brains of people who did not have Alzheimer's. The P. gingivalis bac-



Photo courtesy of metrocreativeconnection.com

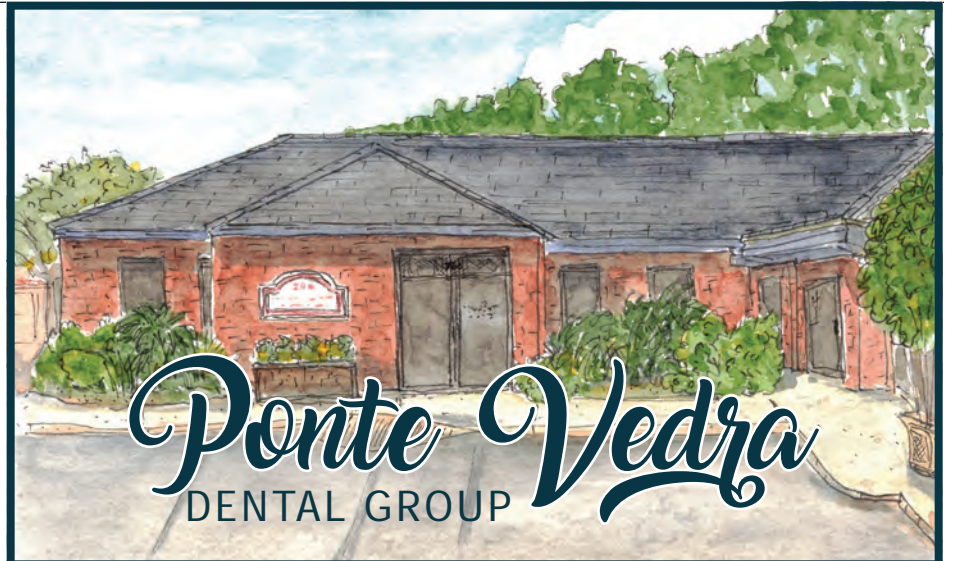
terium is usually associated with chronic gum disease and not dementia.

Researchers also have found a possible link between gum disease and pancreatic cancer. Harvard researchers found that men with a history of gum disease had a 64 percent increased risk of pancreatic cancer compared with men who had never had gum disease, based on studies of men from 1986 through 2007.

While oral health issues may lead to other conditions over time, symptoms also may be indicative of underlying conditions of which a person is unaware. Inflammation of gum tissue may be a warning sign of diabetes. Oral problems, such as lesions in the mouth, may indicate the presence of HIV/AIDS. Dentists may be the first people to diagnose illnesses patients don't even know they have.

An important step in maintaining good overall health is to include dental care in your list of preventative measures. Visit the dentist for biannual cleanings or as determined by the doctor. Do not ignore any abnormalities in the mouth. Maintain good oral hygiene at home by brushing twice a day and flossing at least once per day. Mouthwashes and rinses also may help keep teeth and gums healthy.

Oral health and other systems of the body seem to be linked. Taking care of your teeth promotes overall health.



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Photo courtesy of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville

## Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville receives generous bequest

Honorable John H. Moore and Joan Kraft Moore donate \$2.4 million Living Trust

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville received a generous bequest in the amount \$2.4 million from the Honorable John H. Moore and Joan Kraft Moore Living Trust. William "Bill" McMenemy and Thomas Donahoo from the law firm of Donahoo & McMenemy, P.A. presented the generous donation to the staff and Board Members of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville on Thursday, Aug. 8 during a presentation at the House.

After the presentation, McMenemy addressed the group. "We're honored to present this gift on behalf of John and Joan Moore and we're happy that it will be used in our community," he said.

"We are so fortunate to be the recipients of Judge Moore and his wife's generosity. They have significantly strengthened the charitable community in Jacksonville with their thoughtful gift. This gift will help our organization continue our mission to support the growing needs of critically ill children and their families in Jacksonville and beyond." Diane Boyle, executive director of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville said.

## Feeding Northeast Florida names new president, CEO

Hunger-relief partners and community to benefit from nonprofit leader's deep experience and passion

Feeding Northeast Florida, greater Jacksonville's nonprofit community food bank, recently announced Susan King will serve as its new president and CEO. King steps into the role after former CEO Frank Castillo resigned for personal reasons in May.

"We are incredibly grateful for all of Frank Castillo's hard work and dedication to Feeding Northeast Florida," Josh Martino, president of Feeding Northeast Florida's board of directors said. "We are excited to work with Susan as she brings her knowledge and experience to help fight food insecurity in our community."

More than 270,900 people in the organization's eight-county service area turn to food pantries and meal service programs. Through the distribution of food and other essential goods, promoting healthy living, and by advocating for the well-being of those struggling with hunger, Feeding Northeast Florida's mission is to address social and health care issues, to educate the community about food insecurity and to collect relevant data to improve the welfare of our community.

"Susan's strong financial background, leadership experience and heart for the underserved make her an excellent choice for this important role," Martino said. "Susan has a passion for



Susan King

addressing social disparities, and I'm confident she will deliver on our overarching mission of eradicating hunger in our community."

In 2018, Feeding Northeast Florida distributed more than 14.1 million meals in eight counties throughout Northeast Florida.

"It is an honor to join Feeding Northeast Florida as its president and CEO," King said. "I look forward to continuing the great work being done in our community by this wonderful organization and am passionate about bringing innovative and entrepreneurial ideas to alleviating food insecurity for our neighbors in need."

King previously served as a member of Feeding Northeast Florida's board of directors. She also held prominent roles including executive director for WeCareJax, executive director of Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry and president/CEO at Atlantic Beach Urban Farms. Before following her heart to work in the nonprofit sector, King spent more than two decades working as a financial professional primarily in commercial real estate development.

King holds a bachelor's degree from the University of West Florida and is a certified public accountant and licensed real estate broker. She and her husband reside in Atlantic Beach, Florida.

For more information, visit [feeding-nefl.org](http://feeding-nefl.org).



High school students Alex Schupler (second from left) and Sami Meyers (right) spent their vacation managing the SummerSOAR program through Hugs Across the County.

Photo courtesy of Alex Schupler

## Reading

Continued from 14

The annual SummerSOAR program is aimed at helping prevent "summer slide," which is the decline of reading ability that occurs over the months that students aren't actively engaged at school. The program is in its second year and serves three locations across the county that are also State of Florida Summer Food Program sites. The program not only provides new books for the children to take home but Meyers, Schupler and their team of volunteers read a new book to the group after every meal.

Director of Hugs Across the County, Brette Reiman, says that "60% of kids from under-served communities do not have a book in their home." A statistic that compounds summer slide in students that are already struggling to maintain their grades when some of their other necessities aren't being adequately provided.

Since Meyers and Schupler joined the program, they have also helped create more diversity in reading material, a suggestion from their students that they took to heart.

"The kids said, 'Can you bring more books where the kids who look like us?'" Reiman said. "We looked for books with more multicultural diversity. We were able to find books where the main characters were in the autism spectrum or where they might have physical disabilities. Also, (we found) books about a child in a single parent home. Sami and Alex made sure those kids had the books that they really wanted."

In addition to helping the students, Meyers and Schupler found they enjoyed the reading as much as the children did.

"Certain books make them so excited, you can see their eyes light up," said Schupler.

"It has really helped bring the joy of reading back to us as well." Meyers added, "It has opened my eyes to life outside of our life."

For anyone interested in donating any items to Hugs Across the County, the nonprofit is currently looking for girls clothing, no-show socks, new underwear and nonperishable food. For monetary donations or to learn more about Hugs Across the County, visit [www.stjohnshugs.org](http://www.stjohnshugs.org).



We Can Be Heroes foundation members (left to right), Beth Heath and Capt. Ryman Shof pose together at Applebee's for the We Can Be Heroes breakfast honoring military veterans Aug. 3.



Purple Heart recipients and WWII Veterans Walter Atwood (left) and Bob Hall greet each other and catch up at the We Can Be Heroes breakfast.

# 'We Can Be Heroes' breakfast honors veterans

By Daniela Toporek

On Saturday, Aug. 3, military veterans from across Jacksonville stopped by Applebee's on Butler Boulevard for a free breakfast in honor of their service.

Hosted by the We Can Be Heroes foundation, the event included a complimentary breakfast of pancakes and eggs, with bacon and sausage sides, along with coffee and orange juice.

"This is the second time here that we've done the breakfast," said Capt. Ryman Shof, retired Navy captain who served for almost 28 years. "We work with Clara White Mission because one of the things we do at We Can Be Heroes is feed the homeless veterans."

Volunteers from Clara White served breakfast to the honored veterans while Shof and We Can Be Heroes founder, Beth Heath, hosted the event.

A raffle and silent auction had prizes like patriotic oven mitts, books written by veterans and locally made Two Titmice Vodka. The fundraiser breakfast will underwrite an Oct. 26 memorial ceremony in honor of those left behind in Benghazi. The ceremony will be at UNF's Herbert Center.

"We're the only group in the United States that does an annual Benghazi memorial for those left behind in Benghazi," Heath said.

She mentioned that other groups had started Benghazi tributes and memorials, but We Can Be Heroes is the only foundation that continues it today.

"This country offers nothing, but opportunity," said Jimmy Hill, former Atlantic Beach City Councilman and 2019 mayoral candidate who also attended the event to serve veterans their breakfast. "These people right here took risks and literally put their necks on the line for us while we were children or before we were born, so to serve them breakfast is nothing."



Purple Heart heroes Eddie L. Harrison (left) and William M. Smith eat their complimentary breakfast from the We Can Be Heroes foundation, honoring their service.

We Can Be Heroes is an all-volunteer nonprofit in Jacksonville, Florida, that recognizes heroic acts across the country, whether it be honoring community heroes

or U.S. military veterans that have made a difference.

For more information, visit [www.wecanbeheroesfoundation.org](http://www.wecanbeheroesfoundation.org).



Photos by Daniela Toporek

Carrying tray in hand, former Atlantic Beach Councilman and 2019 mayoral candidate, Jimmy Hill, volunteers at the breakfast, serving hungry veterans.

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# Business Weekly

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2019

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New AT&T store  
opens in Nocatee  
Town Center

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## Artis Gilmore headlines ribbon-cutting event

Chappell Schools opens new  
St. Johns County location

Chappell Schools recently opened its newest school in St. Johns County on Longleaf Pine Parkway. Former NBA superstar, Artis Gilmore, headlined the ribbon cutting and open house on Saturday, Aug. 3. Gilmore led Jacksonville University to the NCAA Championship game in 1970.

Chappell Longleaf is an ecological learning center certified as Eco-Healthy.

“The center will be conscious of early childhood nutrition and serve only organic milk, purified water and fresh fruits and vegetables,” Nancy Dreicer, Chappell CEO, said. “We will have gardens with each child eating something they grew during the school year, and we will visit with local hydroponic farms.”

Chappell Schools has a 60-year history in Jacksonville. Chappell’s strong curriculum is supported by trained teachers who use Hatch Technology and the Sunform Alphabet System to prepare the children and measure their progress individually. The schools use both the FrogStreet and ELLM Plus curriculums.

Chappell Longleaf will be supported by Chappell’s physical education, music, resource and reading specialist staff and will “make learning fun” for the children daily. The location will serve children from six weeks through VPK and will service six local elementary schools with before and after care, as well as a robust summer and holiday camp program.



Former NBA star Artis Gilmore (right) headlined the ribbon cutting and open house at the Chappell Schools newest campus on Longleaf Pine Parkway.

The campus will adhere strictly to DCF standards and have a state-of-the-art security system designed by Bates Security. The center will be kept pristine and uses only hospital-grade disinfecting systems pioneered by EcoLab.

The staff at Chappell Longleaf will be involved in center decision making, achieving standards and center policies as Chappell believes staff satisfaction directly transfers to child and parent satisfaction.

For enrollment or employment information, call (904) 230-3337 or email [contact@chappellschools.com](mailto:contact@chappellschools.com).



Photos courtesy of Chappell Schools

Chappell Schools recently opened its newest school in St. Johns County on Longleaf Pine Parkway at a grand opening Aug. 3.

**Peggie Black, Rob Maloney, Holly Hayes, Madeline Vezain and Caroline Holder stand with some of the nearly 300 backpacks collected at the Ponte Vedra office. Altogether, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty offices collected 1,177 backpacks filled with school supplies for Northeast Florida children during its 20th annual Backpack Challenge.**

Photo by Christine Rodenbaugh



## Real estate firm crushes backpack challenge goal

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty collects 1,177 backpacks for local children

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty collected 1,177 backpacks filled with school supplies for Northeast Florida children during its 20th annual Backpack Challenge crushing last year’s distribution of 750 backpacks.

The backpacks and school supplies were donated to students throughout Northeast Florida in partnership with Dreams Come True, Operation New Hope, The USO, Department of Juvenile Justice, Boys and Girls

BACKPACK continues on Page 24

# Southeastern Grocers donates more than \$1.2 million in honor of U.S. Military Heroes

Grocer, customers exceed goal with donation of 243 scholarships to families of fallen and disabled military

In July, Southeastern Grocers, Inc., parent company and home of BI-LO, Harveys Supermarket and Winn-Dixie grocery stores, announced the donation of \$1,216,416.65 to Folds of Honor, which will provide at least 243 educational scholarships to the children and spouses impacted by a loved one's sacrifice for the United States military.

This significant donation was made on behalf of SEG's generous customers during a six-week community donation program which took place in all BI-LO, Harveys Supermarket and Winn-Dixie stores. Customers rounded up their total grocery bill to the nearest dollar at check-out leading up to Memorial Day through the Fourth of July. The program was a part of SEG's continued commitment to support Folds of Honor, and every cent donated will provide brighter futures for the legacies of fallen and disabled service members through education.

"We are overwhelmed by the giving hearts of our customers and associates, and we want to thank everyone for their extraordinary efforts to exceed our goal to donate more than \$1.2 million to Folds of Honor in our stores," Anthony Hucker, president and CEO of Southeastern Grocers, said. "While the sacrifices of our fallen and disabled service members can never be fully repaid, it is our privilege to continue to stand with Folds of Honor to brighten the futures of at least 243 military spouses and children of America's heroes."

Southeastern Grocers also held a press conference July 10 with Folds of Honor leadership to celebrate the donation results and present the organization with a check for \$1,216,416.65 at the Stallion 51 hangar in Kissimmee. During the event, the grocer awarded Mobile, Alabama Winn-Dixie



**ABOVE: Eddie Garcia, EVP of Store Growth for Southeastern Grocers (from left); Chloe, Leanne and Wyatt McCain, Folds of Honor family and scholarship recipients; Ben Leslie, Executive Vice President of Folds of Honor, hold a check for donations to Folds of Honor from Southeastern Grocers.**



**LEFT: Melissa Marlin (left) returns from a once-in-a-lifetime orientation flight in the legendary Crazy Horse 2, a P-51 Mustang, which she won for her efforts to encourage the most customer donations throughout all BI-LO, Harveys and Winn-Dixie stores in the Southeast.**

Photos courtesy of Business Wire

cashier Melissa Marlin with a once-in-a-lifetime orientation flight in the legendary Crazy Horse 2, a P-51 Mustang, for her efforts to encourage the most donations from customers in its stores throughout the Southeast.

"It's powerful partnerships like the one we have with Southeastern Grocers that allow us to strengthen the lives of so many of our military family members through continuing education," Major Dan Rooney, founder and CEO of Folds of Honor, said. "Each scholarship we grant is a tribute to those who served and those who continue to serve the ultimate sacrifice for this country. We're thankful to Southeastern Grocers and its customers for helping us

show our gratitude to more than 243 of our service members."

Since 2007, Folds of Honor has awarded nearly 20,000 educational scholarships to spouses and children of America's fallen and disabled service members. Last year alone, Folds of Honor awarded 4,000 educational scholarships throughout the United States, including more than 1,300 scholarships within the seven states Southeastern Grocers serves. However, the need is still great; 700 eligible and qualified applicants throughout the United States went unfunded in 2018. Thanks to the partnership with Southeastern Grocers, Folds of Honor is now at least 243 scholarships closer to lowering that number in 2019.

## When to say 'enough is enough'



**Harry Pappas**  
Columnist

Many of us, especially as we get older, feel a pull to find greater meaning and contentment in our lives. However, often the tug of desiring more fulfillment or purpose is not as powerful as the

push from our ego that says more is better. The ego repeatedly reminds us that we are what we have, we are what we do, and we are what people think of us, so we succumb to our ego's mind-boggling influence and continue with the rat race by striving to be smarter, faster, richer, sexier, more popular, more productive, more envied and more admired. Yes, strive to be the best — better than all the rest!

Welcome to the cul-de-sac of stupidity; a place where we say, "I have this and it doesn't work, so more of what doesn't work might work." More is not better, and we know it. It is crazy. Where is the peace in more is better? It's common sense, right? So, why do countless people, like this author, continue to slog along the cul-de-sac of stupidity? It is because our ego is amazingly tenacious and unwilling to withdraw gracefully. The ego is never satisfied and if we are not careful and buy into the myth that "if only they had that," the ego has the muscle to ruin us, as it has to countless others, big and small.

Why did it take me so long to finally retire from the more is better; better is better treadmill? According to an internationally renowned

PAPPAS continues on Page 26

## BISHOP & MILLS TRIALS & APPEALS

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To learn more about this and other Bishop & Mills attorneys please visit [www.bishopmills.com](http://www.bishopmills.com)



**ABOVE:** Christine Swanbeck, Toni Boudreaux-Godwin and Sandy Kavanaugh gather during the Chamber's After Hours event at Ruth's Chris Steak House on July 24.



**RIGHT:** Cindy Bishop and Dr. Rob Karol

Photos by Susan Griffin

## Chamber After Hours sells out

The SJC-Ponte Vedra Beach Division Chamber After Hours event was sold out Wednesday, July 24 at Ruth's Chris Steak House in Ponte Vedra Beach.

The purpose was to network among

members and guests and the host provided beverages and delicious bites.

For information about future Chamber After Hours events, call (904) 285-2004.

## New model home at TrailMark offers personalization options

Richmond American Homes has opened a professionally decorated showhome at the nature-first community of TrailMark in St. Johns County. The new model offers more choices for homebuyers at the community.

"The Appleby is just one of the many new versatile options that Richmond American Homes has to offer at TrailMark," Gaynelle James, GreenPointe Communities marketing director said. "Our community builders know exactly what homebuyers want, and they offer a wide variety of designs to meet the needs and lifestyle of today's families."

The 2,460-square-foot Appleby model at TrailMark opens into a foyer, revealing 9-foot ceilings and hardwood floors that flow into the entertaining area that includes a great room, dining nook and classic white gourmet kitchen. Designer details include herringbone backsplash tile, Shaker cabinets, quartz countertops, stainless steel appliances and matching Fresnel pendant lighting. A covered and screened patio offers appealing spaces for outdoor living.

The main floor also has a laundry and three bedrooms — including a master suite with a walk-in closet and a private bath. Upstairs, there's a versatile loft space with bonus room, fourth bedroom and bathroom.

"The flexibility of our floor plans appeals to a wide range of homebuyers,"

Michael Carlo, Richmond American Division president, said. "With hundreds of interior options available at Richmond's Home Gallery showroom and complimentary designer assistance, buyers have the opportunity to truly personalize each plan to meet the specific needs of their family."

At TrailMark, Richmond American Homes offers three- to five-bedroom floor plans ranging from 2,100 square feet to more than 2,900 square feet priced from the mid-\$200s.

TrailMark is a recreation-rich community in northern St Johns County, combining neighborhood living with a nature-first approach. Residents enjoy healthy outdoor living with miles of trails, parks and a community amenities center with a beach-entry pool overlooking a large central lake, a state-of-the-art fitness center, a variety of sports courts and playing fields. TrailMark's amenity center and Camp House, an open-air lakeside pavilion, are popular destinations for residents. An on-site lifestyle director plans weekly activities and social gatherings for residents of all ages to enjoy.

TrailMark's builder team, which also includes D.R. Horton, Dream Finders Homes, Lennar, MasterCraft Builder Group and Providence Homes, offers single-family, one- and two-story homes in

**TRAILMARK** continues on **Page 24**



Photo courtesy of Trailmark

Richmond American Homes has opened a professionally decorated showhome at TrailMark.

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# AT&T Store opens in Ponte Vedra Beach

A new AT&T store has opened in Nocatee Town Center at 152 Capital Green Circle in Ponte Vedra Beach to bring products and services closer to customers. With the opening of this new location, there are now seven AT&T stores in St. Johns County.

“Our promise is to provide customers a convenient and world-class retail experience wherever they live, work, and play,” said JR Luna, AT&T VP/GM for Florida. “This new store will help us better serve customers in the Ponte Vedra area.”

The Ponte Vedra Beach store is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

In addition to traditional brick-and-mortar stores, customers may have the opportunity to visit other retail formats. The Pop-Up is a smaller, flexible format placed in apartment buildings and other locations in dense urban environments. The mobile AT&T experience is on wheels at concerts, festivals, sporting events and the like. The kiosk format is a self-service, bring-your-own-device kiosk where customers can activate service within minutes.



Photo courtesy of AT&T Florida

# VyStar Credit Union acquires Citizens State Bank

VyStar Credit Union recently announced it has successfully acquired Citizens State Bank, a Florida state-chartered bank headquartered in Perry, Florida with \$280 million in assets. The acquisition began earlier this year with a signed definitive agreement. Since that time, VyStar, CSB and the appropriate regulatory agencies have worked closely to finalize the transaction.

VyStar will maintain all four CSB branch offices and all CSB employees. The acquisition will bring VyStar’s total number of full-service branches to 55, and total assets to nearly \$8.9 billion, serving more than 665,000 members. The operational aspects of the consolidation, including system integration, are on track for completion in mid-October.

“With the CSB acquisition and all future M&As for VyStar, the goal is simple: to grow into new markets and to bring the benefits of credit union membership to more people. In the coming months, VyStar is committed to working closely with CSB customers to make the transition as seamless as possible, and we look forward to serving all their financial needs,” VyStar’s President/CEO, Brian Wolfburg, said.

Earlier this year, VyStar received approval from the Florida Office of Financial Regulation to significantly expand its field of membership by 27 counties – more than doubling the original 22 counties – to include all 49 counties of Central to North Florida. This expansion included Taylor County, where CSB’s Perry and Steinhatchee offices are located. VyStar already serves the Gainesville community with two branch locations, the first opening over 10 years ago. In addition, VyStar received approval from the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance and the FLOFR to expand into four Southeast Georgia counties: Camden, Charlton, Glynn and Ware.

VyStar’s Senior Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, Ryan McIntyre, has led VyStar’s efforts in identifying potential strategic partners. VyStar was represented in the transaction by Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC as legal counsel, and Skyway Capital Markets as a financial advisor. CSB was represented by Smith Mackinnon, PA as legal counsel, and Hovde Group as a financial advisor.

# Nonmedical home care services expand to The Beaches

FirstLight Home Care now assisting aging seniors and other adults in Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine, Jacksonville

FirstLight Home Care, an award-winning provider of nonmedical home care services, recently opened offices located at 10151 Deerwood Park Blvd., in Jacksonville. Local entrepreneurs Eric Friedrich and Brandi Stone own FirstLight Home Care of The Beaches, which provides a variety of companion and personal caregiving services to residents in St. Johns and Duval counties.

FirstLight Home Care of The Beaches delivers nonmedical home care to people who need companionship and help at home, including adults with disabilities, those recovering from illness, injury or surgery and those over the age of 18 who need extra assistance. Trained caregivers help with general needs including errands, transportation, household tasks or individual needs like bathing and hygiene.

Friedrich is a military veteran, having served as an intelligence officer in the United States Air Force. After leaving active duty in 2014, Friedrich opened a FirstLight Home Care office in Southeast Georgia. Since that time, he has partnered with Stone to expand home care services to the Ponte Vedra/Jacksonville area. Previously, Stone worked for Eric in Brunswick, Georgia as the marketing director.

“It is a privilege to be able to serve our communities by helping people maintain their independence in the place they call home,” Stone said. “We want to be that extra helping hand for seniors, people recuperating from surgery and



**ABOVE: FirstLight Home Care representatives Eric Friedrich (from left), Linda Rigazio, Brandi Stone, Mandi Stewart, Yontrell Williams and Angie Rustin attend the Aug. 1 grand-opening celebration.**



**LEFT: Guests enjoy the FirstLight Home Care grand opening event. Since opening its first franchise location in 2010, FirstLight Home Care has experienced steady growth and is now serving or in the process of serving clients in more than 250 locations in 34 states throughout the U.S.**

Photos courtesy of FirstLight Home Care

those with dementia, as well as the family caregivers out there who may be feeling overwhelmed.”

Eric added, “Our goal is to offer practical home care solutions that support families and empower seniors to continue to live independently. As a military veteran myself, I am also committed to providing the best care for the veterans

in our communities.”

The new office is recruiting compassionate, experienced caregivers. FirstLight offers competitive wages, a fun, caring environment and the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of individuals in the community. Interested candidates should visit FirstLight Home Care of The Beaches Careers Page.



Photo by Christine Rodenbaugh

**Backpacks were sorted by age and filled with grade-appropriate supplies.**



Photos courtesy of Florida Network Realty

**Dreamer Donte, age 5 (center), with his family and Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty.**

## Backpack

Continued from 20

Club of Northeast Florida, Charles E. Bennett Elementary, Orange Park Junior High and Gamble Rogers Middle School.

During the campaign, new backpacks and school supplies were collected at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty offices throughout Northeast Florida. The backpacks were purchased for local students in kindergarten through grade 12 and filled with school supplies.

Studies have shown that students beginning the school year with a new backpack and school supplies sets the foundation for academic success.

“We are truly grateful for the generous support and numerous dona-



**The Ponte Vedra office was a collection point for backpacks and supplies. A decorated box near the entry made it convenient for donors to drop off contributions.**

tions we received from our Realtors, employees, clients and the community during the Backpack Challenge,” said President and CEO Christy Budnick. “Our team enjoys supporting events that provide opportunities

to make a difference in the lives of children and families in our communities.”

For more information, visit [www.FloridaNetworkRealty.com](http://www.FloridaNetworkRealty.com) or call (904) 296-6400.

## Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices FNR welcomes Hobie Sears

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Network Realty recently welcomed Hobie Spears to the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office.

Born and raised in Northeast Florida, Sears joined Florida Network Realty as a newly licensed Realtor with a passion for helping others. In addition to obtaining his real estate license this year, Sears is in his final semester at the University of North Florida and has worked at his family’s dental practice, Sears Dentistry, at the front desk throughout college.



**Hobie Sears**

When asked why he decided to become a Realtor, Sears said, “I love the tight-knit community of Northeast Florida and knowing that this community is always willing to lend a helping hand. While volunteering in the community, I love being able to help and connect with my clients, not only in a business standpoint, but also personally, as I guide them through their transactions.”

When not working, Sears enjoys taking advantage of all the natural beauty of Northeast Florida, especially the beaches. He is a professional surfer, who has competed at the international level and traveled the world exploring new waves. He achieved several East Coast and National Championship Titles throughout his competitive surfing career.

“I have great expectations for Hobie. He has a plan and a “can do” attitude. Hobie’s drive and commitment to excellence are right in line with the service we provide our clients at BHHS,” Holly Hayes, broker/manager of the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office, said.

For more information, call (904) 305-6605, email [Hobie.Sears@FloridaNetworkRealty.com](mailto:Hobie.Sears@FloridaNetworkRealty.com) or visit [www.HobieSears.com](http://www.HobieSears.com). The Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office is located at 333 Village Main Street, Suite 670, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, 32082.

## TrailMark

Continued from 22

traditional neighborhood styles and conservation area settings. The community has seven decorated model homes available to tour and several showcase homes ready for

immediate move-in and more under construction. Homes are priced from the \$200s to the \$500s.

TrailMark is located within the St. Johns County School District and zoned for Nease High School, Pacetti Bay Middle School and Picolata Crossing Elementary School, which is adjacent to TrailMark. For more information, visit [www.TrailMarkLiving.com](http://www.TrailMarkLiving.com).

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# Chamber holds Before Hours event Spavia

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce-Ponte Vedra Beach Division held its Before Hours on Wednesday, July 31 at Spavia Day Spa in Ponte Vedra.

Attendees had the chance to get to know a local business while networking with fellow chamber members. These morning networking events provide a great way to start the workday with a little breakfast and conversation.

For information about future events, call (904) 285-2004.



ABOVE: Spavia owner Chris Stoll (second from left) mingles with guests at a recent Before Hours event held by the St. Johns County Chamber-PVB Division.



Trasca & Co Eatery catered the event.




LEFT: Cassie Everly, Maddison Timoteo and Teri Sparks  
Photos by Susan Griffin



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Source: Real Value of Joining a Local Chamber of Commerce  
Shapiro Group, 2012.

PV2-LV45045

# Candidate for SJC Sheriff 2020 to hold meet and greet

Chris Strickland, candidate for St. Johns County Sheriff 2020, will host a meet and greet at 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22 at Cutter and Cutter Gallery at Sawgrass Village.

“It will be a wonderful opportunity to join together in discussion for the future of law enforcement in St. Johns County,” Strickland stated. “I look forward to seeing you there!”



Chris Strickland

The fundraiser will be at the gallery, 333 Village Main Street in Ponte Vedra Beach. Cocktails will be available, and attendees will have an opportunity to get acquainted with Strickland.

For information, visit [strickland-4sheriff.com](http://strickland-4sheriff.com).

# Pappas

Continued from 21

author and speaker in the field of self-development, Wayne Dyer, the movie takes place shortly after a “quantum moment” in our lives. My quantum moment was my regrettable divorce in March 2017. I had sleepless nights, uninterrupted streams of tears and consistent thoughts about whether living was worth it. Interestingly though, while I felt that my divorce just handed me a financial and emotional death sentence, little did I know that I was really being born again. My life eventually launched a new journey to one of meaning vs. one of ambition. Dyer said that as we transition from living in the morning of our lives (driven by ego) and into the afternoon of our lives (living on purpose), we understand and appreciate that we are no longer identified with how much stuff we have, our occupation, or what people think of us. Yes indeed, I traded in a life of striving to one of arriving.

Perhaps like you, I inhale movies and documentaries that inspire while providing incredible insight. There is one “spiritual” docudrama called “The Shift” that is my favorite. In this compelling film, Dyer, as the star actor, explores the spiri-

tual journey from ambition to meaning. The film is simple yet so deeply moving, as we witness the frustrations and endless striving of David, Chad and Quinn, which is the way of ambition in our ego-dominated life. In the movie, we also observe these three men make an incredible and heartwarming shift to “meaning” that produces the incredible joy of arriving. I highly recommend “The Shift” regardless of your religious or spiritual belief, or even no faith, especially if you are experiencing an unexpected change in your life.

I encourage you, before it is too late, to look into your heart, examine your priorities, and determine what is most important to you. If you are like me, you will eventually learn that there is remarkably more trouble in gaining possessions than losing them. You too will say, “Enough is enough! Stop the chase!” If you are going through a quantum moment in your life, it is probably very painful. Nevertheless, I argue that your change can be the catalyst for amazing growth, as you empower yourself to a higher understanding of your purpose and of finding inner peace. In closing, I hope the following quote from author Ryan Holiday in “Ego Is the Enemy” will provide you with encouragement and inspiration, as you

begin your transition to the afternoon of your life:

“In the end, the only way you can appreciate your progress is to stand on the edge of the hole you dug for yourself, look down inside it, and smile fondly at the bloody claw prints that marked your journey up the walls.”

**Harry Pappas Jr. CFP — Managing director-investments; Master of Science Degree Personal Financial Planning; Certified Estate & Trust Specialist; Certified Divorce Financial Analyst**

**Pappas Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, 818 North Highway A1A, Ste 200, Ponte Vedra, FL 32082; 904-273-7955; [harry.pappas@wellsfargoadvisors.com](mailto:harry.pappas@wellsfargoadvisors.com).**

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## THEME: MIND YOUR GRAMMAR

### ACROSS

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- Presidential “No!”
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- “General Hospital” network
- Earth, to Virgil
- Related to #12
- Down
- Junior’s junior
- Lingo
- \*Noun alternative
- \*Conjunctions
- Bit of work
- Sty cry
- Pendulum’s path
- Liberal pursuits
- Romani camp formations
- Not in Impossible Burger
- Letter before kappa
- First light of day
- Without purpose
- \*Ideas separator
- Part of colliery
- Gourd musical instrument
- Flees
- Flat-bottomed boat
- \*Controversial comma
- Its motto is “Leadership Excellence”
- Lt.’s subordinate
- Barnes & Noble reader
- Hermey the dentist, e.g.

- \*Person or thing
- Tactile reading system
- Earlier in time
- Color quality
- Lusitania destroyer
- Askew, in Scotland
- \*Suffix used when comparing three or more
- Kick in
- Rod attachment
- Pep rally syllable
- Author Jong

### DOWN

- Bruce Lee blow
- Infantry’s last rows
- Knowing about
- Part of a play
- Mrs, in Spain
- Jealous biblical brother
- Kimono tie
- “The Terminator” genre
- \*Simple predicate
- Therefore
- Helen of \_\_\_\_\_
- Mares eat it
- Tibetan religious paintings
- Finno-\_\_\_\_\_ language
- \*Suffix often confused with -ent
- Former East Germany currency
- Friend, south of the border

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- Ring practice
- Encourage
- Digestive aid
- “Piano Man” singer
- Eliza follower
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# Local author publishes children's book to help teach figurative language

'The Lippy Adventures of Boogernose Joe: Take a Hike' is one in a series aimed at teaching language pitfalls to young children

By Amber Lake

You can't judge a book by its cover. Literally, that is, with local resident Colleen Hoffman's children series, "The Lippy Adventures of Boogernose Joe." Hoffman's book teaches children how to navigate the often-murky waters of figurative language through the adventures of Joe and his two best friends — who often take things a little too seriously.

Hoffman, a speech pathologist, isn't a stranger to how people process language. She has helped children with autism and hearing impairments learn how to tell the difference between a figurative statement (curiosity killed that cat) and a literal statement (being inquisitive can lead to unpleasant situations sometimes). Her background has also helped her create the meaning of "lippy," which is a made-up word she uses to describe the disconnect between the figurative and literal meanings of words.

Although Hoffman works with children on the autism spectrum and with impairments, she said that all kids face challenges deciphering language nuances and the book also helps teach valuable life lessons.

"The story not only helps children understand figurative phrases, but also builds vocabulary and phonological awareness skills through rhymes," said Hoffman. "It also encourages children to be creative and adventurous without fear of perfection."

HOFFMAN continues on Page 28



Colleen Hoffman holds a copy of her book, "The Lippy Adventures of Boogernose Joe: take a Hike."



Margaret Hoffman reads from her mother's latest children's book.

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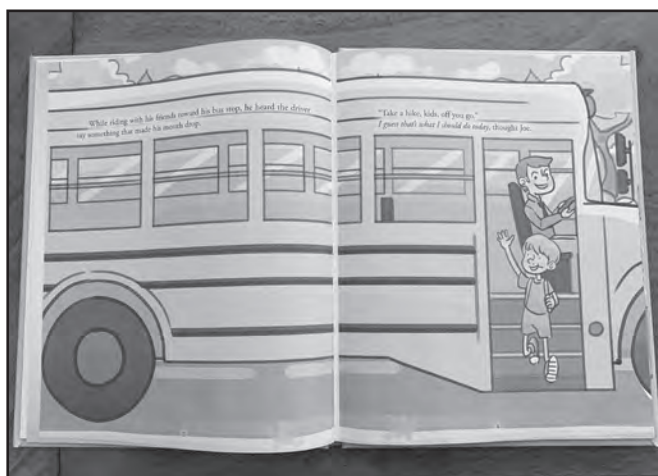
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Pages from Colleen Hoffman's new book from her book series "The Lippy Adventures of Boogernose Joe."

## Hoffman

Continued from 27

In Hoffman's first book, "Take a Hike," Joe goes on an outdoor adventure to discover the real meaning of the phrase, "take a hike." Her second book, which she says is due this fall, is called "In a Pickle." She is currently working on her third installment titled "Piece of Cake."

Hoffman said she was inspired to write the series after a night babysitting a family friend's child, 20 years ago.

"He asked me to read him the story, (which he called) "The Lippy Adventures of Boogernose Joe." He was so proud that he was able to trick me into thinking that was a real story with a made-up word "lippy" and also achieved his goal of staying up later. I told him that I would prove him wrong," she said.

So, she wrote the actual story – or one could say the "literal" version.

Hoffman said she has plans for several other books, all with the hope of helping children develop their language skills through the quirky misinterpretations of Joe and his friends. One could say she doesn't plan to "cut any corners" with figurative phrases.

Hoffman will be at the Local Authors Symposium held at the Ponte Vedra Library on Oct. 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. "The Lippy Adventures of Boogernose Joe: Take a Hike" is available through Amazon and Barnes and Noble, with "In a Pickle" available this fall.



Photos courtesy of Colleen Hoffman

Colleen Hoffman reads her book to her daughters and niece, Margaret Hoffman (back left), Caroline Green (right), Charlie Hughes (front left) and Claire Hoffman.

# Learn tips for writing nonfiction at workshop

Structuring and writing a nonfiction book is easy — if you know what to do. And that's where Erik Deckers comes in. Deckers will lead a workshop on "How to Structure and Write a Nonfiction Book" at the FWA Ponte Vedra Writers meeting 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

"There are a few different ways to organize a nonfiction book, depending on your subject matter and your purpose, and knowing how you're going to organize the book can make the thing so much easier to write,"



Erik Deckers

Deckers said. He will provide a step-by-step process for writers to follow.

Deckers is a professional blogger and the co-author of several books on branding and social media. He's been blogging since 1997, and a newspaper humor columnist since 1994. He has written several radio and stage plays, and numerous business articles. Deckers was the Spring 2016 writer-in-residence at the Jack Kerouac House in Orlando, and now serves on the board of directors. He recently published his first humor novel, "Mackinac Island Nation," which is available on Amazon in Kindle and paperback form.

The Ponte Vedra Writers group is part of the Florida Writers Association, a statewide, nonprofit organization with nearly 1,500 members dedicated to the support of both aspiring and published writers in any genre. The Aug. 24 meeting is free and open to FWA members and nonmembers alike. For information, visit [www.floridawriters.net](http://www.floridawriters.net).

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# Sports



THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2019 • PAGE 30

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## A look at the Jaguars All-25

After watching WR Keelan Cole's 102-yard TD get called back, along with multiple helmet losses from backup QB, Gardner Minshew II, in the preseason opener against the Baltimore Ravens, Jaguar fans are more than eager to see what the future holds for the 2019 season. Although no one can predict the

future, the Recorder can honor the past.

The Jaguars All-25 is a recognition of the top 25 inactive players in franchise history. Here's a look at the next batch of five players who were honored throughout July. Look for 16-20 in last week's sports section, and for more outstanding Jags in coming weeks.

### 15 OL Kevin Hardy

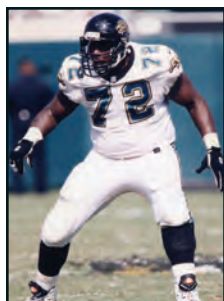
Jacksonville's first round draft pick in 1996 and No. 2 overall, Kevin Hardy, was named to the 1996 All-Rookie team by the Pro Football Writers of America. In 1999, he led all AFC linebackers with 10.5 sacks. With 28.4 sacks while in Jacksonville, Hardy ranks No. 6 in career sacks in Jaguar history.



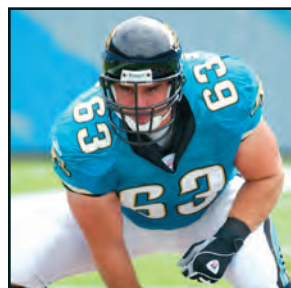
Kevin Hardy

### 14 OL Leon Searcy

Searcy was the 11th overall pick in the 1992 NFL Draft by the Pittsburgh Steelers. While with the Jaguars, he starred in all 63 games as right tackle. In those four years, he was never flagged for holding or a false start and was selected to the Pro Bowl in 1999.



Leon Searcy



Brad Meester

### 13 C/G Brad Meester

Meester blocked for two Pro Bowl running backs, Maurice Jones Drew and Fred Taylor, while with the Jaguars. He owns the longest streak for consecutive games started and has the most seasons played (14) and game appearances than any other player in Jags history. In the 209 games he started, Meester played as LG for the first 48 and C for the last 161.



Daryl Smith

### 12 LB Daryl Smith

Smith started 124 out of 126 games and played 9 seasons for the Jaguars. Selected 39th overall in the 2004 NFL Draft, Smith received AFC Defensive Player of the Week in the 2010 game against the Dever Broncos and is a Jaguars all-time leader with 1,089 career tackles.



Paul Posluszny

### 11 LB Paul Posluszny

Posluszny appeared in 100 games for the Jacksonville Jaguars and made 984 tackles, which is the second-most in Jags history. He totaled 1,381 tackles, 16 sacks, eight forced fumbles and three recovered fumbles. Posluszny totaled 11 INTs with the franchise – the most in its history.

Compiled by Daniela Toporek • Photos courtesy of the Jacksonville Jaguars

More players will be published each week in the Recorder. For more information, visit [www.jaguars.com/all25](http://www.jaguars.com/all25).

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The Special Rate will be applied to the enrolled savings account for a period of 12 months, starting on the date the account is enrolled in the offer. However, for any day during that 12 month period that the daily account balance is less than the \$25,000, the enrolled account will not be eligible for the Special Rate and will instead earn the applicable Standard Interest Rate for a Platinum Savings account. As of 05/31/2019, the Standard Interest Rate and APY for a Platinum Savings account in CT, FL, NJ and NY with an account balance of \$0.01 and above is 0.05% (0.05% APY); and for a Platinum Savings account in DE and PA with an account balance of \$0.01 to \$99,999.99 is 0.05% (0.05% APY) and with an account balance of \$100,000 and above is 0.10% (0.10% APY). Each tier shown reflects the current minimum daily collected balance required to obtain the applicable APY. Interest is compounded daily and paid monthly. The amount of interest earned is based on the daily collected balances in the account. Upon the expiration of the 12 month promotional period, then-current Standard Interest Rates apply. Minimum to open a Platinum Savings account is \$25. A monthly service fee of \$12 applies in any month the account falls below a \$3,500 minimum daily balance. Fees may reduce earnings. Interest rates are variable and subject to change without notice. Wells Fargo may limit the amount you deposit to a Platinum Savings account to an aggregate of \$1 million. 2. Available in-branch only; you must speak with a banker to request the special rate. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is effective for accounts opened between 07/08/2019 and 08/30/2019 and requires a minimum of \$25,000 in new money brought to Wells Fargo. "New money" is money from sources outside of the customer's current relationship with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. or its affiliates (which includes deposit, brokerage and loan/credit accounts). 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Due to the new money requirement, new accounts may only be opened at your local branch and you must speak to a banker to request the special rate offers for both new and existing accounts. Wells Fargo reserves the right to modify or discontinue the offer at any time without notice. Minimum new money deposit requirement of at least \$25,000 is for this offer only and cannot be transferred to another account to qualify for any other consumer deposit offer. If you wish to take advantage of another consumer deposit offer requiring a minimum new money deposit, you will be required to do so with another new money deposit as stated in the offer requirements and qualifications. Offer cannot be: • Combined with any other consumer deposit offer. • Reproduced, purchased, sold, transferred, or traded. 3. 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18TH ANNUAL



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