

Celebrating 50 years of the

PONTE VEDRA



# Recorder

September 19, 2019

Volume 47, No. 141

75 cents

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com

## FAREWELL CAROUSEL



Riders lined up Sunday to take a final spin on J&S Carousel at Davenport Park in St. Augustine. The ride was dismantled Monday and transported to Port Charlotte, Florida. On Wednesday morning, only the fencing remained where the iconic attraction once stood. Read more on page 5.

Photos by Christine Rodenbaugh



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

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Nonprofits

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Business Weekly  
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Estate Spotlight

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### CAR OF THE WEEK

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### 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.

Only one correctly identified last week's photo as the sign for Transformation Pilates Studio. The winner was **Tom Bailey**. Congratulations, Tom — you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



### ADOPT A PET

#### CAT OF THE WEEK

Juniper was turned in to the Pet Center as a stray. She is a 15-week-old female domestic shorthair kitten. This beautiful little girl is sweet and lovable. She will purr very loud when you scratch her and give her attention ... especially when you rub her belly. Come see Juniper today at the Pet Center. #51238



#### DOG OF THE WEEK



Pandora was brought to the Pet Center as a stray. She is a 2-year-old female, brindle and white terrier mix. Pretty Pandora is a love bug, and she is great with children, other dogs and housetrained. She has lots of happy energy and would love a family to call her own. Come see Pandora today at the Pet Center. #51503

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

H	E	M	A	L	S	O	D	F	R	A	U				
E	D	E	M	A	L	E	A	G	E	E	K	S			
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8	1	6	5	2	3	9	4	7							
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2	3	8	7	1	9	4	6	5							
7	5	1	6	3	4	8	9	2							
6	9	4	2	5	8	7	3	1							

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

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# Cheers to 50 Years!

Gator makes front page of Recorder

By Christine Rodenbaugh

Rufus “Gator Man” Stratton made the front page of the June 23, 2000 edition of the Recorder with an 8-foot nuisance gator trapped at Sawgrass Players Club. According to the caption, the hide went to Europe and the meat was served in a local restaurant.

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 any year. So, look in the attic or in those boxes tucked away at the back of the closet to find past issues of the Recorder. 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 [pvrecorder@opcfla.com](mailto:pvrecorder@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.



## BRIEFS

### Planning and Zoning Agency

The regular meeting is scheduled at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19 in the County Auditorium at the St. Johns County Administrative Complex located at 500 San Sebastian View in St. Augustine.

### Citizens Flood Mitigation Advisory Board

The meeting will take place at 9 a.m. Sept. 19 on the second floor of the Permit Center Building in Conference Room 2. The Permit Center Building located at 4040 Lewis Speedway in St. Augustine.

### Ponte Vedra Architectural Review Committee

The meeting is scheduled at 5 p.m. Sept. 25 at the Players Community Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach

### Beach Renourishment Easement open house

St. Johns County is hosting a community open house from 5 to 8 p.m. Sept. 26 at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas Estuarine Research Reserve, 505 Guana River Rd. in Ponte Vedra Beach. The meeting is regarding easements within the Army Corps of Engineers beach renourishment project boundary. County and Army Corps staff will be available to assist property owners and answer questions regarding the required easements. The meeting was rescheduled from Sept. 4. For more information, call (904) 209-0794.

# Ponte Vedra Corporation withdraws from County Commission hearing

By Amber Lake

On Sept. 13, the Ponte Vedra Corporation, a subsidiary of GATE Land, formally withdrew from the County Commission Transmittal hearing’s agenda. The Sept. 17 meeting would have decided whether to move forward with the company’s Comprehensive Plan Amendment application for the Outpost property.

The amendment was intended to change parts of the property from a conservation designation to a residential zoning intended for the development of a 66-home community, Vista Tranquilla.

According to a letter from Ponte Vedra Corporation to the commission, the planned unit development will remain pending and within the time period specified in the Settlement Agreement between the corporation and county, the PVC may request the application be placed on

a future agenda for public hearing and vote.

Additionally, the letter stated, “Since agreeing to the Settlement Agreement, unfortunately, recent discussions have implied that PVC is requesting to remove conservation protections from the property. PVC absolutely rejects this notion, as the company maintains that the proposed low-density residential use is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and that an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan is not required for the proposed development on its private property.”

The founders of Save Guana Now released a statement to their followers, informing them not to show up to protest at the Commission meeting.

The Save Guana Now organization made the following statement in an email:

“Evidently, Gate was not interested in an encore of the PZA hearing with our record-setting attendance and

our experts whose arguments were so strong, Gate’s attorney’s best strategy was to campaign to slash their time. Gate’s latest strategy is not a viable one; they can’t rezone the Outpost without a comp plan change.”

As stated in the letter to the commission, however, GATE still intends to allow for a three-year hold on the property with the intent to allow for a private or public organization to buy it.

“Even though the Comprehensive Plan request has been withdrawn by Ponte Vedra Corporation and the hearing was cancelled, we’re remaining vigilant because PVC now intends to seek rezoning without getting a Comp Plan amendment,” said co-founder of Save Guana Now, Nicole Crosby. “According to our attorney, this would be in violation of the Comp Plan. We continue to oppose the rezoning and the development of 66 homes on conservation land.”

# Ponte Vedra Auto Show rescheduled to Sept. 22

The Ponte Vedra Auto Show has been rescheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22, at the Nocatee Event Field.

According to Sandy Kavanaugh, Ponte Vedra Auto Show Manager, all those currently confirmed for Sept. 15 show participation will remain registered.

Originally planned for Sunday, Sept. 15, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce decided to reschedule the event because of Hurricane Humberto.

“It is the prudent thing to do,” said Chamber President/CEO Isabelle Renault. “We look forward to welcoming attendees to view the many cars showcased by our faithful car aficionados.”

Due to rescheduling conflicts, Porsche



will no longer be able to offer test drives at the auto show. Unfortunately, Porsche is unable to rebook their test drive vehicles

and driving instructors. Please stop by the Fields tent on Sept. 22 to check out their display models.

### ‘WILLY WONKA’ EXPERIENCE

Ponte Vedra Auto Show judges hand out golden tickets to Sunday’s event at recent Cars and Coffee. **Story, page 7**

For more information about the Ponte Vedra Auto Show, visit [www.PVAuto-show.com](http://www.PVAuto-show.com). Auto Show participants can contact the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber for more information at (904) 285-2004. To find out more about the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce or to become a member visit [www.sjchamber.com](http://www.sjchamber.com), call (904) 829-5681, or find them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/sjchamber](http://www.facebook.com/sjchamber).

# J&S Carousel takes final St. Augustine spin



The line to take a last ride on the J&S Carousel was consistently long Sunday, Sept. 15. The attraction first opened at Davenport Park on the corner of San Marco Avenue and San Carlos Avenue in 1994.

## By Christine Rodenbaugh

Sunday, Sept. 15 was the last day to ride J&S Carousel at Davenport Park. The iconic St. Augustine attraction had been located at the park since 1994 entertaining children of all ages with brightly painted horses and traditional carousel music. For just \$1, parents and grandparents could relive a childhood memory and share an American tradition with younger generations.

Owner Jim Soules passed away suddenly Sept. 6, and the family notified the City of St. Augustine that it was Soules' wish to have the carousel returned to Port Charlotte, Florida where he had been a deputy sheriff and K9 trainer before retiring. Soules was passionate about sharing the carousel he inherited after his brother's death.

The line to take a last ride was long and consistent all day Sunday. Soules' sister, Kathleen Nasrey, traveled from Royal Oak, Michigan to support the family and see the carousel operate in St. Augustine.

"I'm so thrilled at the lines of people," Nasrey said. "My brother would be ecstatic."

Soules' wife Peggy and son Tony Pabon rode the carousel Sunday evening.

"We rode what was supposed to be the last ride about 9:40," Nasrey said. "Peggy rang the bell and everyone cheered when it ended. The line formed again and Peggy said, 'Let them ride.'"

Monday morning, family members and a crew of workers were on site to dismantle the ride, load it into trucks and take it back to Port Charlotte according to Soules' wishes. One of the workers was carefully remov-



ABOVE: People snap pictures as riders take their last turn on the J&S Carousel on Sunday, Sept. 15.



LEFT: Jim Soules' son, Tony Pabon, removes one of 800 bulbs to begin the dismantling process Monday, Sept. 16.

Photos by Christine Rodenbaugh

ing bulbs from the upper perimeter. When asked if he was counting them, he said, "I don't need to count. There are 800 bulbs. I've put them in and taken them out many times."

The worker was Soules' son, Tony Pabon, who ran the carousel for about a year after leaving the military. Pabon was impressed with St. Augustine's outpouring of affection for the ride and the long lines that formed after the announcement the carousel would close.

"He ran it to honor the memory of his brother," Pabon said. "If Jim was here, he wouldn't have believed it."

The plan is to store the carousel and perform a complete restoration. "Jim restored cars, so he just did it," Pabon said. "He painted all the horses."

As the inner workings of the dismantled ride was attached to the trailer hitch Monday, Soules' sister reflected on the day before when the community came out to ride one last time.

"We appreciate the outpouring from St. Augustine. People had a favorite horse and named it," she said through tears. "I think (the last ride) was good for Peggy... very peaceful. She saw that they loved it."

## REMEMBERING J&S CAROUSEL



Kristin Misenhelder was born in St. Augustine and has been riding the carousel since she was a child. She waited patiently in the long line Friday, Sept. 13. "I used to come here as a kid," she said, waiting in the carousel line with Latos and their students for final rides. "My dad used to bring me and we'd get hot chocolate across the street. Then, we'd come and ride the carousel together. It's really sad that they're taking it away." "I think a huge majority of residents are upset and I do wish they'd work something out or at least replace it," Latos said. "It was the icon for the people that actually live here. St. Augustine is a tourist town, but as the residents, we always felt like the carousel belonged to us."



"All my kids grew up here with the carousel," said ARK Christian Academy teacher, Angel Latos, who's lived in St. Augustine since 2000. "So it's sad, everybody's really sad." Latos' children are now grown and married. Passing down the family fun, they brought their own kids to J&S, too, sharing the merry-go-round with the next generation of locals.



Photos by Daniela Toporek

A mother takes a photo of her two children as they ride the J&S Carousel for the last time Friday.

*Ellen Leroy-Reed thinks she is the luckiest person in Ponte Vedra, mostly because of the view. Personal and professional experience paved the way for her dream job as Friends of the GTM Reserve executive director. And she still carves out time for another passion instilled from childhood – sewing.*

## Ellen Leroy-Reed

### What can you share about your background?

I was born in Boston but have traveled around the country first as a Navy brat and then as a Navy wife. I've lived in cool places like Arizona, West Virginia, Georgia and Connecticut, but spent most of my young life in South Florida. We finally settled down in this region nearly 25 years ago and have made wonderful friends and built a happy life. It was in Jacksonville where I developed my love for nonprofit work – first as a volunteer for organizations like the U.S. Green Building Council, American Lung Association, The Navy League and Junior Achievement, and then as owner of a consulting firm that helped nonprofits improve their development programs and strategic plans. Finding a place at the GTM Research Reserve was an unexpected dream come true and is the culmination of all my professional experience coming together into one incredible position. I am truly the luckiest girl in Ponte Vedra Beach.

### You have worked for several nonprofits. What attracts you to that sector?

Working in the nonprofit sector is appealing to me because I see the direct impact our supporters have on the mission. There is an almost immediate return on their investment – whether it is being able to purchase supplies for the Sea Turtle Patrol, repairing an ATV for the rangers, getting lunch for teachers' training in the estuary, or funding fellowships for graduate researchers – we are able to transform a donor's dollars into action that is protecting the estuary, monitoring our waterways and educating the next generation of scientists. When I walk through the Visitor Center and see a group of teenagers getting excited about seining in the Guana River – well, you just can't beat that feeling. You know you are making a difference.

### How long have you been with Friends of the GTM Reserve and how has your role changed?

I joined the Friends team in July of 2016 as the nonprofit's first executive director. Since then, we have grown our ability to support the GTM's programs and have seen an increase in generosity from our Friends members and the community. We have also focused on improving our procedures and policies



Photo by Christine Rodenbaugh

in an effort to become a stronger nonprofit organization, which is a large part of the Friend's strategic plan. It is also part of my role to get out into the community and get people excited about supporting GTM. Though this beautiful treasure is right here in our backyard, many are still unaware of it and not sure how to access its amenities. In 2020, through outreach and community engagement, we hope to have even more energized Friends members, volunteers and visitors serving as champions for the Reserve.

### Tell readers about one (or two) upcoming initiative(s) on the Friends agenda.

Sept. 28 is our 10th annual Oceanwise celebration! This is our big annual fundraiser to help fund the research, education and stewardship programs at the GTM Research Reserve. This year is particularly exciting for us as it is also the Reserve's 20th anniversary so we expect the evening to be a lot of fun celebrating with our Friends members, staff and wonderful volunteers. The event has already sold out (which is so exciting!) but I may be able to find a few available tickets if someone is interested in supporting the mission.

### Tell us more about being a seamstress.

I cannot remember a time in my life when there was not a sewing machine primed and ready to go in my home. My grandmother always had a tape measure hanging around her neck, and you could always count on my mother to have a safety pin tacked to her lapel. Sewing was simply a part of our existence when I was young. My mother and I volunteered with the community theater and made costumes together for a variety of productions, which was great fun. Now, I spend my off-hours assisting my husband, Fred, doing textile work for his fabrication business making props and costumes for customers around the world. Currently, I am dipping my foot into the world of couture to create looks for the upcoming Jacksonville Magazine Fashion Project in October. My workshop is covered in beads and silks, which makes me very happy.

### What do you enjoy most about working in Ponte Vedra?

The view. Ponte Vedra is known for its landscaped courses and beautiful homes, but I know Ponte Vedra as home to the pristine beaches, towering dunes and verdant marshes of the Reserve. During

my busiest time of the year (right around now), I drive down A1A as the sun is rising over the ocean and I leave the Reserve as the sun is setting on Guana River. In those moments, I consider myself the luckiest person in Ponte Vedra.

### Would you like to tell us about your family?

I am blessed to have a wonderful husband who supports the work I do by volunteering at the Reserve and holding dinner for me on those long days at the office. I also have three wonderful adult children who are forging their own paths around the country. To fill the absence they've left, my husband and I have two rescue dogs that we dote over constantly. My family and I love to go camping with them, but they prefer to sleep the day away on a comfortable couch.

### Are you a morning person?

I am a reluctant morning person. My brain embraces the adventure of an early start to a beautiful day, but my body has never been a big fan so we compromise by getting to sleep early and pressing the snooze button often.

*Edited by Christine Rodenbaugh*

# Auto show judges give 'Willy Wonka' experience at Cars and Coffee

By Daniela Toporek

Five lucky car enthusiasts from last Saturday morning's Cars and Coffee meet at The Avenues Mall lived the "Willy Wonka" experience when the two head judges of the Ponte Vedra Auto Show handed them "golden tickets" to enter Sunday's competition.

Like kids in a candy store, the two judges, Ken Perry and Bob Grant, searched aisle to aisle of the mall parking lot, hunting down the five pristine vehicles that showed promise for Sunday's show.

"We're just browsing," Grant said enthusiastically and standing tall in his Panama hat, overlooking the crowd for the five motorized gems.

One of the winners drove straight to them, like fate, in a dark green 1993 Nissan Gloria, as if it just rolled out of a JDM (Japanese Domestic Market) garage, right-hand drive and all.

"Someone will always say, 'Your steering wheel is on the wrong side,'" Gloria owner, Greg Faulds said. "And I'm like, 'No, it's on the right side.'"

Faulds bought this car from friend, Josh from Nippon Imports, with only 18,000 miles. He fell in love with the Gloria while stationed in Japan during the Air Force, so when Faulds found it back in the States, he couldn't miss his chance.

"The sticker on the back meant this was owned by a police captain in Fukushima," Faulds said. "Josh put tint on the windows. I put seat covers on it. Otherwise, it's completely stock and I'm not doing anything to it."

Tucked in another aisle, the judges spotted another winner and this time, it's American-made, baby. A white 1964 Chevrolet Impala with red interior and classic trim parked as gracefully as it rides, according to owner, Lee Geohagan.

"I had all the suspension redone, so it rides really smooth," he said. "I went to Andrew Jackson High School, locally, so red and white were my high school colors. This is the one I wanted when I graduated. It took 50 years, but I got it."

To see more amazing cars and hear their stories, visit the Ponte Vedra Auto Show this Sunday, Sept. 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Nocatee Event Field. For more information, visit [www.pvautoshow.com](http://www.pvautoshow.com).



Photos by Daniela Toporek

ABOVE: Greg Faulds' 1993 Nissan Gloria, bought from Nippon Imports, is completely stock and plans to keep it that way.

LEFT: Ponte Vedra Auto Show judges, Bob Grant (left) and Ken Perry (center), surprise Chevy owner, Lee Geohagan with a "golden ticket" to the show this Sunday, Sept. 22, at Nocatee Event Field.

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Thursday, Sept. 19	Friday, Sept. 20	Saturday, Sept. 21	Sunday, Sept. 22
<p><b>Adult Coloring Club</b> Adults are finding that coloring clubs can help reduce stress while meeting new people. Create new art and use the freedom of expression from 10 a.m. to noon, Sept. 19, while de-stressing and making a masterpiece. Supplies will be provided, so pick out a design and start coloring. For more information, call the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library at (904) 273-3990. The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library is located at 101 Library Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Jacksonville Jaguars vs. Tennessee Titans watch party at Engine 15</b> Join Jacksonville Jaguars fans at Engine 15 Brewing Company for the Thursday night game featuring long-time rivals, the Tennessee Titans. For every touchdown the Jags score, guests will receive a free beer card for Engine 15. The game starts at 8:20 p.m., Sept. 19. For more information, call Engine 15 at (904) 249-2337. Engine 15 Brewing Company is located at 1500 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Grief group</b> A griefs support group meets on the third Thursday of every month at St. Paul's Catholic Church, in Room 102 of the Family Life Center. The group is for men and women who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. The next meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. For information, call Kathy at (904) 553-8933 or Catherine at (904) 247-0665. St. Paul's Catholic Church is located at 578 First Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Ancient City pint night</b> Hoptinger in Jacksonville Beach is throwing an Ancient City pint night, with \$4 Ancient City brews and free merchandise. Pint night is from 7 to 9 p.m., Sept. 19. For more information, call (904) 222-0796. Hoptinger is located at 333 First St. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>	<p><b>Kickoff Cook-Off 2019</b> Stop by Angie's Subs from 3 to 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 20, for the annual tailgate competition featuring local businesses around Jacksonville. Entrance is \$15 and includes unlimited food and one beer per person. The winner of the cook off will be chosen by attendees via ballot, so grab friends and family to support the most talented team. The entire event will be broadcasted live by 1010XL. All proceeds will benefit the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund. Angie's Subs is located at 1436 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>"Annie Get Your Gun" at Limelight Theatre</b> Set in the Wild West, Frank Butler is the sharpest sharpshooter around. The heart throb of Buffalo Bill's traveling Wild West show, he'll take on any challenge and win. That is, until Frank meets his match in the rough-and-ready, sharpshooter, Annie Oakley. Romantic sparks fly, but as long as he is competitive and she is stubborn, the course of true love never will run smooth. Opening night for "Annie Get Your Gun," by Irving Berlin is Friday, Sept. 20, at 7:30 p.m. General tickets are \$27 and can be purchased at <a href="http://www.limelight-theatre.org">www.limelight-theatre.org</a>, by calling the box office at (904) 825.1164 or in-person at the box office, Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or Saturdays from 2 to 6 p.m. The Limelight Theatre is located at 11 Old Mission Ave. in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>Wine, tango and tapas</b> Bring a bottle of wine and tasty tapas such as cheese, bread, dip, hummus, cured meat or fruit as Monarch Ballroom hosts its wine, tango and tapas event, Friday, Sept. 20, at 7 p.m. After some snacks and liquid courage, dance the tango with professional dance instructors from Monarch Ballroom, who will go over the basics of tango and beginning steps. No experience or partner is necessary, just have fun. For more information, call Monarch Ballroom at (904) 730-7900. Monarch Ballroom is located at 5150 Palm Valley Rd. #209, in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p>	<p><b>Delicious Destinations</b> Chefs from the nation's premier resorts will showcase their culinary talents at 5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 21, at Delicious Destinations, Jacksonville's premier food and wine event hosted at the Ponte Vedra Inn &amp; Club. Southern Glazer's Wine &amp; Spirits will expertly pair each chef's culinary creation with a variety of wines from an assortment of select domestic and international vineyards. The event also includes live and silent auctions, as well as a drawing of unique items including spa and restaurant gift certificates, uniquely catered dinners, weekend getaways and more. Proceeds from Delicious Destinations will benefit St. Vincent's Community Outreach Programs. The Ponte Vedra Inn &amp; Club is located at 200 Ponte Vedra Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Arm balance workshop</b> In this arm balance course at 1 p.m., Friday, Sept. 21, Big Fish Yoga will cover basic anatomy, alignment principles and health benefits of arm balance postures by diving into variations of crow, running man, flying pigeon and more. Come explore new postures and possibilities. Tickets are \$30. To register, call Big Fish Yoga at (904) 373-0845. Big Fish Yoga is located at 641 Crosswater Pkwy., in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Museum Day Celebration: Free admission to the Lightner Museum</b> Learn, listen and create from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Lightner Museum, Saturday, Sept. 21, for Smithsonian's "Year of Music" Museum Day celebration. Find musically inspired artifacts and artworks while exploring the museum with a scavenger hunt designed for 2019's theme, Smithsonian Year of Music. Learn and listen to vintage instruments during several gilded age music room demonstrations. After, visit the Mezzanine level to create a music-themed craft. The Museum Day annual celebration provides free admission for two people with Smithsonian Museum Day tickets. Participants may download one ticket per email address, which provides free general admission for two. To download tickets, visit <a href="http://www.smithsonian-mag.com">www.smithsonian-mag.com</a>. Registration through the website is required prior to entry. The Lightner Museum is located at 75 King St. in St. Augustine.</p>	<p><b>2019 Ponte Vedra Auto Show</b> The St. Johns County SJC Chamber of Commerce will host the 17th annual Ponte Vedra Auto Show Sunday, Sept. 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Nocatee Event Field. The Auto Show, open and free to spectators, will feature up to 180 classic and new collectors cars all vying for the show's 30 trophies. Special anniversaries will be celebrated such as the anniversary of the Lexus, Mini Cooper, Porsche and Land Rover Discovery. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.sjcchamber.com/pv-auto-show-info">www.sjcchamber.com/pv-auto-show-info</a> or call Lucia Miller at (904) 285-2004. Nocatee Event Field is located at 245 Nocatee Center Way in Ponte Vedra.</p> <p><b>Sundays at Surfer the Bar</b> Join Big Fish Power Yoga on Sundays for a free "music &amp; flow" class at Surfer the Bar. The class is held upstairs and runs from 10 to 11 a.m. Bring friends and family and enjoy brunch and mimosas after class. Register under classes at <a href="http://www.bigfishpoweryoga.com">www.bigfishpoweryoga.com</a>. Surfer the Bar is located at 200 First St. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>"A Christmas Carol" auditions at Players by the Sea</b> People of all races and ethnicities are encouraged and invited to audition for Charles Dickens's notorious production, "A Christmas Carol," from 1 to 4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 22, at Players by the Sea Theatre. Registration begins at 12 p.m. The production will show from Dec. 6 through Dec. 22. Prepare a stapled headshot and resume, dates for all known conflicts from now until Dec. 22 and the best British accent possible. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.playersbythesea.org/christmas-carol">www.playersbythesea.org/christmas-carol</a> or call (904) 249-0289. Players by the Sea Theatre is located at 106 Sixth St. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Sunrise Yoga</b> The Conscious Approach will host a free Sunrise Yoga class for all levels Sunday, Sept. 22, from 7 to 8:15 a.m. A \$5 donation is suggested. Guests must bring their own mat. Call instructor, Sam, at (904) 625-1255 for more information. Class will be on the beach at Sixth Ave. S. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>

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Monday, Sept. 23	Tuesday, Sept. 24	Wednesday, Sept. 25	Thursday, Sept. 26
<p><b>Social Security workshop</b> University of North Florida's Adam W. Herbert University Center will host a social security workshop at 6 p.m., Monday, Sept. 23, discussing ways to maximize social security and reduce taxation on retirement income. Guests will be given pen and paper to take notes and there is no cost to attend. Guests must register at <a href="http://www.EventBrite.com">www.EventBrite.com</a> to attend. Just search for the event titled, "Social Security Workshop hosted in Jacksonville, FL." UNF's Adam W. Herbert University Center is located at 12000 Alumni Dr. in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Blue Jay Jam</b> Jam along with Eric Brigmond, Farris Nix, Pete Miles and Craig Barnette at Blue Jay Listening Room, Monday, Sept. 23, as they share the stage once again and get groovy with some hand-picked guest musicians. Doors at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. There's a \$5 cover at the door and seating is first come first served. Enjoy drink specials and a musical night hosted by The Band 3. For more information, call (904) 318-3020. Blue Jay Listening Room is located at 2457 S. Third St. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Digital photography class: Level I</b> This one-night class is designed to explain the controls on digital cameras. Attendees will learn what the buttons, dials and switches are used for and become more familiar with how digital cameras work. Becoming comfortable with a digital camera will not only make future courses easier to understand, but make photography more enjoyable as well. Everything covered is applicable to all camera types, but note that this course is not designed to provide instruction on every camera type available. The DSLR-type camera will be used, since they remain the most popular. Cost for the class is \$49. Tickets and more information can be found on the Facebook event page titled, "Digital Photography, Level I - Getting Familiar with Your Camera." Class will be from 6 to 8:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 23, at the UNF Adam W. Herbert University Center, located at 12000 Alumni Dr. in Jacksonville.</p>	<p><b>First Coast Card Club playing date</b> The First Coast Card Club will host its playing date at a St. Augustine golf clubhouse at 2 p.m., Sept. 24. The event is free to attend with walk-ins and guests welcome. This is a nonsmoking event and RSVP is required. Call the club organizer at (904) 829-0643 for location, directions, to RSVP or for more information.</p> <p><b>Bingo Tuesday with Mellow Mushroom</b> Join Mellow Mushroom every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. for food, drinks, fun, and prizes. Grab some good friends and family, and get ready a groovy time. Stick around after for late-night happy hour specials. Mellow Mushroom is located at 1018-2 Third St. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Sip+ Help Venezuela</b> Join Intuition Ale Works from 7 to 9 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 24, for an evening of purpose, music, food and raffles to help children in Venezuela living in poverty. Each ticket purchase comes with a raffle ticket, so guests will already be entered to win prizes from local businesses like Vagabond Coffee, Posting House, San Marco Theater, Grape and Grain and more. All of the funds collected will be donated to help the children of Venezuela. Intuition Ale Works is located at 929 E. Bay St. in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Florida Blue free Tuesday at the Cummer</b> On Tuesday evenings from 4 to 9 p.m., enjoy free admission to the Cummer Museum and its historic gardens, thanks to the generous support of Florida Blue. Guests can enjoy free admission to the galleries and the Cummer Café, which is also open for Tapas Tuesday. This event is sponsored by VyStar Credit Union. The Cummer Museum of Art &amp; Gardens is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>\$1 Tuesdays for kids at Trasca &amp; Co.</b> Take the kids out to eat and save some money on Tuesdays at Trasca &amp; Co. Eatery. Children eat for \$1 with the purchase of an adult entrée. The special works for dine-in, take-out and deliveries. For more information, call Trasca &amp; Co. Eatery at (904) 395-3989. Trasca &amp; Co. is located at 155 Tourside Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p>	<p><b>Seymour's semi-annual book sale</b> Seymour's book store, located within the Ponte Vedra Beach Library, will be hosting its semi-annual book sale from Sept. 25 through Sept. 28, starting at 10 a.m. Pay with cash or check only. For more information, call Seymour's at (904) 273-3990. Seymour's is located at 101 Library Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Network over lunch</b> Join a variety of business owners for a networking opportunity with in the Ponte Vedra area. The group meet on Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m. over lunch at Mulligan's Pub. All industries are welcome. Mulligan's Pub is located at 43 PGA Tour Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Running workshop</b> Discover the relief of running injury-free in a free running workshop from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 25. The workshop will cover common injuries and how to prevent them, as well as gait analysis and improving on form. Space is limited, so reserve a spot. To reserve or for more information, call (904) 280-2001. The workshop will take place at John Goetze Physical Therapy, located at 1400 Marsh Landing Pkwy., #112 in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Survivor support group</b> The Women's Center of Jacksonville will host seven survivor support group sessions on Wednesdays starting Sept. 25, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The group is open to mixed gender adults 18 and over, who have experienced or think they may have experienced rape, attempted rape, incest, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment, dating violence and drug-facilitated sexual assault. Participants must complete an intake or be part of the Rape Recover, prior to attending the group. Email Theresa Andre for more information at <a href="mailto:tandre@womenscenterofjax.org">tandre@womenscenterofjax.org</a> or call (904) 722-3000 ext. 232.</p>	<p><b>Savvy Job Hunters Ministry workshop</b> Join Vice President of Communications for CareerSource NE Florida, Candace Moody, as she helps prepare for the "gig economy." Moody will discuss how to change one's mindset to embrace and thrive in a gig economy, how to create a plan for combining employment and gigs and how to know what combination is the right choice. Job opportunities, application procedures and company overviews will be presented by Suzanne Turcotte, branch manager of Fast Track Staffing Solutions; and David Dougherty, recruiter, for the U.S. Census Bureau. Buddy Webster of LEADERS Professional Recruiting will also be reviewing resumes, so bring several copies. This workshop is free and open to the public. For more information, email Pam Ottesen at <a href="mailto:pottesen66@gmail.com">pottesen66@gmail.com</a>. Christ Episcopal Church is located at 400 San Juan Dr. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Thirsty Thursdays at Al's Pizza</b> What's a better combination than pizza and beer? Every Thursday from open to close, Al's Pizza serves \$1.50 Yuengling Lager and house wines. Al's Pizza is located at 635 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Florida Fall Festival &amp; Wellness Expo</b> Ponte Vedra Wellness Center will host a Florida Fall Festival and Wellness Expo, Sat., Sept. 26, to celebrate 15 years serving the Beaches communities. The Wellness expo will be from 5 to 7 p.m. and will showcase the services of local health and wellness providers in the community. There will also be raffle drawings benefitting the HEAL Foundation and food and drinks provided by local businesses such as Trasca &amp; Co. Eatery and the St. Augustine Distillery. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (904) 273-2691. The Ponte Vedra Wellness Center is located at 100 Corridor Rd. S. #220, in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><small>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@opcfia.com">Daniela@opcfia.com</a> or call (904) 686-3939. Compiled by Daniela Toporek</small></p>

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# Flagler Health+ to begin construction in Nocatee



**ABOVE:** Flagler Health+ recently broke ground for the new Nocatee health care facility.

**RIGHT:** Isabelle Renault, president and CEO of the SJC Chamber of Commerce (left) and Gina Mangus, vice president of marketing and communication, Flagler Health+, view renderings of the new health facility at the ground-breaking in Nocatee.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Flagler Health+ recently announced plans to begin construction of the Flagler Health+ Village at Nocatee. The location will be on a 4-acre property adjacent to the Nocatee Town Center. Slated to open in summer 2020, the health village includes dedicated green space for healthy lifestyle and art activities, a community education and partnership center, family practice, pediatrics, specialty care and women's health services.

"Our health villages are designed to advance the physical, social and economic health of the communities we serve," stated Flagler Hospital President and CEO Jason Barrett. "We share Nocatee's vision to create a place with a truly exceptional quality of living and are committed to serve as the center point for building an even healthier community for mind, body and spirit, together."

The primary care center opened another location in the Palencia community June 10. The opening marked the first expansion of Flagler Health+ since its rebranding in February. The Nocatee center will mark the third location, with another located at MuraBella in St. Augustine.

The Community Health Advisory Council for the Flagler Health Village at Nocatee is currently collaborating with

**NOCATEE** continues on Page 11

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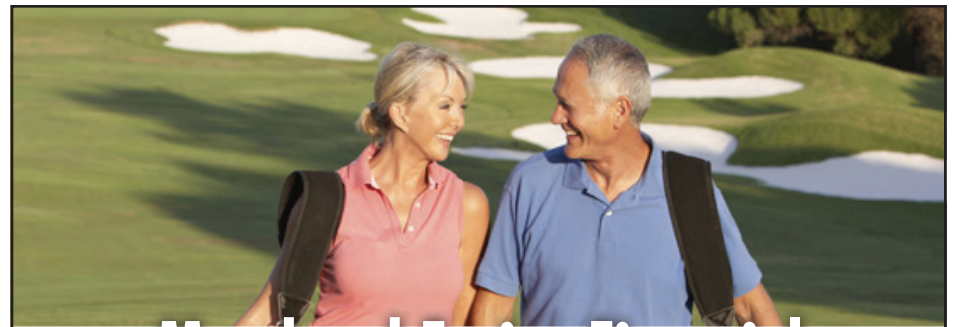


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# Nocatee

Continued from 10

area schools, businesses, residents and other stakeholders to build and deploy a customized healthy community plan for Nocatee. Flagler Hospital's community health team is tasked with identifying and improving health factors and outcomes for area residents of all ages to the process.

"From clinical services, to healthy living, art in medicine and education programs, our health village offerings will be custom-designed in collaboration with area residents to ensure the unique needs and desires of Nocatee residents are met," added Barrett. "We're not focused on disconnected, episodic interactions, but rather building a relationship of care throughout the journey of life."

While planning and design have yet to be finalized, the Flagler Health Village is conceptualized to include interior and



Photo by Susan Griffin

**Jason Barrett, CEO of Flagler Health+, addresses the crowd at the site of the new Flagler Health+ Village at Nocatee scheduled to open in 2020.**

exterior spaces that accommodate a wide array of community-centric and health-care offerings.

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Thomas “Tom” Reidenbach, 78, died Sept. 10, 2019. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

**Arthur Sher**

Arthur Sher, 75, died Sept. 9, 2019. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

**Andrea Ann Doyens**

Andrea Ann Doyens, 45, died Sept. 9, 2019. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

**Jane Seaton Harrell**

Jane Seaton Harrell, 93, of Atlantic Beach, died Sept. 13, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

**Joann Eileen Kimball**

Joann Eileen Kimball, 92, of Jacksonville Beach, died Sept. 15, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.



Photos courtesy of City of St. Augustine

The City of St. Augustine hosted a Ceremony of Remembrance, a community gathering to remember those who died in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

# St. Augustine will never forget

Fire Chief Carlos Aviles opened the City of St. Augustine’s Ceremony of Remembrance, a community gathering to remember those who died in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The program began at 8:30 a.m., Sept. 11 at the St. Augustine Fire Department station No. 1 on Malaga Street.

After presentation of colors, members of the fire department led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by an invocation by Fire Marshal Robert Growick. Firefighter Engineer Edward Purtil presented musical selections.

Attendees observed a moment of silence at 8:45 a.m., timed to coincide with the time the first plane hit the first tower of the World Trade Center in 2001.

Chief Aviles introduced guest speaker Division Director of State Fire Marshal’s office, Julius Halas, who recalled the events of Sept. 11, 2001 to honor the important day.

The Fire Department conducted the “Striking the Four 5s” by ringing its historic 1900 Fire Bell in four intervals of five rings each. This is a time-honored tradition signifying the last alarm of a firefighter performed in honor of the firefighters, law enforcement officers, military personnel and civilians who died on 9/11. FDNY member Daniel Ryan rang the bell.

As the ceremony concluded, a bagpiper played Amazing Grace. The public was invited to tour the firehouse to view items on display related to 9/11.



ABOVE: Members of St. Johns County Fire Rescue present the colors during the Ceremony of Remembrance on Sept. 11.



LEFT: Attendees observe a moment of silence at 8:45 a.m., timed to coincide with the time the first plane hit the first tower of the World Trade Center in 2001.

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Photo courtesy K9s for Warriors

# K9s for Warriors holds 9/11 remembrance service

K9s for Warriors held a 9/11 remembrance ceremony on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at its campus in Ponte Vedra.

The remembrance service was held to honor the fallen of 9/11. There was an address to attendees, lowering of the flags and a moment of silence followed by Taps.

K9s For Warriors is a nonprofit founded as a result of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

It is dedicated to training rescue dogs to serve post-9/11 veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, and/or Military Sexual Trauma.



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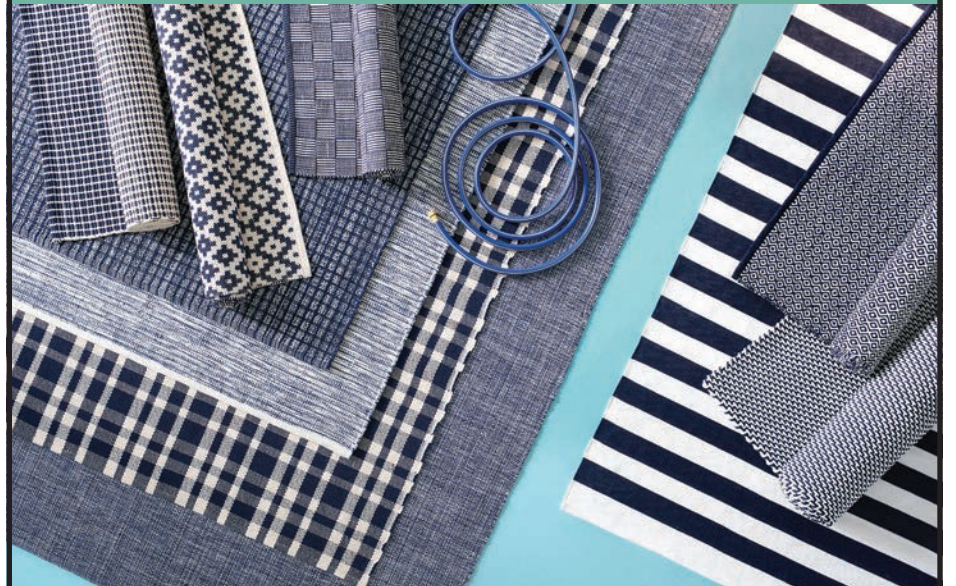
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# HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Contest open to children ages 3-12 and will be judged in 3 categories: 3-5, 6-9, and 10-12. Winners will receive a family four-pack of tickets to Spooktacular at the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens!  
**OUR OFFICE MUST RECEIVE ALL ENTRIES BY TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15TH**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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# Experience a birthday in Jacksonville's 'Candyland'

By Daniela Toporek

Skip the traditional cake and candles and celebrate special occasions at Sweet Pete's in Jacksonville, where guests can go behind the scenes of candy-making and create their own sweet treats.

Jacksonville's very own "Candyland," located off Hogan Street in downtown, offers multiple options for creating the ideal celebration for any event and any sweet tooth.

"We have adorable rooms and settings," said Sweet Pete's owner, Allison Behringer.

"We decorate for every season, with family-fun all year."

Choose between Sweet Pete's "Chocolate Room" or "Candy Room" and customize the celebration with unique candies, chocolates and activities.

Looking to make DIY treat? Choose

between the "interactive" class, a typically seated event where guests can get a "full experience" of regular classes and elevated treats, or the "demo" class, where they have more freedom to mix and mingle while creating more basic, yet equally flavorful candy.

For those wanting to skip the making and head straight to the eating, the "candy buffet" gives the option to choose nine different candies for all feast upon.

"These are great for on or off-site parties," Behringer said. We have over 1000 different types of candy and can work with all budgets to make a custom set-up."

The buffet feeds up to 25 people, or maybe just five, depending on how sweet those teeth really are.

For more party details, pricing and information, call Sweet Pete's at (904) 376-7161 or visit [www.sweetpetescandy.com](http://www.sweetpetescandy.com).



Photo courtesy from Sweet Pete's

# STEM field trips 'take flight' at iFLY Jacksonville



Photo courtesy of iFLY Jacksonville

By Daniela Toporek

Imagine being a student again, stuck at a desk with an open textbook and looking out the window, day-dreaming for adventure. To be fair, that's not far off from adulthood, either. Learning in classrooms can be mundane, but with iFLY's STEM-related field trips, learning can "take flight" into an unforgettable, educational experience.

"STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics — is so much more than just sitting in your traditional classrooms or just having a book in front of you," iFLY Jacksonville Director of Sales and Marketing Vanessa Williams said. "The STEM job markets are not being fulfilled as they should be, so we try to find ways to let the youth of today know there's a lot of fun things that can go behind it and a lot of fun job opportunities."

Designed by STEM professionals and teachers, according to iFLY's official website, the first half of the curriculum educates students on STEM-related topics, followed by a hands-on lab activity, correlating with each lesson and grade level.

Afterward, iFLY instructors put a variety of objects within the vertical wind tunnel and discuss how the objects interact inside.



Photo courtesy of iFLY Jacksonville

## iFLY

Continued from 15

For the finale, students can take part in the experience of body flight.

iFLY Jacksonville offers STEM field trips for all ages and learning levels, including those with physical and cognitive challenges, who will each have a specially trained flight instructor and ac-

commodations based on each situation.

Curious adults are welcome, too.

“If there’s a group of adults that want to come and learn, I’m sure I can whip something up that’s totally age-appropriate and fun,” Williams said, furthering the cause that STEM can truly be for anyone and everyone.

For more information, call iFLY Jacksonville at (904) 712-3388 or visit [www.iFLYWorld.com/Jacksonville](http://www.iFLYWorld.com/Jacksonville)

## A STRESS-FREE PARTY IS THE BEST PARTY.

Stop worrying about coordinating a birthday party venue, food, and entertainment. Just give us some details about the event you’re looking to throw, and we’ll take care of the rest. When you book an iFLY birthday party, you can rest easy knowing that we’ll cover all the essentials so you can enjoy a fun, stress-free day.

Looking for a place to hang? In our party room, you’ll enjoy decorations, music, and a great view of the flying experience. Want an upgrade? You can choose from a range of catering and drink options, or even book a private session at your iFLY to make your party truly epic.



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# ON A MISSION:

## First Coast Nonprofit & Charitable Organizations



- Compassion by the Sea Soiree set for Sept. 26th
  - Kate Amato Foundation awards \$150,000 for pediatric cancer research
  - Local nonprofit to celebrate International Day of Peace
  - Fall Fiesta Fundraiser to benefit arts education



# 'Think It, Sink It, Reef It'

Nonprofit TISIRI sinks artificial reef Starship off coast of Mickler's Beach

By Amber Lake

Naturally, the topography of the sea floor near the coast of Northeast Florida could be considered a massive underwater desert. Sand, stretching for miles, as far as the eye can see.

What it lacks visually, it makes up for in potential. Since 2008, the nonprofit group, TISIRI Corp., has been turning trash into a treasure chest of life and watching it grow. TISIRI stands for "Think It, Sink It, Reef It," and prides itself with focusing its effort on reef creation, environmental conservation and marine awareness. About 10 reefs have been constructed using materials ranging from discarded concrete pilings to deteriorating ships, which are now home to a conglomeration of bustling life.

"We can use clean concrete or clean metal," executive director Joseph Kistel said. "The projects we like to do is to recycle things because there is actually quite a bit of material out there that is otherwise going to go to waste."

Last year TISIRI was contracted by the Coastal Conservation Association to help with the construction of an artificial reef off the coast of Mickler's Beach, in an area called Floyd's Folly. Two barge loads of 1,500 tons of rock went into the construction of two 200 by 100 foot piles of underwater rubble, named Starship reef. Starship will celebrate its one-year birthday in October.

Kistel said the creation of the reefs not



Photo courtesy of TISIRI

**Underwater images capture Starship reef's thriving ecosystem.**

only provide an entirely new thriving ecosystem, but help to elevate North Florida's biggest industry — tourism.

"Not only are you creating this area that is benefiting marine life and the ocean's ecosystem, but at the same time you're creating a recreation area for people," Kistel said. "Now that there is marine life there, people are scuba diving, taking pictures and fishing. You're literally creating a destination. It's really a win-win."

Kistel said that as soon as a few hours after deployment, fish can be seen making their home on the structures. Within a year, hard coral and sponges will have begun development, bringing a vast array

of species with them.

At a recent eight-month dive at Starship, Kistel said he observed juvenile fish just hatched from a larval stage, giving indication that the fish had arrived from coral recruitment.

Kistel said the project would not have been accomplished without outside funding from the CCA and Shell Oil, help from Dames Point Work Boats and concrete donations from Lamb's Yacht Center.

"(The Starship) is a perfect example of how these reefs get done," Kistel said. "It gets done without the support of the counties, which is very frustrating. That whole project was funded with no contribution

from Duval county."

Particularly, Kistel is concerned about the lack of maintenance for the reefs. For years, boats, divers and fishermen use the reefs recreationally without any programs designed to clean them afterward. At a recent reef clean up event sponsored by TISIRI, Kistel said his crew found miles of accumulated fishing line and even strangled marine life like sea turtles. Currently, there are no programs in effect to care for the reefs on our coasts.

"It's one of those situations that is out of sight, out of mind," Kistel said.

**REEF continues on Page 20**

## Oceanwise fundraiser sold out

Friends of the GTM Reserve will celebrate 20th anniversary of Reserve

The Friends of the GTM Reserve recently announced Action News Jax evening anchor John Bachman will once again serve as emcee for Oceanwise, the Friend's annual fundraiser benefiting the GTM Research Reserve. This year's fundraiser will also celebrate the organization's 20th anniversary as a National Estuarine Research Reserve. The event is scheduled from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, at the GTM Research Reserve Visitor Center located at 505 Guana River Road in Ponte Veda Beach.

"Money raised from this event helps fund GTM's educa-

tion programs for local youth, research by local and visiting scientists and stewardship of the reserve's landscape," said Ellen Leroy-Reed, executive director of Friends of the GTM Reserve. "We are thrilled John has agreed to emcee Oceanwise again this year. Oceanwise simply wouldn't be the same without him!"

This signature event features local fine restaurants serving sustainable seafood and other locally-sourced dishes, fine wine and beer, a silent auction, estuary games, entertainment and a breathtaking view of the sun setting over the Guana River.

The event is sold out. To be placed on a waiting list or to become a sponsor, email Ellen Leroy-Reed at [GTM\\_Friends@gtmnerr.org](mailto:GTM_Friends@gtmnerr.org). For more information, call (904) 823-4527.



Photo courtesy of Friends of the GTM Reserve

**John Bachman emceeing the 2018 Oceanwise event.**

# Compassion by the Sea Soiree set

Mission House of Jacksonville Beach will host its annual Compassion by the Sea fundraiser from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26 at 3 Palms Grille to support the homeless of Jacksonville's Beaches community. The soiree is meant to raise money for Mission House clients to help get them off the street and back to a self-sufficient life.

The resort casual attire fundraiser is the nonprofit's only large event of the year and will feature food, live music performed by local band Cloud 9 and dozens of donated auction items up for grabs. There will be a silent auction, live auction, wine pull and "fling the ring."

3 Palms Grille is located at 254 Alta Mar Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach.



Recorder staff/file

**Sisters Linda Bean and Karen Perry attended the 2018 Compassion by the sea Soiree.**

Tickets are \$100 per person online or \$125 the day of the event, at the door. For more information, to see a list of auction items or to become a sponsor, visit [www.missionhousejax.org/compassionbythesea](http://www.missionhousejax.org/compassionbythesea).

# Clay Day to benefit several charities

Davidson Realty's annual fundraiser adds Builders Care as beneficiary

Davidson Cares, the corporate giving program of Davidson Realty, has added Builders Care as beneficiary of its fourth annual Clay Day event Thursday, Oct. 24. Other sponsored charities include St. Augustine Youth Services and Investing in Kids.

The charitable arm of Northeast Florida Builders Association, Builders Care was created in 2001 in conjunction with HabiJax to fill a very specific gap in services. While HabiJax builds homes for those in need, Builders Care focuses on home repairs for low income and elderly residents in Duval, St. Johns, Nassau, Clay and Baker counties.

"So many people have homes that desperately need repairs," said Justin Brown, executive officer of Builders Care. "Many of them are older widows, many disabled, who need roof repairs or access ramps. We are the boots on the ground helping to keep them in their homes."

Typical projects include roof and interior repair from hurricanes and flooding, as well as accessibility modifications like wheelchair ramps, grab bars and retrofitted showers.

While some funding for projects comes from organizations like Catholic Charities USA, most Builders Care contributions originate from



**ABOVE: Dave Walchle, Sherry Davidson, Kurt Walchle, Bart Walchle and Barry Grahek prepare to compete in the 2018 Clay Day event.**

**LEFT: Brad Shee, Seth Kelley, Todd Zehner, Chris Shee of Master-Craft Builder Group participated in the last year's event.**

Photos courtesy of Cathy Eng

individual private donors. Many of those donors are NEFBA members.

"Because we're associated with NEFBA, we have over 1,200 members who are willing to come help us out," said Brown, who came aboard in 2015 with a background in commercial real estate. "NEFBA members have huge hearts and do good with what they have."

Despite donor generosity, Builders Care operations are lean. Brown and Project Manager Eddie McKinnon are the only full-time employees. A volunteer manages the Facebook page and projects are completed by church groups, corporate teams and others who donate their time.

In 2018 alone, Builders Care volunteers logged more than 8,500

hours of service.

Builders Care and its volunteers are making a real impact for Northeast Floridians. In 2018, the organization completed 14 rebuilds from Hurricane Irma and 112 roof repairs — 11 of those were complete reroof projects. So far in 2019, volunteers have completed five wheelchair ramps, 15 reroof jobs, 35 roof repairs and 41 projects for other repairs from electrical to flooring repair.

"I see no shortage of people who are genuinely in need," said Brown, who gets about 40 requests per week and solely manages a lengthy wait list. "We can't help everyone so I triage the issue, determine where the serious needs are, and refer it where I can."

# Fall Fiesta fundraiser to benefit arts education

In an effort to raise community awareness, the Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation for the Arts is set to kick off the foundation's inaugural fundraising event, Fall Fiesta for the Arts, at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 3 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

After decades of generous contributions in the form of grants, artwork, art shows and theater exposure, the foundation has decided to take advantage of new fundraising opportunities so that it may expand its efforts in supplementing funding for arts enrichment in Ponte Vedra public schools. According to the foundation, funding for the arts has been on a steep decline over the last several years and community support is needed now more than ever.

During the event, guests will be entertained by Jazz bands from Alice B. Landrum and Palm Valley Academy Middle Schools and Allen D. Nease High School. In addition, art teachers from each of the seven Ponte Vedra public schools have donated their own works of art to be auctioned off at the event. The evening will also offer a silent auction. Guests will have the

FIESTA continues on Page 21

# Hugs Across the County seeks donations, volunteers

Hugs Across the County is an all-volunteer nonprofit providing assistance to St. Johns County children-in-need. Back to school means the HUGS Team is working hard to provide clothing, food, school supplies and programs for St. Johns County kids.

## Clothing Care Packages

HUGS provides clothing care packages filled with new shoes, new socks and undies, full-size toiletries, and new or nearly new clothing to kids-in-need. The children are anonymously referred by school counselors and community partners. In just one month, HUGS provided clothing care packages to 123 great kids. The nonprofit's new Clothing Care Package Coordinator is Carrie Scruggs. She is managing one of its longest-standing programs.

Volunteers are needed to help sort the closet, pack bags or deliver packages; donate new undies, new socks or new sneakers; or donate new or nearly new, school-appropriate clothing. There is a special need for girls and teen girls clothing.

For information, email [info@stjohnshugs.org](mailto:info@stjohnshugs.org).

## School-Based Food Pantries

HUGS continues to stock school-based food pantries at seven St. Johns County schools.

Food Insecurity is real in St. Johns County, and the team is thankful for donations of kid-friendly, non-perishable food items to help stock important school-based food pantries. Creekside High Swim and Dive, NW St. Johns County United for Progress and Celebration Lutheran Church recently made donations. The Food Program Coordinator is Holly Ross.

Volunteers are needed to help deliver food to school pantries. Current needs include granola bars, individual cereals and peanut butter crackers. Donations are accepted online at [www.stjohnshugs.org/give](http://www.stjohnshugs.org/give).

This is Lilly. Lilly has nowhere to sleep tonight. Her family is homeless. The shelter is full.

There are more than 600 homeless children in St. Johns County Schools.

Homeless kids and families need your help. **DONATE NOW** and help expand the St. Francis House Family Shelter.



Visit [www.stfrancisshelter.org](http://www.stfrancisshelter.org) to donate today or call 904-824-8987 ext. 4 for more information  
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- provide a homeless teen with shelter and independent living skills

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Photo courtesy of TISIRI

Fish are attracted to artificial reefs within hours of deployment.

## Reef

Continued from 18

To curb the environmental devastation to the reefs, TISIRI has begun the Sea Saver program, which they are currently trying to scale up to meet the needs of local reefs.

“In addition to creating the reefs we think (preservation) is just as important, if not more so,” Kistel said.

The next reef the team is putting together will consist of an old tugboat, which they are painstakingly cleaning inside and out before sinking it at Harm’s Ledge by the east Jacksonville inlet near Mayport. Prior

to hitting the sea floor, the tugboat must be thoroughly inspected by the Coast Guard and cleaned of oil and any material that is not metal.

Flushed and left bare boned, the project hopes to be a destination for not only fish but for fishermen and explorers interested in the new ecosystem. For the tugboat and all the other artificial reefs afterward, the bottom of the ocean will not so much be a watery grave but a chance at a second life.

For more information on TISIRI, visit [tisiri.org](http://tisiri.org). Additionally, the team hosts a YouTube channel of video footage of the underwater reef projects at [www.youtube.com/c/UWSTAUG](http://www.youtube.com/c/UWSTAUG).

PROUDLY SERVING OUR AUTISM COMMUNITY



## SAVE THE DATE!

**HEAL Gala**  
Thursday, February 20, 2020  
Ponte Veda Inn & Club  
6:30pm

**Bobby Weed’s Golf Gig**  
Friday, February 21, 2020  
Ponte Veda Inn & Club - Lagoon Course  
8:00am - Bloody Marys & Morning Munchies  
9:00am - Scramble

The HEAL Foundation provides grants to local organizations, programs, camps and schools serving those with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Northeast Florida.



Since 2007, HEAL is proud to have awarded over \$2 million dollars in grants, providing:

- Summer camps, sports leagues, support groups
- Educational enhancements and iPads for ESE classrooms
- Educational seminars for parents, teachers and therapists
- Year-round fun recreational and social events for families
- Autism service dogs

HEAL delivers iPads to local ESE classrooms

#### MISSION

Inspiring, educating, and funding services for those affected by autism in our community.

#### VISION

Make our community the best place to live for those affected by autism.



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The HEAL Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Tax ID 20-1944817



Photo courtesy of PVPEF

The Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation for the Arts will host a Fall Fiesta for the Arts fundraising event Oct. 3 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

## Fiesta

Continued from 19

opportunity to bid on items that have been generously donated by the many businesses that support the organization. All proceeds from ticket sales and the auction will be used to promote and teach the arts to public school students in Ponte Vedra.

The ticket price of \$75 includes a drink ticket and dinner catered by Taco Lu. There will also be a cash bar throughout the evening.

The Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to enhancing and enriching the educational experience of public school students in greater Ponte Vedra, Florida. In addition to providing public school teachers with grants to enhance classroom instruction, PVPEF raises funds to enrich student learning through the arts, and support school beautification efforts through artwork, landscaping, sculpture and more.

Tickets can be purchased online at [pvpefoundation.com](http://pvpefoundation.com).



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Go to [www.jacksonvillearboretum.org](http://www.jacksonvillearboretum.org) for more information and to purchase tickets



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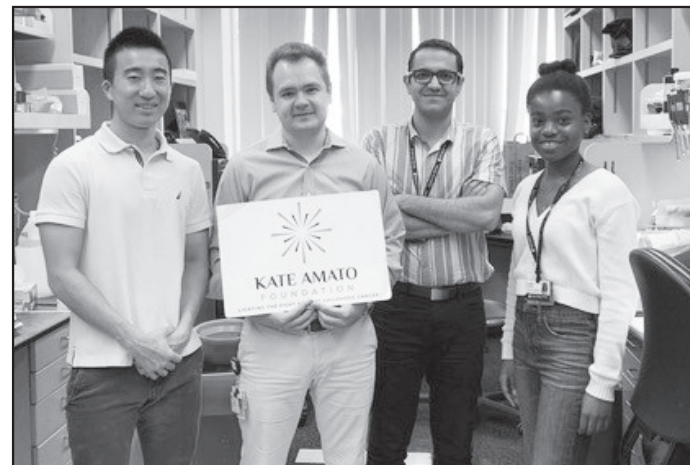


Photos courtesy of Kate Amato Foundation

2019 Kate Amato Foundation grant recipient Hamid Bassiri, MD will investigate a safer, targeted cellular immunotherapy approach for neuroblastoma.



Ling Tao, PhD is a 2019 Kate Amato grant recipient who will investigate a pioneering approach to treating neuroblastoma by specifically disrupting the cellular metabolism of cancer cells without harming healthy cells.



Grant recipient Max Pimkin, MD, PhD will investigate a genetic "Achilles heel" for Acute Myeloid Leukemia AML in order to develop a targeted therapy with little or no detrimental effects on normal tissues.

# Kate Amato Foundation awards \$150,000 for innovative pediatric cancer research projects

The Kate Amato Foundation recently announced it is awarding \$150,000 to fund four groundbreaking pediatric cancer research projects during Childhood Cancer Awareness month in September.

Kate Amato, a local Jacksonville Beach child who passed away in November 2016 after a long and difficult battle with cancer, is the inspiration for the foundation. Kate's bright smile, strength and grace captured the hearts of thousands of locally and around the world. Through her illness, Kate's parents discovered how severely underfunded research is for pediatric cancer and witnessed first-hand the brutal effects of outdated, toxic treatments. To honor Kate's life and continue the fight for other children, the Kate Amato Foundation is dedicated to finding safer, smarter and more effective treatments for children with cancer.

Dr. Patrick Brown of Johns Hopkins University, one of the pediatric oncologists serving on the KAF Scientific Advisory Board, said, "There is a critical need for new treatments for childhood cancer that are not only able to cure the cancer, but

do so in such a way that the surviving child can lead a long and healthy life. The Kate Amato Foundation was established precisely to meet this need. The 2019 KAF grant recipients are committed to finding targeted approaches to treat childhood cancer effectively and safely."

Another pediatric oncologist serving on the KAF Scientific Advisory Board is Dr. Duane Mitchell, Director of the University of Florida Brain Tumor Immunotherapy Program.

"Kate Amato Foundation is dedicated to supporting research to advance the next generation of pediatric cancer treatments that are more effective and less toxic than current approaches," Mitchell said. "This year's KAF Grants are innovative proposals designed to accelerate the realization of safe and curative therapies for childhood cancers."

The 2019 Kate Amato Foundation Grant recipients are:

- Hamid Bassiri, M.D. at The University of Pennsylvania and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia whose project is titled, "Elucidating the role of invariant natural

killer T cells in neuroblastoma antitumor immunity" and will investigate a safer, targeted cellular immunotherapy approach for neuroblastoma that could also be used in other solid tumor pediatric cancers.

- Dr. Corrine Linardic, M.D., PhD at Duke University School of Medicine whose project is titled, "The role of the macro lncRNA KCNQ1OT1 in embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma tumorigenesis" and will investigate a promising new genetic target for rhabdomyosarcoma tumor growth that could lead to the development of a new class of cancer therapies.

- Max Pimkin, M.D., PhD at Harvard Medical School and Dana Farber Cancer Institute at Boston Children's Hospital whose project is titled, "Transcriptional Addiction in Acute Myeloid Leukemia" and will investigate a genetic "Achilles heel" for AML in order to develop a targeted therapy with little or no detrimental effects on normal tissues.

- Ling Tao, PhD at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Cancer Center whose project is titled, "Understanding the role of MYCN-driven FA up-

take to lipid metabolism and tumor growth to identify a targeted approach for high-risk MYCN-amplified neuroblastoma" and will investigate a pioneering approach to treating neuroblastoma by specifically disrupting the cellular metabolism of cancer cells without harming healthy cells. This approach could quickly be translated into clinical trials and be used in the treatment of additional cancer subtypes.

Lisa and Jeff Amato, Kate's parents and founders of KAF, expressed sincere gratitude to the Jacksonville community, stating, "The support we have received over the years has been overwhelming and humbling, from supporting Kate through her illness to helping us build her legacy by funding pioneering research to help future children. It's breathtaking and beautiful and shows just how kind and caring our community is."

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

Follow Kate Amato Foundation on Facebook (@support.TeamKate), Instagram (@kateamataofoundation), and Twitter (@kate\_amato).

## Local nonprofit to celebrate International Day of Peace

Pie in the Sky will host annual Peace in the Park event Sept. 21 at Eddie Vickers Park in St. Augustine

Local nonprofit organization, Pie in the Sky Community Alliance, will host its annual Peace in the Park event on International Day of Peace, Saturday, Sept. 21, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Eddie Vickers Park, 399 Riberia Street, St. Augustine.

This event is free and open to the public. There will be music by The Peaceniks, yoga for kids, origami activities and peace poles during the event. Human Peace Sign forming will begin at 11 a.m. Participants are encouraged to bring jars of peanut butter, which will be used to form a Pyramid of Peace and later distributed to seniors in need.



Photo courtesy of Old City Public Relations

International Day of Peace is a day to reflect on how we can build a culture of peace. Pie in the Sky is encouraging the community to come together and be inspired

by what one person can do and what many can do together.

"Nine years ago, we held the first human peace sign in the rural farming town of Hastings," said Malea Guiriba, founder and executive director of Pie in the Sky. "We thought this would be the perfect time to bring this event to St. Augustine to help celebrate our 10th anniversary and to cultivate an atmosphere of peace and understanding."

Over the last 10 years, Pie in the Sky has helped thousands of people throughout St. Johns County. The organization's Senior Produce Program delivers fresh, healthy produce to low-income, food-insecure senior citizens throughout the community.

"Forming a human peace sign," Guiriba said, "is a way to bring awareness to our mission of fighting senior hunger in St. Johns County, where more than 6,000 seniors go to bed hungry."

# Eagle Scout project brings 'Reflection Garden' to K9s for Warriors campus

When Jack Whitten was tasked with coming up with his Eagle Scout project, he knew right away which organization he wanted to benefit, he just wasn't sure exactly how.

The 10th grader at Providence School of Jacksonville has been a part of the Boys Scouts for a long time, and with help from his troop, Boy Scout Troop #288 from Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church, Whitten led a project to benefit K9s for Warriors and the veterans who go to the Ponte Vedra-based nonprofit for help.

Whitten comes from a long line of Boy Scouts, and also has close family connections to military veterans — he also loves animals — which inspired him to do something for at K9s for Warriors' Camp K9 location.

On Sunday, Aug. 24, Whitten, along with members of Troop #288, installed the "Reflection Garden" at K9s for Warriors' main campus in Ponte Vedra.

In this Q&A, Whitten discusses how he came up with the project, what it is and and what it means to him.

## Can you tell us about the "Reflection Garden" project? How did you come up with it?

I met with both Ms. Stephanie Vogt and Mr. Jason Snodgrass to first learn about the K9s For Warriors campus and learn what their needs may be. When I found out that the warriors come and live on the campus for three weeks at a time, I began thinking about building something that they could enjoy outside. They are partnered with their dogs all day, so I wanted to create a space where they could spend time with their dog outside. Some of my first ideas were a basketball court, a fire pit area, a horseshoe game or a garden. The more I thought about it, the garden made sense because the warrior and dog could stay together. I then asked about putting the garden in a place with a nice view and together, we decided that a "Reflection Garden" by the pond made the most sense. Eventually, they plan to create a walking trail around the pond, and my "Reflection Garden" will be a place to stop on the trail and relax with their dog.

## What was it about K9s for Warriors that made you choose to focus on the organization for the project?

I have several family members that are veterans who have served our country and I appreciate their service and sacrifice. One family member has suffered from PTSD, so it's a condition that's close to my heart. When I learned that K9s For Warriors specifically focused on helping warriors with PTSD, I knew that I wanted to work with them. I also have always been fond of all animals and to learn that K9s For Warriors can train dogs to help these warriors made me even more interested.

## Did you have help with planning the project? How was it funded?

I developed the project myself with help from my Eagle Scout Counselor, Mr. Zeke Paxton and working directly with K9s for Warriors. I developed 3 or 4 versions of it before I presented it to my Scout Committee. The committee reviewed it, asked questions, and provided more input. I made those changes and then worked from that approved plan. As a part of the planning, I had to create a budget. My project cost close to \$700, with the all-weather resin bench costing more than half of my budget. I funded the project myself by saving money from chores, doing odd jobs, babysitting, and using some money that I had saved.



**ABOVE:** Members of Boy Scouts Troop #288 installed a "Reflection Garden" at the K9s for Warriors campus in Ponte Vedra on Aug. 24. Back row, from left: CJ Joyner, Scoutmaster Tim Jones, Melanie Limoges, Jadon Limoges and Jack Whitten. Front row, from left: Cody Langley, Kelly Jones, Jack Hilbert and Ethan Lopez.



**LEFT:** Jack Whitten stands at the "Reflection Garden" after its completion.

**BELOW:** Members of Boy Scout Troop #288 from Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church work to install the new garden.

Photos courtesy of Jane Whitten



## What was the overall experience like working to install the project on Aug. 24?

My experience on project day was great. We were lucky to have great weather, even though it was very hot. The best part is that I had six adult leaders and seven other Boy Scouts who volunteered to help that day. I was pretty blown away that everyone showed up on time because I wanted to start at 9 a.m. and they were there. The best experience was to see that the project idea that I had created, planned and drawn out was being put together by all of us. It was interesting for me to be in charge of the project and I really liked how everyone asked me what I wanted them to do and everyone followed my instructions. One thing that I really liked was that when the bench was assembled and carried over, they asked me where to put it. I told them and they put it down. Then, I was the first one who got to sit down on the bench to check out the view. That was cool.

## How long have you been with the Boys Scouts and what does Scouting mean to you?

I started Scouting as a Tiger Cub when I was in first

grade. Scouting, to me, means having fun with friends, going on adventures, camping a lot and doing good things in your community. Over the course of my time in Scouting, I can see all the many lessons and skills I learned have prepared me to be a leader in my community. I especially enjoy leading the younger Scouts and teaching them the skills that I learned at their age.

## Why do you think projects like this one are so important to the community, nonprofits, etc?

It is important to give back to the community that you live in because the community provides a safe and great place to live in. If we all contribute in some way, we will make it an even better place to live. For a non-profit organization like K9s For Warriors, a project like that one enhances their campus and helps their mission without them having to spend the money or time to develop it. They are doing great work for the warriors that serve our country and I can give to them, so that they can focus on their mission of helping warriors.

*Edited by Paris Moulden*

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# Business Weekly

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach to hold community open house Oct. 6

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## Chamber holds Before Hours event

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division hosted Chamber Before Hours on Wednesday morning, Sept. 11 at Optimal You Brain Center at 151 Sawgrass Corners Drive, Unit 102, in Ponte Vedra Beach. The event was rescheduled from Sept. 4 because of Hurricane Dorian.

Optimal You Brain Center provides chiropractic, neuroplasticity and functional medicine care for pediatric, adult and elderly patients. The practice seeks to combine the passions of staff doctors to offer services designed to benefit a wide array of persons spanning all periods in life.

There was a drawing for a wellness package valued at \$450 which included an examination, one-hour massage and two adjustments. For information, visit [www.oybcs.com](http://www.oybcs.com).

Chamber Before Hours events are free to members. Nonmembers interested in future events may contact PVB Chamber office at (904) 285-2004.



**ABOVE: Jenny McKeithen, Dr. Lexie Romero and Suzanne Green stop for a photo at the Sept. 11 Chamber Before Hours at Optimal You Brain Center.**



**LEFT: Dr. Thomas and Dr. Lexie Romero, owners of Optimal You Brain Center in Ponte Vedra**

Photos courtesy of Chamber of Commerce

## Ponte Vedra Wellness Center celebrates 15 years

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center will host a Florida Fall Festival and Wellness Expo from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26 to celebrate 15 years of operation at the Beach. The free event, in cooperation with Center State Bank, will be held outside the Ponte Vedra Beach office on Corridor Road, and is a Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce After Hours event.

In addition to a great party offering food, drinks, games and music, this year's event features a Wellness Expo showcasing a variety of health and wellness resource providers serving the Beaches communities. Vendors will offer a complimentary item, service or special offer, such as chair massages, postural screenings, fitness evaluations and more. Food and drinks will be provided by local busi-



**Ponte Vedra Wellness Center owner Dr. Erika Hamer (center) holds the business' certificate awarded for being selected the Best Locally Owned Business in the Recorder's Best of contest. The Ponte Vedra Wellness Center will celebrate its 15th anniversary Sept. 26.**

nesses such as Trasca, Noodle Ramen & Dumpling and St. Augustine Distillery and local nonprofit Peace of Heart will bring samples from their organic farm to share as

## Local Realtor named Woman of Influence

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices FNR's Christy Budnick is 2019 honoree

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently announced its President and CEO, Christy Budnick, has been named a 2019 Women of Influence honoree by the Jacksonville Business Journal.



**Christy Budnick**

The publication honors the most dynamic, powerful and game-changing leaders who have made a difference in their communities, blazed a trail for others and are leaving their mark on the Northeast Florida business community.

Budnick was appointed president and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty in 2018, the same year the company achieved more than 1.2 billion in closed sales. She is taking the company to new levels of performance including growth through mergers and acquisitions. Budnick joined the company in 2002 as branch manager of the Beaches office and was promoted to executive vice president in 2006 to oversee the company's residential real estate operations. Since then, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has continued to set annual records with its year-over-year closed sales.

Budnick is a supporter of Dreams Come True, a Jacksonville nonprofit organization dedicated to fulfilling the dreams of children battling life-threatening illnesses. She was appointed to the Dreams Come True Board of Directors in 2016 and is serving as its 2019-2020 board president. During the past six years, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has donated more than \$250,000 to Dreams Come True by contributing a portion of proceeds from every completed home sale. Budnick actively supports the organization and has inspired other members of the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty team to join her in volunteering, additional fundraising and supporting numerous Dreams Come True events including Dream Day and the Walk, Run and Roll 5K.

Budnick is an enthusiastic supporter of the company's other philanthropic initiatives – the annual Backpack Challenge, Holiday Luminaria and other

# Ponte Vedra barbecue restaurant lands fresh look, new owners

Ever since Woody's Bar-B-Q sold its first franchise in 1989, all of its franchisees have undergone an intensive six-week training process at the chain's flagship restaurant on University Boulevard in Jacksonville, Florida. The classic Southern BBQ company recently moved those operations to its newly acquired corporate store – Woody's Bar-B-Q of Ponte Vedra. Located at 226 Solana Road, the popular eatery will continue to serve patrons its signature slow-smoked meats and comfort food sides as usual, but its secondary function will be to serve as a corporate training facility for incoming franchisees. As part of the change in ownership, the full-service restaurant has undergone a \$100K renovation to the interior in order to reflect the brand design of newer Woody's Bar-B-Q restaurants.

“Corporate HQ once owned the Ponte

Vedra location, but sold it to a prospective franchisee in the early 2000s,” said Woody Mills, CEO, co-founder and namesake for Woody's Bar-B-Q. “I'm excited to say that ‘Woody is back!’ to the good people of Ponte Vedra Beach. We think they'll be really receptive to the new interior design, as well as the new owners. As for the franchisees who will train here, they'll get more of a sense of the interior of their own restaurant – as the updated décor includes heavy timber and corrugated metal sheeting accents for that trendy farmhouse feel. The ORIGINAL Woody's Bar-B-Q on University Boulevard will always have a special place in my heart, but its kitschy décor is reflective of the past and we want our franchisees focused on the future. Not to mention the fact that – during their six weeks of training here – when they get off,



Photo courtesy of Woody's Bar-B-Q

**1**Woody's Bar-B-Q of Ponte Vedra had undergone renovations, but the iconic beach scene mural that regular patrons have come to know and love remains unchanged.

the beach is just two miles away.”

In addition to a menu that includes such dishes as Woody's Signature baby back ribs, bar-b-q pork, grilled prime rib, Texas beef brisket, sloppy Woody sandwich and more, die-hard fans of Woody's Bar-B-Q of Ponte Vedra – both old and new – can enjoy regular lunch and dinner specials, discounts for seniors and military members, Kids Eat Free Mondays, trivia and poker events once a week, beer and wine and more. As an added perk for people on

the go, Woody's Bar-B-Q of Ponte Vedra is one of the few drive-thru restaurants in the immediate area. The restaurant also offers delivery service. While the majority of the interior has been changed to reflect the new Woody's Bar-B-Q brand, the iconic beach scene mural that regular patrons have come to know and love remains unchanged. Woody's Bar-B-Q of Ponte Vedra is open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, visit [woody.com/locations/ponte-vedra](http://woody.com/locations/ponte-vedra).

## Is now a good time to buy a home?



**William Haley**  
CEO, Family Foundations

When interest rates are declining, it can be a good time to acquire a mortgage to purchase a home. Lower interest rates reduce the monthly payments due on a mortgage and that is a positive for prospective homebuyers. The buyer also needs to be aware of price trends in the neighborhood where they want to live and be an educated buyer in terms of the home itself and the neighborhood where it is situated.

### Why buy instead of rent?

The buy-versus-rent decision is based upon what the user can afford to pay on a monthly basis and what housing options are available in the area where they want to live. Buyers own the property and pay all of the attendant costs like taxes, utilities, upkeep and the rest, and these costs should be factored into the decision. When you own your home, it's an asset that can appreciate (or depreciate) depending on market conditions. History has shown that long-term ownership of a home – if properly maintained – can be an attractive investment. Because of recent tax changes, prices on rental properties have gone up here in Jacksonville, making it hard in some cases to find attractive rental opportunities.

### We're coming up to an election year. Should I wait?

The dynamics of the housing market are driven by many factors, most importantly the health of the economy overall. Election year dynamics are not a dominant factor in housing trends.

### What's the first step in choosing a lender?

The choice of a mortgage lender can incorporate many factors. When advising clients, Family Founda-

tions advisors generally tell them to start with current banking relationship (checking, auto, credit cards) and then to shop around with at least two other lenders, including a credit union. What they should be focused on beyond the interest rate itself is what upfront fees are charged, whether require private mortgage insurance is required and whether there is any upfront assistance on mortgage costs. Most mortgage lenders have mortgage calculators on their website to allow prospective buyers to enter the interest rate and all fees to figure out the true cost of the mortgage offering thereby allowing for comparison between lenders.

### Should I apply at more than one mortgage lender?

Buyers can apply at more than one lender if they want, in a 30-day window, without impacting their credit. We do not usually recommend it since it adds administrative hassle and can attract duplicate upfront fees.

### How do I get the best interest rate?

Interest rates usually tie directly to the credit profile that a prospective buyer presents. All lenders check credit scores (the history of how a borrower has handled obligations). Prospective homebuyers should always know their credit score and manage it to the best of their ability when they are considering a home purchase.

### What are points?

Points are upfront fees that a borrower sometimes pays to receive a mortgage from a lender. Beware, oftentimes a lender will offer a lower interest rate on a mortgage but charge upfront points that add to the cost of the transaction for the buyer. When comparing between lenders, make sure to add the cost of points to the interest rate offered.

## Anniversary

Continued from 26

well. Raffle tickets will be sold to benefit local nonprofit The HEAL Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping to enrich autistic lives and raffle prizes will include overnight getaways, gift certificates to local restaurants and fitness memberships, wellness baskets, all donated by local businesses.

“I really feel like this year is a milestone – this practice has grown so much over the past 15 years and seen a variety changes,” owner Dr. Erika Hamer said. “From the beginning, I have always considered it to be a great honor for me to be able to positively impact the health of so many and contribute in a positive way to their wellbeing. This practice has always enjoyed a very significant retention rate of patients and now, after years, I am treating the children of people I saw when I first opened. In fact just recently, I adjusted the newborn baby of someone I began seeing when they were in middle school. They had been brought in by their parents, who were patients. I also treated the parent's parents — so in just one family I have been able to treat four generations – an incredible honor.”

There have been a lot of significant changes since opening in 2004, she said. The practice outgrew the first office and moved into the space on Corridor Road in 2010 – and that has been remodeled twice since then. That same year they added Spinal Decompression to the list of therapies. In 2012, they formed the Ponte Vedra Training Company to be able to offer physician supervised personal fitness programs to patients and in 2016 they opened our office in Nocatee Town Center to expand wellness services into that community.

“I have seen a number of changes in my personal life as well – getting married in 2008 and now raising two children with my husband,” Hamer said.

The vision Hamer had when she first opened was to create a practice that would treat the wellness needs of the entire family – infants to seniors – and then build an atmosphere where patients become like family so that the practice would become an integral part of the community at large.

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center is located at the Center State Bank building, 100 Corridor Road South, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082. For more information, call (904) 273-2691.



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Kathleen Floryan and Maggie FitzRoy



Scott Grant and Kim Davis

# Local authors sign books at open house in The Plantation

On Sept. 8, Kathleen Floryan, broker associate with eXp Realty, together with Kim M. Davis, broker owner of Ponte Vedra Beach Realty, hosted a joint open house featuring two outstanding local authors for a book signing and tour of 112 Carriage Court and 101 Planters Row West. Both homes are available for pur-

chase in the exclusive neighborhood of The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach.

Local historical romance author Maggie FitzRoy enjoys writing stories that whisk readers into the past, where love is an adventure. The Ponte Vedra Beach resident's

**AUTHORS** continues on **Page 29**

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# The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach to host community open house

The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach will open its community gates to the general public for its Fall Community Open House from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6. A variety of homes will participate in the event which range in price from the \$600s to \$2 million.

Visitors will be able to view The Plantation's championship golf course, seven-court tennis center, and ameni-

ties park featuring a croquet lawn and playground. After guests make their way through the community viewing participating homes, they are invited to stop at Beach Club to experience The Plantation's private oceanfront property.

In the past, the event has attracted over 100 visitors to the neighborhood. Visitors are invited to check in at The Plantation Gate House for home listings,

maps, refreshments and amenity tours.

The Plantation is a premier, private residential neighborhood in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida with luxury amenities including a championship golf course, private beach club, tennis facility, fitness center, amenities park and a clubhouse with dining and social activities for all ages. For more information, visit [www.theplantationpvb.com](http://www.theplantationpvb.com).

## Authors

Continued from 28

new novel, "Beacon Beach," transports readers to Cape May, New Jersey in the summer of 1886.

"'Beacon Beach' is a love story, involving mystery, reinvention, redemption and riveting romantic attraction. It's a great beach book, but also a story that can be enjoyed any time of the year as a romantic escape into the past," FitzRoy said.

In "The Merchant of Death is Dead," pop historian, asset manager and newspaper columnist Scott A. Grant shares some of his favorite published columns. Stories in the book include those of inventor Alfred Nobel, writer Zora Neale Hurston, football player Deacon Jones, surgeon John Snow, adventurer Annie Edson Taylor, visionary Benjamin Franklin, swimmer Gertrude Ederle, clothing designer Tommy Hilfiger, General James Doolittle, golfers Johnny Miller and Jack Nicklaus, athletes "Bullet" Bob Hayes and Mack Robinson and First Lady Frances Cleveland, plus events such as the discovery of the South Pole, Nazi spies landing on a north Florida beach, and economic bubbles through the years.

For more information, call Kathleen Floryan at (904) 687-5146 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m., or email [kathleen.floryan@exp Realty.com](mailto:kathleen.floryan@exp Realty.com). For information about Kim Davis, visit [kimmdavis.com](http://kimmdavis.com).

## Haley

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### Are there first-time homebuyer incentives?

Home buyer assistance can come in many forms. Sometimes, in competitive marketplaces, lenders will agree to give qualified buyers assistance on closing costs. Buyers should make sure to consider these incentives when choosing between lenders. Another incentive for lower income and first-time homebuyers is down payment assistance up to \$7,500 offered by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.

### What are mortgage lenders looking for in a borrower?

Mortgage lenders are attracted to borrowers who can afford to pay the cost of home ownership and manage other budgetary items. The four Cs of credit include capacity (ability to pay), collateral (appraised value of the home), capital (savings for down payment and closing costs), and character (willingness to pay).

**William Haley has a long history of working in the nonprofit organization management industry. He has a Master of Science degree in business policy from Columbia University - Columbia Business School.**

**Family Foundations is a financial, family counseling and education organization in Northeast Florida, providing services on**

**an ability-to-pay basis. The firm has helped over 120,000 families in the last 50 years take control of their financial future, buy a first home, save their marriage, cope with a troubled child or pay off debts and restore their credit.**

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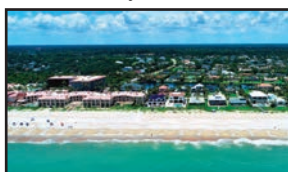
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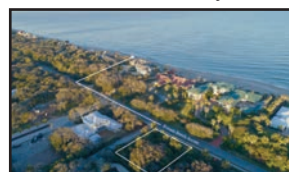
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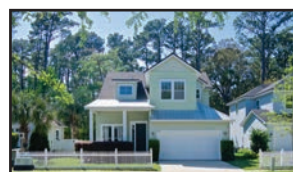
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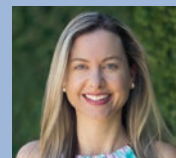


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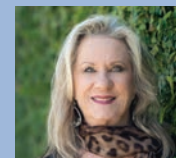
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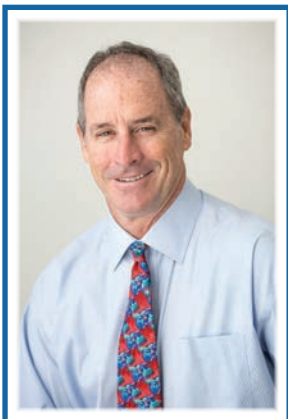
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# St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum to participate in Smithsonian Museum Day

Free admission to Lighthouse, other area museums Saturday

The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum will participate in Smithsonian Museum Day on Saturday, Sept. 21.

Museum Day is an annual celebration of boundless curiosity hosted by Smithsonian Magazine. Participating museums and cultural institutions across the country provide free entry to anyone presenting a Museum Day ticket. The Museum Day ticket provides free admission for two people from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21.

Guests must present a printed ticket to gain free entry. Registration is available at [www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday).

“As a Smithsonian Affiliate Museum, we are thrilled to participate in this event each year, offering free admission to our guests on this special day,” said Kathy Fleming, executive director of the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum.

This year, Smithsonian is celebrating the Year of Music, highlighting and sharing Smithsonian’s vast musical holdings, bringing together resources in history, art, culture, science, and education.

The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum is preparing for an upcoming World War II exhibit. Its collection of 19,000 artifacts includes recorded music and historic photos of St. Augustine vocalist Bobbie Hatchett singing with the U.S. Coast Guard Band in the Ponce de Leon Hotel dining room in the 1940s during WWII. What is now the Flagler College campus served as a USCG Training Center during the war.

## MUSEUM DAY ACTIVITIES

At the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Mari-



Photo courtesy of St. Augustine Maritime Museum

The St. Augustine Lighthouse spiral staircase is 219 steps to the top of the 165-foot tower.

time Museum, climb 219 steps to the top of the 165-foot tower for a breathtaking view of historic downtown St. Augustine, the beaches, and the Nation’s Oldest Port.

Discover St. Augustine’s rich maritime history at the site of Florida’s first lighthouse. Explore exhibits in the restored Keepers’ House about the lives of the Lighthouse keepers and their families, and shipwreck discoveries made off the coast of St. Augustine.

Also on site, the WWII US Coast Guard Coastal Lookout Quarters, Nation’s Oldest Port Demos, a Maritime Hammock Scavenger Hunt, a working Conservation Lab, and a View from the Top video (for those who don’t climb the lighthouse) in the Maritime Education Center, and the WWII Jeep Garage, which houses The Tin Pickle café.

For little one, find a shipyard playground and hands-on activities throughout the

exhibits and grounds (children less than 44 inches tall can’t climb the tower but get free admission). The museum store will be open.

## FEATURED EXHIBITS

- 1874 Lighthouse Tower (self-guided climb up the 219-step spiral staircase)
- 1876 Keepers’ House
- Wrecked! The Story of a Revolutionary War Shipwreck
- At Home with the Harns
- Legends of the Light
- Nation’s Oldest Port Demos (interactive demonstrations)
- Northeast Florida Shrimping: Foundation of a Global Enterprise
- Maritime Hammock Nature Trails
- Maritime Education Center with exhibits and hands-on children’s activities
- Conservation Lab and PGA Viewing Window

## PARTICIPATING MUSEUMS NEAR PONTE VEDRA

### ST. AUGUSTINE

**World Golf Hall of Fame & Museum**

Hours: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Peña-Peck House**

Hours: 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Lightner Museum**

Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### PALM COAST

**Florida Agricultural Museum**

Hours: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### FERNANDINA BEACH

**Amelia Island Museum of History**

Hours: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### JACKSONVILLE

**Mandarin Museum & Historical Society**

Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**MOCA Jacksonville**

Hours: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens**

Hours: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Ritz Theatre and Museum**

Hours: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### ST. MARYS, GEORGIA

**St. Marys Submarine Museum**

Hours: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For more information, visit [staugustine-lighthouse.org](http://staugustine-lighthouse.org) or call (904) 829-0745. Stay updated on social media at [facebook.com/staugustinelighthouse](https://facebook.com/staugustinelighthouse), [instagram.com/staugustinelighthouse](https://instagram.com/staugustinelighthouse) and [twitter.com/firstlighthouse](https://twitter.com/firstlighthouse)

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## Local playwright's work kicks off Second Season

The Memories of Ruby Mae to appear on The Studio Stage

Local playwright, Olivia Gowan, will share her new work as a readers theater presentation at Players by the Sea at 8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 30 and Tuesday, Oct. 1.

“We’re excited this work is the inaugural play of the Second Season,” said Suzanne Hudson-Smith, Players’ executive director. “Great plays should be seen often and our audiences need to experience more opportunities than we



# Jacksonville Symphony opens season with native son pianist

The Jacksonville Symphony begins its 2019-2020 season with the third annual Fanfare! Opening Night featuring Jacksonville's own Marcus Roberts with his jazz trio performing Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue.

Roberts, who has been hailed as "a genius of modern piano" and his trio join forces with Courtney Lewis and the Symphony to bring a fresh vibe to Gershwin's masterpiece Saturday, Sept. 28, in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts' Jacoby Symphony Hall.

The concert begins at 8 p.m. with Dukas' Fanfare from La Peri. The highlight of the evening will be the Marcus Roberts Trio's performance of Gershwin's jazz and classical fusion, Rhapsody in Blue. The concert will end with Dvořák's Eighth Symphony.

Doors will open at 7 p.m. for concertgoers to walk the red carpet and enjoy an hour long, preconcert performance by Jacksonville local, the "Sultry Sister of Soul," Mama Blue performing in the Uible lobby.

Roberts grew up in Jacksonville, where his mother's gospel singing and the music of the local church left a lasting impact on his own musical style. He began teaching himself to play piano at age 5 after losing his sight but didn't have his first formal lesson until age 12. Despite that late start,



Photo courtesy of the Jacksonville Symphony

**Marcus Roberts and his jazz trio will headline Fanfare! Opening Night on Saturday Sept. 28.**

he progressed quickly through hard work and good teachers. At age 18, he went on to study classical piano at Florida State University.

In 2014, the celebrated CBS News television show, "60 Minutes," profiled Roberts' life and work on a segment entitled "The Virtuoso." The show traced Roberts'

life to date from his early roots in Jacksonville and at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind to his remarkable career as a modern jazz musician.

Roberts has won numerous awards and competitions over the years, but the one that is most personally meaningful to him is the Helen Keller Award for Personal

Achievement. While Roberts is known throughout the world for his development of an entirely new approach to jazz trio performance, he is equally known for his remarkable ability to blend the jazz and classical idioms to create something wholly new while retaining the authenticity of each art form. His 1996 Sony Classical recording (Portraits in Blue) was among the first to fully integrate the jazz and classical genres.

Mama Blue is an original. She brings the "live" to live performance.

Mama Blue's songs are about life – the joy and pain of love, being a mother and the social forces that influence our lives. Combine that original material with artists who've inspired her – Aretha Franklin, Etta James, Alicia Keyes and Nina Simone or Queen and The Rolling Stones – and you have a musical journey through modern American life.

Born and raised in Jacksonville, Mama Blue graduated from the city's prestigious Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. She earned a scholarship to Jacksonville University, where she majored in vocal performance and drama.

To purchase tickets or for more information, visit [www.JaxSymphony.org](http://www.JaxSymphony.org) or call (904) 354-5547.

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## THEME: RAP ARTISTS

### ACROSS

- Same as Amir
- Graduate degree
- Rotisserie skewer
- Wispy clouds
- \*Run-DMC performed at "Live \_\_\_\_\_", 1985
- Elbow room
- Portfolio content
- Some special effects
- Noncommittal response
- \*N.W.A. songwriter turned actor
- \*Marshall Bruce Mathers III
- Last letter of Hebrew alphabet
- Two-fold
- Tit for \_\_\_\_\_
- Serve soup, e.g.
- Done at "inspiration point"
- Eurasian mountain range
- Jack of all trades' sphere of expertise
- More painful
- Little bit, in Mexico
- Open-mouthed
- Classic TV's Mr. Cleaver
- Friend from Mexico
- Power system
- Batman's cave, e.g.
- Ketchup, to some
- \*a.k.a. Detective Tutuola
- "To Kill a Mockingbird" author
- Bangkok native
- Yoga turf
- \*She likes dollars, she likes diamonds

### DOWN

- South American blackish-purple berry
- Catchall abbr.
- Gaelic tongue
- Not slouching
- Something regularly observed
- Debilitating spray
- \*The Notorious one
- Opposite of bonjour
- Distance from wingtip to wingtip, e.g.
- Pay as you earn tax system
- Ballistic missile acronym
- Golf peg
- Expression of pleasure, pl.
- Boss, in Swahili
- Vitruvian one
- Ancient Roman silver coins
- \*"The hate you give..." artist
- Scent
- Like unspoken agreement
- \*Snoop's last name?

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		5	3	9		1		8

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

- Loose hood
- Cattle enclosure in African village
- Chill-inducing
- \*Beats by \_\_\_\_\_
- Fireplace fodder
- \*"\_\_\_\_\_ Rap Battles of History"
- Possible allergic reaction
- Bested
- Sigma \_\_\_\_\_ Epsilon
- Babble out
- \*Drake's tattoo of the Beatles' \_\_\_\_\_

- Road"
- Bind
- Super garb?
- Port in Yemen
- Orange peel
- Cleaning cabinet supplies
- Wyatt Earp's card game
- Desert quality
- Jekyll's alter ego
- Cuba Libre ingredient
- Israel
- Kamakawiwo'ole's strings

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- OCT. 10 MARTY STUART'S PILGRIM SHOW
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TODD ALBRIGHT
- OCT. 24 THE ALLMAN BETTS BAND  
JOANNE SHAW TAYLOR & JD SIMO
- OCT. 27 WYNONNA & THE BIG NOISE
- OCT. 31 ACOUSTIC ALCHEMY
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- NOV. 7 BIG BAD VOODOO DADDY
- NOV. 22 THE FAB FOUR  
"THE ULTIMATE BEATLES TRIBUTE"
- NOV. 23 MASON JENNINGS
- NOV. 24 JOHN OATES  
THE GOOD ROAD BAND
- DEC. 7 JOY TO THE WORLD:  
MESSIAH FAVORITES & HOLIDAY CAROLS

- DEC. 10 A PETER WHITE CHRISTMAS  
w/ EUGE GROOVE, VINCENT INGALA  
& LINDSEY WEBSTER
- DEC. 19 A ROCKAPPELLA HOLIDAY
- DEC. 20 HORTON'S HOLIDAY HAYRIDE  
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w/ ROB ICKES & TREV HENSLEY
- JAN. 30 RODNEY CROWELL
- FEB. 1 OVER THE RHINE
- FEB. 9 LOS LOBOS
- FEB. 14 AL STEWART
- FEB. 20 TOM PAPA
- FEB. 21 JIMMY WEBB
- FEB. 27 TOMMY EMMANUEL  
IDA MAE
- FEB. 28 STEEP CANYON RANGERS
- MAR. 10 SOUTHSIDE JOHNNY  
& THE ASBURY JUKES
- APR. 2 LEE ANN WOMACK
- APR. 11 DAVE MASON

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# Playwright

Continued from 32

can offer in our regular season of eight productions. Second Season was created to expand our theatre presentations of plays – it's just the love of the play and passion of the creative team that makes it happen."

Playwright Gowan and Gloria Ware, the director, have chosen to present this play as reader's theater. "The actors don't memorize their lines, they just use vocal expression to guide the audience into understanding the story," Ware said.

This presentation is about the content of the play.

Gloria Ware, PBTS board member 2017-2019, is still very active and supportive of Players. She's often been seen on stage and this time, she brings a new piece of literature to the stage, The Memories of Ruby Mae. Ware fell in love with this story while it was being created and is thrilled to be able to tell this story written by Olivia Gowan.

"Sharing these stories is so important – Players by the Sea gets that and has opened their space to welcome new work

... and to welcome a diverse cast that includes actors, directors and some who haven't ever performed at the theatre," Ware said.

The Memories of Ruby Mae is a wickedly funny and heartfelt play that guides us through generational hurts to an unexpected healing. It is a poignant, sweet, story of a woman with whom we can all relate. She is strong, kind, curious, honest and speaks her mind. As she leaves this world and begins to cross over, she experiences several memories of those who have already passed on and others who are still influential in her life.

Gowan is a playwright from Macon Georgia, who currently resides in Jacksonville, Florida. In January 2016 she produced her second full length, Cotton Alley at Players by the Sea, which pinned her as a southern, gothic writer compared to a female Tennessee Williams. She is the founder of The Groundling Scribes, a group that supports playwrights and original works.

Players is located at 106 6th Street North in Jacksonville Beach. Donations will be taken at the door. To make a reservation, visit [playersbythesea.org](http://playersbythesea.org) or call the box office at (904) 249-0289.

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# Sports

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2019 • PAGE 35



Bud Beech no longer coaching on the basketball court, but still a leader in the game of life • Page 36

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Photos by Chris Norton

Nease linebacker Nick Witherspoon (7) wraps up Sandalwood quarterback Jeff Sims during last Friday's game at Nease High School

## PVHS holds off Palatka, Nease falls to Sandalwood

The Ponte Vedra High School held on to defeat host Palatka 33-29 on Friday, Sept. 13, to improve to 3-0 for the season, while Nease fell to 0-3 with a 44-19 loss to visiting Sandalwood in its District 1-8A opener.

The Sharks play next at Menendez at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20. The Panthers play at Yulee at 7 p.m. Friday.



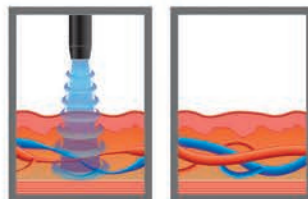
Nease quarterback Joseph Nieves dives for a touchdown against Sandalwood.

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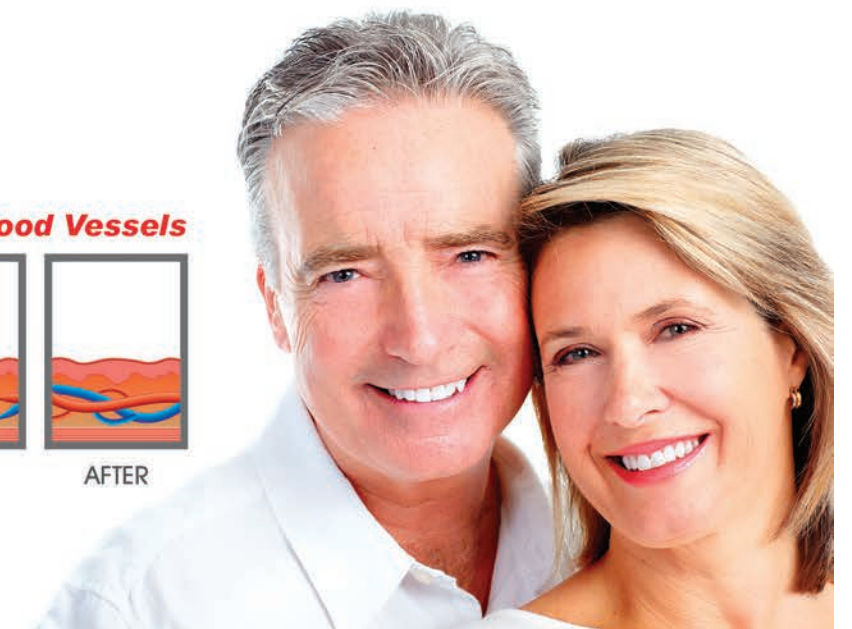
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Photo by Jim Moyes

PVHS basketball coach Bud Beech (right) stands with his team after finishing third in a holiday tournament in 2016. Beech is retiring from coaching basketball after 34 seasons.

# Bud Beech to retire after 34 seasons

Storied basketball coach to remain on Ponte Vedra High School staff as dean

By Amber Lake

After 34 seasons, coach Bud Beech is stepping off the court. According to him, however, his coaching days are far from over.

In January of 2017, Beech hit his 500th winning game, one he said, “is a milestone in coaching,” but was quick to add that that number probably came with about “350 to 400 losses, too.”

When a coach has spent 24 years up and down the side lines, they tend to have many highs and lows. His coaching style has evolved over time as well, spending more focused attention at practice and less “intensity” during the heat of the game.

“Over the years, it’s been more doing what I need to do in practice versus being upset at games,” Beech said.

His advice? Sometimes you’re just not going to win. In those cases, face the game head on and work on improving at what you do best.

“You got to take what you got and continue to build what you do have,” Beech said.

While Beech has made peace with loss, he is no stranger to the thrill of the win. He remembers 1992 clearly, when the Nease Panthers went to State and then



Photo by Amber Lake

Although no longer coaching students on the court, Beech will remain at PVHS as dean.

again, in 2002, when they brought home the title. Time flies on the court, however, and coach Beech is even impressed with how long he’s been at it.

“I’ve had the opportunity to coach a lot of great kids and know wonderful people,” Beech said. “It’s been a fun career. I never would have thought it would end up being that long, but you just do it each year.”

Much like his players, basketball started for him in high school as well. He eventually went on to play for Flagler College, leading the Saints in assists and eventually

being inducted into the Flagler College Athletics Hall of Fame in 2009. After graduating, he went to work in the financial department for American Express. The job was short lived, however. He soon started a position part-time as a coach’s assistant for the St. Johns County’s new high school, Allen D. Nease, which opened in 1981. The rest is history — well, 24 years of history at Nease and then another 10 at the new Ponte Vedra High School.

He is currently dean at Ponte Vedra

High and has no plans to change that.

“A certain aspect is mentoring,” Beech said “You do reflect a lot of things (between coaching and being a dean). Here, I might give out some discipline but at the same time I find out about their background and the things going on in their life. I try to keep in touch like I do in coaching.”

While you might be able to take the dean out of the coach, there is no taking the coach out of dean Beech. Students fortunate to end up in his office get more encouragement than lectures.

“In coaching I teach players how to react and respond to things in the game,” Beech said. “With adversity and losing, it’s about how you accept it. There are parallels to (how I talk to students).”

Beech said he will miss coaching but looks forward to having more free time, particularly for his wife and four children. His son, Beau, was a former standout guard at Ponte Vedra and is now playing in Germany with the Hamburg Towers. The team has been promoted to the Basketball Bundesliga, the highest professional league in Germany for the season starting later this month.

Being available for a few weeks at a time to see his son play overseas is an opportunity he doesn’t plan to miss out on.

Additionally, Beech fully intends to keep up with Bud Beech Summer Camp, an affordable all-sports camp he maintains with his wife.

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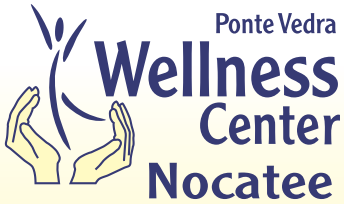
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