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PONTE VEDRA



Recorder

June 25, 2020
Volume 51, No. 34
75 cents

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com

What's Available NOW On NETFLIX

Disclosure
A gripping thriller about a woman who is accused of murdering her husband.

The Hate U Give
A young girl witnesses the police shooting of her father and must find a way to speak up for what she saw.

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A classic Western about a man who is hired to protect a woman from a ruthless gangster.

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INSIDE Check it Out!

The Recorder's Entertainment
EXTRA featuring TV listings,
streaming information,
puzzles and more!



Nominations
begin June 25
Page 2

CHAMBER CONNECTIONS

INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE THROUGH CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP

Connections
Pages 13-20

KICK OFF TO Summer



The Nocatee Farmers Market Kickoff to Summer was held Saturday, June 20, at Nocatee Station Field. The market featured a free concert from a local band, The Band Be Easy, as well as local vendors and more. See more photos, page 9

Photos by Susan Griffin



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INSIDE

One of Us
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Nonprofit Guide
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Business Weekly
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Send us your news

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

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Also, check out the **Ponte Vedra Recorder** channel on YouTube.

EDITOR'S NOTES

What's This?: Because of the COVID-19 crisis, The Recorder is suspending the "Do you know what this is?" contest until further notice.

Pets of the Week: Because the St. Johns County Pet Center is closed to walk-in traffic, The Recorder's Pets of the Week feature has been temporarily suspended. The feature will return once the Pet Center reopens.

NOTES TO READERS

Don't miss an issue: In case social distancing requirements get more strict, we will email you your paper. Send your email address to don@opcfla.com.

Weekly newsletter: The Recorder offers a weekly newsletter every Monday that outlines some of the top stories of the week, as well as providing access to our E-Edition and Entertainment EXTRA! To get the newsletter emailed for free, email don@opcfla.com. We'll add you to the list.

Sends us your nominations for Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra

The Ponte Vedra Recorder is launching its second annual Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra contest, covering ZIP codes 32082 and 32081.

Starting June 25, readers will have the chance to nominate their favorite businesses, professional services, organizations and more in nearly 250 categories online. From best new business to best charity event, best real estate agent to best personal trainer and best seafood to best boutique, the categories run the gamut and are sure to include your favorite things.

Nominations can be made on the website at pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2020/index.html.

Anyone can nominate a business or person — there is no limit to the number of nominations each person can submit. Online voting will begin once nominations are complete. The nominees who receive the most votes will be named 2020 Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra. Nominations and voting are completely free and open to the public.

The Best Of platform on The Recorder's website will feature lists of nominees in an easy-to-use format. Nominees can participate in advertising packages that promote their entry by expanding their listing to feature ad-



ditional details on the business.

Winners will receive a free framed certificate and a Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra window cling. Each winner will also be listed in our Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra special section and on the winner's website. Winners will be notified by Ponte Vedra Recorder staff in July.

For more information or to find out how to get your nominated business or product involved in promotions that will be going on throughout the contest cycle, contact your sales representative, email susan@opcfla.com or call (904) 285-8831.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

DINOSAURIA

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JACKSONVILLE
ZOO
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Hugh Osteen
Florida Market Manager
hugh@opcfla.com
(904) 285-8831

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

Don Coble
Interim Editor
don@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3939

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

Amber Lake
Reporter
amber@opcfla.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3945

Shaun Ryan
Reporter
shaun@opcfla.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3941

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

Kristin Flanagan
Account Executive
kristin@opcfla.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3950

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

Jonathan Bueno
Circulation Manager
jonathan@opcfla.com
904-264-3200, ext. 2148

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County recommends residents, businesses remain wary of COVID-19

The Florida Department of Health issued a public health advisory on Saturday, June 20 in response to COVID-19, providing recommendations to protect Floridians and visitors from this virus. The advisory recommends wearing masks in public, encourages elderly and vulnerable populations to limit interactions outside of the home and urges all individuals to refrain from participating in gatherings of more than 50 people.

Anyone who works in long-term care facilities should be tested for COVID-19 on a routine basis. In addition, Gov. Ron DeSantis directed the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation to increase inspections to ensure that businesses are adhering to applicable Phase 1 and Phase 2 guidance.

The advisory provides the following recommendations:

- Anyone in Florida should wear masks in any setting where social distancing is not possible, unless certain conditions apply.

- Anyone over the age of 65 and all individuals of any age with high-risk health conditions should limit personal interactions outside of the home.

- Anyone should refrain from participation in social or recreational gatherings of more than 50 people. For all gatherings of fewer than 50 people, individuals should practice social distancing by maintaining a distance of at least six feet from each other and wearing a face covering.

St. Johns County is currently in Phase 2, which dictates:

- Restaurants, bars and other vendors licensed to sell alcoholic beverages, excluding nightclubs, may operate at 50% of the establishment's indoor capacity and at full capacity outside with appropriate social distancing. Bar areas may operate with seated service.

- Entertainment businesses, including but not limited to movie theaters, concert houses, auditoriums, playhouses, bowling alleys and arcades may operate at 50% of the establishment's capacity with appropriate social distancing.

COVID-19 continues on Page 4

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Contact me for any of your real estate needs and for a complimentary estimate of your home's value.



BRUNO COUTURIER, Realtor, PA
 904.655.9879
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25655 Marsh Landing Parkway
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School district implements 3-tiered plan to reopen in wake of COVID-19

By Amber Lake

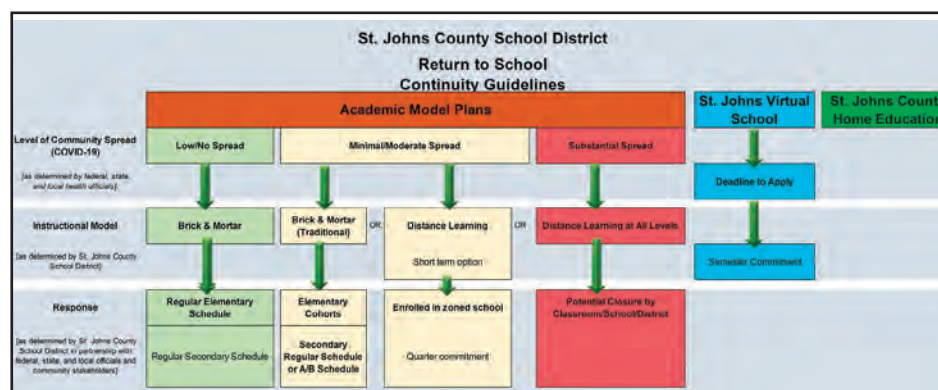
The St. Johns County School District is currently working to finalize its plan for reopening schools in the fall, as addressed by a June 11 virtual meeting.

Tim Forson, superintendent of St. Johns County Schools, presented a draft plan, which includes three phases of reopening protocols based on infection rates. Forson said the models include a collection of ideas from local and state levels, along with discussions with principals and teacher representatives. Input was gathered from parent surveys, internal task force sub-groups, business leader meetings, small group principal meetings, FOCUS groups and a teacher advisory group.

In one survey gathered from 18,600 parents, 70% of respondents said they were comfortable with having their children return to school in the fall.

The collaboration meeting outlined “what schools will look like” in the fall.

Continuity guidelines are approached-



The St. Jo's County School District is working to finalize its plan for reopening school buildings after months of COVID-19-related closure.

based on the current status of COVID-19, including plans for low or no spread, minimal/moderate spread and substantial spread. Parents are also offered the ability to fully enroll their child in a virtual school, which is held on a semester basis and would involve a withdrawal from a zoned school.

During a period of low or no spread, learning would continue as normal under brick-and-mortar conditions, reverting to

regular status.

In the event of a minimal-to-moderate spread of COVID-19, education would either continue traditionally or involve short-term distance learning. During a substantial spread of the virus, distance learning would continue across all levels with a potential closure by the district.

The school's response across all levels of viral severity would include a "first tier" implementation of "cohort groups"

for elementary schools and "A/B schedules" for middle and high schools.

In cohort group, elementary classrooms will have restricted movement, limiting interaction outside of the room, including lunches and other activities. High schools and middle schools may enforce an "A/B schedule." This refers to the student population being divided into two alphabetical groups, either attending Monday and Thursdays or Tuesdays and Fridays. Wednesdays are distance learning days.

On the week of June 29-July 3, families will be asked to inform the district of their intent to return in the fall semester or enroll in the St. Johns Virtual School. Forson also said there will be another meeting toward the end of the summer to tighten the district's plan. This would include revisiting details "parked" during the June 11 meeting, which included extracurricular activities, grading, mental health and food service.

"It is a world that is changing and very fluid, and I want to recognize that moving forward," Forson said.

Stoughton to retire as St. Jo's County Director of Emergency Management

Decision made 3 months ago after serving county for 36 years

By Don Coble

The number of people infected with COVID-19 is increasing in St. Johns County. At the same time, hurricane season has already spun a few storms in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

And the Republicans are coming to Jacksonville for their presidential convention in August.

"Emergency management never stops," said Linda Stoughton, the emergency management director for St. Johns County.

With that backdrop, Stoughton will retire from her job of serving the county since 1985 — the last six as the department head that deals with planning, preparation, prevention and response following an emergency.

"This retirement has been planned since March," she said Tuesday, minutes after meeting with county commissioners concerning a new strategy to address a resurgence of COVID-19 cases. "While I have dedicated my career to St. Johns



Photo courtesy of SJC Emergency Management
Linda Stoughton receives the Governor's Award in 2017 at the Florida Governor's Hurricane Conference.

County and Florida Forest Service, it's time. We've got a strong team here who are going to carry on. When it's time for those decisions to be made, you make it."

STOUGHTON continues on Page 5

BRIEFS

Sign up for Alert St. Jo's Emergency Notification System

St. Johns County launched a new emergency notification system to provide residents with critical information during emergency situations. The system enables St. Johns County, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, the City of St. Augustine and the City of St. Augustine Beach to quickly provide residents with critical information in a variety of situations including severe weather, unexpected road closures, water advisories, missing persons, evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods and incidents that may threaten public safety.

Residents can choose to receive notifications via a phone call to their home, business, or mobile phone; by email or text message. The Alert St. Johns system replaced the Code Red system, so it is imperative that residents sign up for these critical notifications. For more information, call (904) 824-5550.

Pier Farmers Market to reopen July 1

The Wednesday Pier Farmers Market at the St. Johns County Ocean and Fishing Pier parking lot, 350 A1A Beach Blvd., in St. Augustine will resume modified operations from 8 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays, beginning July 1.

In accordance with recommended CDC guidelines, the following protocols will be in place:

- Vendors are required to wear face-covering masks.
- Traffic will flow one way through the event site.
- 10 feet of space will be between each vendor site.
- Each vendor site will be marked to indicate six feet of space between vendor and patron.
- No onsite food consumption will be permitted. All purchased foods must be taken offsite.
- Vendors will include farms, hot foods and food trucks, grocery and prepared foods, personal protection and care items and arts and crafts.

COVID-19

Continued from 3

appropriate social distancing between groups and proper sanitization protocols.

■ In-store retail businesses, gyms and fitness centers may operate at full capacity with appropriate social distancing measures and proper sanitization protocols.

■ Personal services, including but not limited to barber shops, hair salons, nail salons, tattooing, body piercing, tanning and massage may operate while adhering to appropriate safety guidelines outlined by the Florida Department of Health.

For more information or a complete review of the State of Florida's recent Public Health advisory, go to www.FloridaHealth.gov.



Palm Valley Adjutant Ted Veber attends the V for Veterans fundraising event.

V for Veterans event raises big money for local American Legion

By Amber Lake

The American Legion Palm Valley Post 233 hosted a community event to raise money for veteran affairs recently in conjunction with V Pizza's V for Victory foundation.

The Palm Valley American Legion is a second home not only for many local veterans but dozens of community-centric scholarships, foundations and outreach programs. During the pandemic's lockdown period, Post 233 closed and has been struggling to get back on its feet.

"This means more to us than you can ever know," said commander Caroline Merillat. "Some of the members here have been members for many, many years. When we had to shut down because of COVID-19, everyone was devastated. We were all worried what we were going to be able to do to be able to survive."

The event, V for Veterans, managed to raise \$21,000 for the post from more than 20 sponsors and attendees who enjoyed live music and a dinner from V Pizza, who brought their large brick oven to donate handmade pies.



Photos by Amber Lake

The V for Veterans' event was hosted Saturday, June 13. V Pizza supplied food for the fundraiser. V Pizza's V for Victory foundation is a nonprofit organization that was created to provide support to local families affected by cancer.

"We are not just a bar," Merillat said. "We are a veteran service organization made up of veterans and designed to serve veterans. If our doors are not open, we cannot serve our veterans ... The community really showed up to support Post 233,

it was unbelievable. I don't have words to adequately express how grateful we are."

The American Legion Palm Valley Post 233 is located at 560 N. Wilderness Trail. For more information, follow them on Facebook or go to www.al233fl.org.

Stoughton

Continued from 4

With so many projects in the works — and the possibility of other unforeseen threats — there is little time for Stoughton to slow down, much less reflect on spending the past 36 years in public service. But

when she leaves, she won't be tied to news flashes, cellphone alerts or desperate calls in the middle of the night.

"It hasn't been the focus of myself or the focus of the county to talk about retirement," she said. "We're focused on planning, operations for COVID and hurricane season, so not a lot has come out publicly. The board [of county commissioners] gave

us some new direction, so we're working feverishly. It's not really a new direction, but an increased operation."

But in a few days, she will walk away. "We are planning on traveling," she said. "We're going to move into a new phase." Stoughton's last day will be July 2. A replacement hasn't been announced. While she's leaving one of the most-

stressful jobs in the county, she won't be slowing down.

"I'm either going to be 10,000 feet up [in the air] or 100 feet down [diving]," she said.

"Certainly, we are going to enjoy some family time and spend some time traveling. This is home. We're not going to be gone for too long."

Bruno Couturier moved from France to the U.S. in 1985 and found his calling in the country club business. After nearly 30 years working at Marsh Landing Country Club, including serving as general manager and currently as partner, Couturier began a new venture in real estate in January of this year, becoming a broker for Marsh Landing Country Club Realty. Couturier, who lives in Marsh Landing with his wife and two teenage sons, shares his experience in the business.

Bruno Couturier

As told to Paris Moulden

Can you tell us about your background?

I grew up in France and moved to the States in 1985. I've been in the club business since then. In 2001, the owner of the [Marsh Landing Country] club, Chester Stokes, and his business partner, Jesse Killebrew, who is the broker of the company, the three of us started this real estate company, and it has been extremely successful. I decided in January that it was time for me to hang up my hat as the general manager of Marsh Landing after almost 30 years of service. I've always wanted to go into real estate, and the timing was right. We have a great team, and I just thought, "Let's go ahead and do it." ... I worked at a club outside of Austin, Texas, called Horseshoe Bay Resort. I worked there from 1985 to 1991. In between, I served in the army in France. As soon as I stopped serving, I came back to Horseshoe Bay, and that's where I met Mr. Stokes, who owned a club outside of Austin called Hidden Hills on Lake Travis. In '91, I moved here. ... I got married in 2003 and became a U.S. citizen and I've been here ever since.

What is it about real estate that you enjoy?

I've built a lot of relationships over the years with a lot of the members and residents here. Thirty years is a long time. I also have two young children, and I think that real estate is something that will give me the opportunity to earn a living but also spend time with my family. Since 2001, real estate was something I was always around, because that's what we did in Marsh Landing.

What sets your agency apart?

What's unique about our company is our association with the club. When somebody buys or sells with us, they get a membership at the club at the level they desire with no initiation fee. So that's been a huge draw for us. We've got a great team. And the thing about Marsh Landing Country Club, it's just the location. You're at the beach. You don't have to fight AIA and the traffic. As a resident here, you can drive right through TPC. ... And you can jump on JTB in a minute and go anywhere you want to go. ... It's just all about location.



Photo by Paris Moulden

What types of amenities do Marsh Landing offer?

We have 18 holes of golf. We have 10 tennis courts, a swimming pool, a fitness center. We're opened six days a week for dining. We have very successful programs for juniors from tennis to golf. Summer camps. The staff just does an amazing job. It's a family club.

In your experience, has the market changed since the COVID-19 crisis?

We did experience a little bit of a slowdown at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, but I'll tell you, our business the last month has picked up so much. It's been amazing. Real estate is definitely back.

How does the market in Ponte Vedra differ from other places?

I think people look for a lifestyle. I think people look for environment, location. I think people who have children look for great schools. Ponte Vedra has all of that to offer to people who move here,

What advice would you give to potential buyers, particularly in this market?

If people are looking in this market, they obviously have a price range in mind, I think people need to determine what it is they're looking for. For example, this is a golf course community with a country club. I think that if people are moving to Marsh Landing, they should be looking for these kind of amenities, but also committed to supporting the club, because it is part of the environment and lifestyle they're going to experience here. This club here creates value for real estate, and as you can see around the country, country clubs that go out of business in private communities are affecting the real estate price of the homes. ... So, I think when people move into a community like this, they have to not just commit to buying in here, but also being a part of the club, because it affects the value of the home.

What do you like most about this area?

First, the people. Secondly, the location; access to the beach, being able to play golf, tennis. Being able to go to Jaguars games. Being able to go to concerts downtown. There's just so much to do around here. And the dining around here is unbelievable, the options we have. Last year, I took my family to New York City, and this is nothing like New York. The life out here is so laid-back, so relaxed, so enjoyable. What is there not to like?

What do you like to do in your free time?

I enjoy handyman work. It seems like the list never ends, but I love it. I do it on my own time. ... And if I don't know how to do it, I'll talk to somebody who does know how to do it, pick their brains, and I'll just go do it. It's something I do because it releases stress and when the work is done, you look at it, and it's rewarding just to know you did it.

The Recorder's garden columnist Kathy Esfahani, of Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery, shares her tips for growing gorgeous gardens in Northeast Florida.

KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

"Be a cactus in a world full of delicate flowers."



Kathy Esfahani
Columnist

SUCCULENTS

Summer is here and it's HOT! What plants love hot weather? Succulents!

What better way to spend some time around your home than creating a succulent garden or planter that needs minimal attention?

Succulents love dry heat and very little water. Sounds like the perfect plants right?

These plants have evolved in climates that are almost unbearable, with rocky terrain and desert landscapes. They retain water in their leaves and stems, thus needing to only be watered occasionally. Due to their unique nature, they also can survive in winter single-digit temperatures — amazing.

You can create a succulent garden in the ground, a planter, or even a rock garden. Some of the most popular varieties are cactus, sedum, purslane, agave, aloe, echeveria and crassula.

Tips on creating a succulent planter:

- Choose a shallow, wide planter with a drainage system. These plants do not



Flower of the Week: Sedum

Photo provided by Kathy Esfahani

like sitting water.

- Look for a potting soil designated for succulents.

- When purchasing succulents, some need more sun than others. Try to group similar plants together for appropriate care.

- Space succulents 1-2 inches apart in the planter. They don't need much room to grow!

Add fun finishing touches such as marbles, seaglass, or rocks around the succulent planter.

Email Kathy at kathys.creative.gardens@gmail.com for any questions or gardening tips you would like to see in the future.

Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery is located at 196 N. Roscoe Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach. (904) 655-7373

Collage Day School

Currently Enrolling for our 2020-2021
Preschool Program. Space is limited.
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Custom Built Oasis in the Plantation

Ponte Vedra Beach/ The Plantation: Great Value, Great Views! Comfort and elegance merge in the thoughtful design of this custom-built home situated on a premium lot in the premiere Plantation community. Gorgeous water to golf views are showcased throughout the home.

4 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms \$1,525,000



Oceanfront Retreat

Built to take advantage of the captivating water views and north of Mickler's Landing, this 4,878 property includes a pool and new roof (2017). With 150 ft. of ocean frontage this 1.45-acre lot is the ideal place to make your private beach retreat.

6 bedrooms, 6.5 baths \$3,450,000



Acreage on the Ocean

Take advantage of this unique opportunity to own over 2 acres of oceanfront property situated on one of the highest dunes in Ponte Vedra Beach. North of Mickler's Landing, this 6,047 sqft home with 248ft ocean frontage is the ideal place to design your dream oasis.

5 bedrooms, 4F/3H baths \$3,425,000



Oceanfront Masterpiece

Private gated 1.78-acre estate, known as Turtle Hall, exemplifies luxury oceanfront living. With 165 ft of ocean frontage this custom-built estate showcases museum-quality features and craftsmanship throughout this 11,000 sqft home.

5 bedrooms, 6 full / 2 half baths \$8,200,000



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Stunning Riverfront Estate

Riverfront/ San Marco: Instantly makes you feel you've been swept away to a chateau in France. Exquisitely designed with extensive custom finishes, this 10,204-sq.-ft. home is a masterpiece in design and built for entertaining.

5 bedroom, 6 full bath, 5 half bath \$5,995,000



Sarah Alexander, REALTOR
904.334.3104 cell
Sarah@SarahAlexander.net
www.SarahAlexander.net

Elizabeth Hudgins, REALTOR
904.553.203 cell
Elizabeth@ElizabethHudgins.net
www.ElizabethHudgins.net



OBITUARIES

Elaine Bowen Coleman

Elaine Bowen Coleman formerly of West Hartford, CT and Ponte Vedra Beach, FL passed peacefully on June 12, 2020 two weeks shy of her 96th birthday. She was the loving wife of Charles "Bud" Coleman who predeceased her in 2002.



Elaine Bowen Coleman

Elaine was born in Islip, Long Island and as a young child loved the ocean and visits to her grandparents' duck farm where she, her brother and sister would ride the little train that circled the Raynor Farm. She enjoyed many visits

to New York City with her parents and as a young woman enjoyed a career in modeling in the City. She met her husband Bud at Syracuse University. Bud trained to be a naval aviator and was stationed in the Pacific Ring during WW II where he proudly served his country. After the war they settled in West Hartford, CT where Elaine focused on giving her son and daughter the most idyllic childhood possible. She was a volunteer at Hartford Hospital, Avon Medical Center and for the Republican party. She excelled at golf, bridge and enjoyed her many friends, especially the "Pot Luck Group". After Bud retired they spent a year travelling through Europe and then they made their home in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. Elaine entered into real estate and became one of the top real estate agents at Arvida Realty in Sawgrass. It was the highlight of her life. She belonged to the Farmington Country Club, The Hartford Golf Club. The Ponte Vedra Club and Spa and the Tournament Players Club at Sawgrass. She was an active member of St. Johns Church in West Hartford and then at Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra. Elaine always said that "God blessed her with such a loving

family and that she loved all the stages of her life and all the experiences and people along the way." Elaine is especially remembered for her unconditional love of her family whom she put above all else, her positivity amongst challenges, her deep faith, intellectual curiosity, honesty and integrity. She leaves behind her son Dr. Charles A. Coleman Jr. and wife Sherri, her daughter Debra Coleman Hyde and husband Hobey, her three loving grandsons Tripp Hyde, Christian Hyde, Zack Hyde and granddaughter Jessica Whittaker. She also leaves her adoring brother Lloyd Bowen of Arvada, Co. and her nieces and nephew. Elaine was predeceased by her older sister Marion. She will be terribly missed by all including her grand dog Desi who brought her such happiness and companionship.

The family would like to extend their sincere appreciation to the love, kindness and compassion she received from the special people at Apple Rehab in Avon who were her companions for the last year of her life. Elaine touched the hearts all those whom she met. She was a very special person, beautiful inside and out and always younger than her years.

A private graveside ceremony celebrating her life was held on Thursday, June 18th at the East Cemetery in Manchester, CT. Donations may be made in memory of Elaine to Warrior Canine Companions. An organization that raises service dogs in support of our returning heroes from war. www.warriorcanine.companions.org. Molloy Funeral Home, West Hartford, CT had care of arrangements. www.molloy-funeralhome.com



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Mary Margaret Linden

Mary Margaret Linden of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, passed away on June 11, 2020, at Vicar's Health Center in Ponte



Mary Margaret Linden

Vedra Beach, FL. Mary was born on February 3, 1931 in New York, NY to Lawrence and Marjorie Beavis. After her mother passed away, Mary was raised in Boston by her beloved Aunts (Mae, Betty, Margaret & Helen). She married Douglas Linden in 1951 and together they had four children. Mary lived in Piscataway and Somerset, NJ for 43 years, before moving to Ponte Vedra Beach, FL in 1998. Mary attended Rutgers University, where she earned a Bachelor and Master's degree in education. Mary taught elementary school, moved to curriculum supervisor and then assistant to the Superintendent. Mary retired after 32 years of service with the Piscataway School System. Mary also served as an Adjunct Prof/Supervisor for the Univ. of North Florida.

Mary met Robert Veasie shortly after moving to Ponte Vedra Beach and they were married in 2002, adding Bob's 3 daughters (Ruth, Susan & Kathy) into her family. Mary and Bob were married for 6 loving years until his passing in 2008.

Mary has always helped others, particularly thru volunteering at the Mayo Clinic, as a shepherd at Christ Episcopal Church, Ponte Vedra Library Board Trustee, President of the Sawgrass Women's Club, President of Rough Creek HOA, Newcomers Club, organizer and Board President for a local Nurse School, River Road Rescue Squad women's auxiliary, Chairperson and Blood Drive coordinator of the Central NJ Hemophilia Assoc. She most enjoyed reading to the elementary school students.

Mary is survived by her beloved children Douglas, David (Rita), Marjorie (Sean) and Donald (Joanne) and step-daughters Ruth, Susan & Kathy. She leaves behind grandchildren Douglas III, Heather, Christopher, Kimberly, Kyle, Caroline, Michael, and Jennifer. Step grandchildren Adam, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Celeste, Carson, and Austin. She also was blessed with great grandchildren, Alexandra, Penelope, Patrick, Alyssa, Ellie, Emerson, Jace and Jaxson and step great grandchildren Jakob, Kayla, Lada, Irisa & Nakane. Her brother Robert Beavis (Barbara), along with be-

loved nieces, nephews, and cousins. Mary had many lifelong friends from NJ and Ponte Vedra Beach. She was predeceased by Douglas Linden, Robert Veasie, brother Raymond (Ann) Shaw and daughter in law Anita Linden.

Mary loved to read, attend the theatre and arts and to travel, seeing Europe, U.S., Africa, Australia, Bermuda, the Caribbean, Egypt, and New Zealand. She shared that interest with her grandchildren taking each one of them on a trip after their high school graduation.

Mary loved the ocean and sunshine. The place where Mary called home was fittingly named "The Last Resort."

A Memorial Service will be held at a future date as Corona Virus restrictions are lessened.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Christ Episcopal Church, Mayo Clinic, St. Jude Children's Hospital, or the Jacksonville Symphony. Please visit the online Tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.



Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre
3600 Third Street South, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
Phone: 904.249.1100 Fax: 904.241.7554

Robert "Kevin" Taaffe

Robert "Kevin" Taaffe, 82, passed away on June 15, 2020. Kevin was born April 27, 1938 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Kevin graduated high school from La Salle Academy and was a graduate of Johnson and Wales University, both in Providence, RI. Kevin proudly served in the US Navy and soon after began his career in the food industry. Kevin married Kathleen Maher in 1964 and started their family in Warwick, Rhode Island. In 1978 Kevin and Kathy moved the family to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida where they lived together for 40 years. Kevin was the President of Schweitzer and Associates and the Vice President of Tri-Venture Marketing, Inc. where he retired in 2005.

Kevin, known as "Da" to the family, was a loving husband, father, brother, grandfather, uncle and friend. He had a love of the ocean, and enjoyed long walks on the beach collecting sharks teeth. Kevin was the definition of a gentleman, always helpful with a warm smile. He was loved and adored by all who knew him.

Kevin was predeceased by his wife Kathleen. He is survived by his four children, Anne T. Few (Matt Griffin), Christopher Taaffe (Daniel Sladek), Monica (David) Heron and Patrick (Tina) Taaffe and his 6 grandchildren — Kaitlyn Few, Lauren Heron, Makenzie Few, Conner Heron, Marshall Few Jr. and Haley



Robert "Kevin" Taaffe

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NOCATEE FARMERS MARKET KICKS OFF SUMMER



Photos by Susan Griffin

The Nocatee Farmers Market Kickoff to Summer, sponsored by A1A Solar, was held Saturday, June 20, at Nocatee Station Field. The market featured a free concert from a local band, The Band Be Easy, as well as local vendors selling fresh produce, crafts, jewelry, unique food items and more. The Blue Water Bar was also open to serve cocktails and other refreshments at the event.

Obituaries

Continued from 8

Taaffe. He is also survived by his sisters Joan Taaffe and Karen (Paul) Robinson, sisters-in-law Dorothy Taaffe and Jacqueline (Gerald) Camp and his many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother John "Jack" Taaffe and sister Maureen Taaffe.

Kevin had a special "brotherhood" with his many friends from "Christ Renews His Parish" at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church.

A private family service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to HarborChase of Jacksonville Associate Fund, 3455 San Pablo Road South Jacksonville, FL 32224.

Please visit the online Tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.

Marilyn Joan Larkin

Marilyn Joan Larkin, 80, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died June 11, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalle.com

Richard James Markey

Richard James Markey, 50, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died June 14, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home. (904) 249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

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Beachwalk open houses put new community on display

By Shaun Ryan

The Beachwalk community in St. Johns offered prospective homeowners an opportunity to tour some of its newest houses on Sunday, June 14, even as work progresses on County Road 210.

Completion of that artery — expected in July — will facilitate the creation of a full-service commercial district convenient to Beachwalk residents.

“It’s an exciting time,” said David Eisner, sales manager for Americrest Luxury Homes, developer for Beachwalk’s Atlantica Isles neighborhood.

Six homes ranging in size from 2,561 to 3,073 square feet and priced between \$758,260 and \$1,041,325 were featured during the event.

“What I think sets Atlantica Isles off is we’re the only community in Beachwalk that’s 100% maintenance-free,” Eisner said.

The homeowners’ association handles all the yardwork, maintains irrigation, performs roof repairs and paints the homes every fifth year. For residents who spend part of the year at secondary homes elsewhere, it’s a convenient feature.

For that reason, the developers expected Atlantica Isles to mostly attract buyers who were at least 55 years old. But Eisner said some families with children are also moving in.



Realtor Doris Arnold (right) conducts a tour of the open house at 83 Rum Runner Way in the Atlantica Isles neighborhood on Sunday, June 14.

Photos by Shaun Ryan

Another feature attracting homeowners is the neighborhood’s proximity to the 14-acre, 37-million-gallon Crystal Lagoon — the largest swimming facility in the United States. Its warm waters are a natural turquoise color, and the lagoon is framed by a sandy beach.

Things are developing in other Beachwalk areas, too. Five new model homes priced in the 300s will soon open, as well as several single-family homes in the

Seaside Estates neighborhood.

Recently, Beachwalk began to offer a limited number of clubhouse membership passes to guests outside the community.

The passes would grant access to the fitness center, tennis courts, putting green, dog splash park, lagoon, water slides, a swim-up bar, walking trails, paddle boarding and kayaking.

Beachwalk, developed by Americrest, Lennar and Vintage Estate Homes, has 961 family units, a million square feet of retail commercial space and 700,000 square feet of office space.

By autumn 2021, a host of commercial enterprises are expected to populate the C.R. 210 corridor, among them restau-

rants, a gas station, a pharmacy, coffee shops, day care services, day spas and a supermarket. An 83,000-square-foot Baptist Healthplace health and wellness center is slated to open soon in nearby Nocatee.

To keep residents safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, the community has taken a number of steps. The lagoon closes for an hour each afternoon so that chairs, kayaks and water slides can be sanitized. The fitness center is open, though access is limited and managed by sign-up.

Eisner said he is “cautiously optimistic” that the restaurant and swim-up bar will reopen soon. Seating at the restaurant will be limited to 25% inside and 50% outside.



ABOVE: Arnold (left) shows off the view from the second-story balcony.



LEFT: A view of one dining area, kitchen and gathering room.

Yes you can see these “Distinctive Homes” today!



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Real Estate in 2020: What’s new in shopping for and marketing homes?



Clare Berry
Guest Columnist

In March, the COVID-19 pandemic restricted our real estate activities. Our every-Tuesday in-person tour of homes, “caravan” as we call it, stopped immediately because of the recommended change in distancing between all of us. Sellers were uncomfortable with people coming in their homes, not sure where visitors had been. Air travel safety was questioned by buyers, so most stayed home rather than travel to make buying decisions.

Real estate was deemed an essential activity. I immediately changed some processes to facilitate my customers’ buying and selling homes. Some of these adjustments have become our new normal and will likely stay with us.

Thanks to technology, I help buyers visit properties with me through my phone’s

camera. I was trained in interviewing as well as in laying out ads for visual appeal when I was in the newspaper business. I’ve had a great time using these skills when planning a tour for customers. I learn what is important to them, which allows me to lay out, if you will, the overview as well as the details of the property in a visually attractive way. We focus on their checkboxes and give them narrative that the camera doesn’t give, covering details they aren’t there to experience, like the connectivity or separation between spaces, interior finishes, community amenities, distances to schools and work. Sometimes we have specific tasks, such as, “Where can I put the chest I sent you a photo of?” I measure and visualize so the customer can imagine how the spaces work for their precious furnishings. Through such personalized tours, I have put several homes under contract without the buyers stepping into the homes. It’s a very focused way to look at homes, and it works!

BERRY continues on Page 11



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Berry

Continued from 10

We have returned to doing in-person showings, with a limit on number of attendees. We travel separately, in our own cars. During home tours, we use our own personal protection and we follow distancing guidelines set forth by our local and national Realtor Associations. Where my toolkit used to be comprised of paperwork, pens and tape measures, additionally I now have a stock of masks, gloves and sanitizer in my car for buyers who don't have their own. We give each other space when in the homes. We save our in-depth discussions about what we've seen for when we are outside.

E-signing is now the norm, as well as electronic transmission of contracts, reports and surveys. Customers have found that they like the electronic way; they appreciate the ease and convenience. Buyers, sellers, lenders, inspectors, contractors — all communicate by phone and online; I stay in the center of the transaction keeping all the wheels turning. Closings are the exceptions, because lenders still require notarized signatures. Closing lawyers set signing appointments separately for buyers and sellers, and Realtors and loan officers don't attend. For those who don't want to go into an office, there are remote notary services.

On my personal Facebook page, I share uplifting highlights of our First Coast area.

Pictures of sunrises and sunsets, a beautiful dining table, and ever-expanding online resources provide diversions as well as paths for navigating our way through the pandemic.

Our Ponte Vedra Realtors have created a virtual tour of homes for area real estate

professionals. Accurate photography is imperative since shopping online is the number one way most buyers come into contact with inventory. Buyers need to have reliable photos.

I expect that providing personalized tours will continue. Customers and I enjoy

connecting that way. It requires close communication and collaboration, plus it's a lot of fun. We've changed our methods to meet the challenges of the day, with good results!

Clare Berry is owner and broker of Berry & Co. Real Estate, which is located at 330 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.

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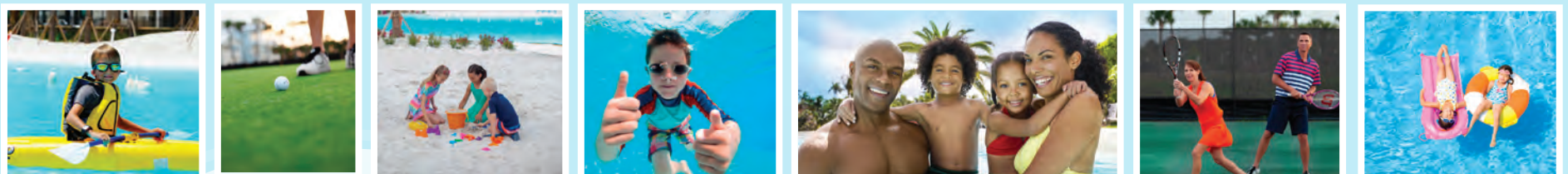
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June 2020





Isabelle Renault
President/CEO
St. Johns County
Chamber of Commerce

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

TAKE THE PLEDGE

We have all been through an immense upheaval—emotionally, financially, organizationally, personally, etc. We have been carefully monitoring the latest guidance from CDC and the governor’s office and are cautiously beginning to hold some small events, most notably ribbon cuttings, and are planning “hybrid” events.

We know our events will be safe, as your Chamber has taken the pledge and I encourage all Chamber members to do the same. Take The Pledge. A joint initiative by the St. Johns County Recovery Task Force, the pledge program was launched June 12. We sent an email to all Chamber members to encourage them to take the pledge. More

information at www.pledgesjc.com.

We will bring lessons learned into our future. Topics, information and networking can be shared with all members, with fewer geographic limitations.

Your Chamber has also been actively collaborating with strategic partners for our successful recovery and re-opening. Strong business/government partnerships are critical to our community’s successful re-opening plans. Leadership is critical when challenging times test our community. I am proud to be a St. Johns County resident and to see how our community leaders are collaborating.

The St. Johns County’s Economic Recovery Response Team was formed

in early April with representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, City of St. Augustine, Visitors and Convention Bureau and others to support our established businesses and workforce in recovery efforts.

Named the healthiest county in Florida in 2019, St. Johns County took the epidemic seriously from day one and continues its efforts to remain a safe and healthy community.

For information about programs and services available to help those in need, visit the www.sjcchamber.com and www.sjcfl.us. We value your feedback; please email us at info@sjcchamber.com.

Regards.

EDC Breakfast features former Mayor Još Delaney

Former Jacksonville Mayor John Delaney will be the keynote speaker at the live Economic Development Council breakfast from 8:30-9:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 25.

Delaney will address regional economic development initiatives and the importance of workforce development in the continued economic growth of St. Johns County and the First Coast.

Delaney has particular expertise in the areas of education, the environment, business relocation and economic development. He brings decades of experience working on some of Northeast Florida’s most successful policy initiatives, as well as close contacts and relationships with officials in the First Coast, across Florida and throughout the nation.

Delaney has served as mayor of Jacksonville, the 13th largest city in population and the largest in land area. He has served



Još Delaney

as president of a university, interim chancellor of the state university system, Jacksonville general counsel and the chief assistant state attorney for Florida’s Fourth Circuit.

In 2003, Delaney became the University of North Florida’s fifth president, managing a campus of 17,000 students, 600 faculty and 1,400 staff — the 20th largest employer in Jacksonville. The 1,500-acre campus in Northeast Florida is considered an economic driver in the region, with an annual impact of nearly \$1 billion.

Under his direction, UNF nearly doubled the building space. Delaney also served as UNF’s chief fundraiser, tripling the university’s privately funded endow-

ment. The school’s last capital campaign was the region’s largest capital campaign ever. He also served as interim chancellor of the State University System of Florida during his time at UNF.

Delaney served two terms as mayor of Jacksonville. During his tenure as mayor, he spearheaded numerous major initiatives, chief among them being The Better Jacksonville Plan, a \$2.2 billion improvement plan that gave the city new public facilities and other amenities. He also created the Preservation Project, a massive land conservation program giving Jacksonville the distinction of having the largest park system in the United States. Prior to his role leading the city, Delaney served as the chief assistant state attorney, the number two prosecutor for Northeast Florida, and as the general counsel for the City of Jacksonville.

The mission of the Economic Development Council is to promote St. Johns County as an ideal business location and to encourage businesses, both large and small, to expand and relocate within St. Johns County. EDC activities and events are designed to support the success of both new and existing businesses in St. Johns County. The EDC offers resources to businesses and support start-up ventures by providing information and connectivity to a variety of local resources.

The sponsors for the event include: St. Augustine & St. Johns County Board of Realtors (Principal Sponsor); Flagler Health+ (Capital Series Sponsor); AD Davis Construction, Florida Blue, Jackson Law Group, Neville, Waino CPAs, North Avenue Capital, PuroClean (Growth Series Sponsors) and Auld & White Constructors, LLC (Growth Sponsor).

Tecšology helping businesses to safely reopen

Flagler Health+ president and CEO offers COVID-19 update at EDC webinar

By Shaun Ryan

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and implementation of social distancing guidelines, St. Johns County businesses are looking for ways to protect employees, customers and work environments as they seek to reopen.

Thursday, June 11, local business leaders had an opportunity to learn how new technology is making that possible. Representatives of Healthfully, creators of a digital health platform, joined Flagler Health+ President and CEO Jason Barrett for a webinar on the local response to the coronavirus.

The webinar was presented by the



Jason Barrett

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and the county’s Economic Development Council.

The Healthfully app can be used by businesses, colleges, schools and other institutions, according to company CEO Paul Viskovich. It helps employees and students monitor symptoms and seek guidance. It also provides employers and administrators with a dashboard that displays data related to areas of concern.

The goal is to offer a comprehensive back-to-work solution.

“We cover everything from daily self-screening to having to consult with a physician virtually, getting the lab order

results and then communicating that back to the employer, the employee, the provider and then providing the tools for employers to manage exposure in their work environments,” said Chief Operating Officer Mark Boudreau.

The dashboard ensures that employees are getting tested, pursuing care where necessary and complying with workplace safety policies. In terms of managing exposure, employers can see whether employees may have come in contact with coworkers who have tested positive.

Boudreau said the company maintains “the highest privacy and security standards” and that the only health results shared with employers are those related to COVID-19.

Employers subscribe to the service, which can be billed to insurance. To learn more, go to healthfully.io.

“This is the continued innovation of

medicine,” said Barrett. Flagler Health+, as the county’s largest private employer, has partnered with Healthfully.

Barrett offered an overview of the hospital’s response to the pandemic. The hospital, which began planning for an outbreak in January, saw its first case March 10.

Though the hospital had 98 dedicated COVID-19 beds, only about 20 coronavirus patients have required hospitalization.

“We were not overrun,” Barrett said.

In March and April, the hospital staffed a testing site at no cost to the community and saw more than 2,000 residents. It worked with St. Johns Care Connect to help more than 500 families get access to food and rental assistance and partnered with EPIC Behavioral Health to address a

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Karen Everett
Director PVB Division,
St. Johns County
Chamber of Commerce

We've heard lots of cliché's about the moment; my new favorite is that we are experiencing a tear in the matrix.

That said, we have opportunities to see our lives with new lenses (stolen from a Chamber webinar from speaker Nancy Dering Mock). We can choose to transition with lenses that allow us to approach recovery by re-opening, revitalizing or re-imagining.

Let's revitalize by stepping up and participating—Chamber events may not look the same, but we invite you to journey with us as we re-imagine.

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division board and ambassadors have been busy reaching out to fellow members, hosting several webinars and scheduling ribbon cuttings...

Yes, we had two ribbon cuttings on May 30 and June 6 and we are looking forward to a groundbreaking on June 25 in Nocatee. Please join us to welcome new businesses to our community and to the Chamber.

While several events were cancelled or rescheduled, we got back in the non-COVID-19 groove by scheduling a Virtual Chamber at Noon on Wednesday, June 17. Kevin Craig, AT&T, joined us to discuss 5G. While we weren't able to be physically present, we sent a post-event notice with the names of those who attended the session and posted the briefing on our website for our members. AND, we are proceeding with plans for our first post-COVID-19 Before Hours on Wednesday, July 8, at the gorgeous TPC Club and the

Member Appreciation Event on July 23 at the lovely Sawgrass Beach Club. Watch for registration information.

We'll be scheduling other Before Hours and After Hours soon. I know many of you have registered to virtually attend other Chamber events that would have been difficult to attend in person. AND, don't forget to vote. A ballot was sent to all Chamber members in early June. Vote for fellow members willing to step up to become volunteer leaders in FY20-21.

And, we have opened the Ponte Vedra Beach Office, also known as the Visitor Information Center. We have masks, gloves and sanitizers. Please come by to visit.

Regards.

SJC Chamber to hold annual golf tournament Sept. 29

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and presenting sponsor CenterState Bank invite you to join us for an afternoon of golf at one of St. Augustine's most prestigious courses — The Palencia Club.

Combining the best of business and pleasure, the 2020 Annual Golf Classic will host 120 business and community leaders, providing the perfect blend of traditional play with a modern twist at nearly every hole.

This enjoyable day allows for businesses to use this unique event to connect with clients, colleagues, fellow business professionals and industry leaders while enjoying lunch, beverages and a day on the green. The tournament offers a variety of options for everyone to participate.

Registration and the range open at 10:30 a.m., fol-



lowed by lunch, with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Prizes and awards will immediately follow the tournament.

For more information, contact Andréa Knight at andrea.knight@sjcchamber.com or call (904) 829-5681.

AT&T Florida regional director discusses 5G technology at Chamber PVB Division event

Pivoting to a virtual platform, the Ponte Vedra Beach Division hosted a Chamber at Noon online June 17 and Kevin Craig, Regional Director, External and Legislative Affairs, AT&T Florida, explained how the advent of 5G technology will be changing our world.

5G is the fifth generation of wireless technology and will be faster and more robust than our current wireless technology. That means faster downloads and upload speeds. Latency, or the time it takes devices to communicate with wireless networks, will also drastically decrease. When is it arriving? Where will it be available? Which 5G smartphone should I buy and when?



Kevin Craig

Craig addressed these and other questions. The deployment of 5G will interact with autonomous vehicles, public safety and infrastructure, remote device control, health care, and the Internet of Things (IoT).

Sponsored by The Fields Group, the Chamber luncheons provide relevant information and networking opportunities. All attendees received a copy of Kevin's slides and a list of attendees.

The next Virtual Chamber at Noon will be Wednesday, July 15, and will feature a discussion of hurricane preparedness. It is open for registration on the Chamber's webpage at www.sjcchamber.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS: CHAMBER PVB DIVISION

JULY

Chamber Before Hours

Date: Wednesday, July 8

Time: 8-9 a.m.

Location/Sponsor: TPC Clubhouse
110 Championship Way, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Info: Attend to learn how to safely host events in one of our area's premier venues.

Virtual Chamber at Noon

Date: Wednesday, July 15

Time: 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom
Info: Kelley Wilson, Emergency Management, will discuss Hurricane Preparedness
Sponsor: Fields Auto Group

PVB Division Member Appreciation Awards

Date: Thursday, July 23

Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Location/Sponsor: Sawgrass Beach Club
9797 Summer Place, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Info: Register today for PVB Division's most anticipated signature event of the year! We safely return with our Annual Membership Appreciation Awards. Last year it was a safari party...this year we are going wild with a Mask-arade theme! Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, beverages and live music oceanfront at the Sawgrass Beach Club. Join us as we honor our members that make our little piece of paradise a great place to live, work and play! Sawgrass is eager to show that we can network in a safe and fun manner!

For more information or to register, visit www.sjcchamber.com, or call the Ponte Vedra Beach Division office at (904) 285-2004



Photo provided by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The Leadership St. Jošs Class of 2020 poses during a visit to the Ponte Vedra Cultural Center.

Leadership St. Jošs Class includes Ponte Vedra residents

Several residents of Ponte Vedra Beach are among the 2019-2020 class of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership St. Johns Program (LSJ). This year-long program selects

participants from all sectors of industry, commerce and public service across St. Johns County.
 Andrew Aleman, managing attorney, St. Johns Title, Ponte Vedra Beach;

Suzan Lupton, branch VP, VyStar Credit Union, Ponte Vedra Beach; and Matt Price, Regions Bank Vice President/ Commercial Banking, Ponte Vedra Beach, were selected for the current

class. “The networking with other business leaders throughout St. Johns County is rewarding and the Program

LEADERSHIP continues on **Page 17**

JOIN TODAY! IT HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER TO BECOME A MEMBER !



Being a **MEMBER** of the **ST. JOHNS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** has never been **EASIER!** For a limited time we are offering the option of **A MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP** with no obligation and **NO STRINGS ATTACHED!**

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--	--	---

SJCCC MEMBERSHIP YIELDS RESULTS!



Leadership

Continued from 16

Days have been real eye-openers,” said Matt.

The LSJ program began in 2001 and has over 350 alumni including Flagler College President Joseph Joyner, Superintendent of Schools Tim Forson, Flagler Health + CEO Jason Barrett, local entrepreneur and St. Augustine Distillery founding partner Phillip McDaniel, St. Johns County Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker and St. Augustine Fire Chief Carlos Aviles, among many other notable graduates.

The Leadership St. Johns Program was established to educate, connect and encourage elite and emerging professionals as they strive to make a positive impact on the local economy and community.

According to Bob Porter, the Chamber’s LSJ program director, LSJ graduates continue to be mentored by program alumni who maintain and promote a positive difference in the region. “The program provides a way to recognize talented individuals who will benefit from the experience and who can utilize the opportunity to advance their organizational and personal professional goals,” said Porter. “Additionally, strong connections established among class members are invaluable throughout one’s career and beyond.

The Chamber will begin accepting applications for the next class this summer.

Additional information can be found at www.sjcchamber.com/leadership-st-johns. The program runs from October through the following June. Class members must be committed to meeting one day each month to experience a full day of policy briefings and onsite tours providing an in-depth overview of the challenges and opportunities faced by St. Johns County’s many industries, government agencies and nonprofits. The course will begin with an evening reception, a 1½-day retreat and eight full class days and conclude with an evening graduation in June 2021. Class members who successfully graduate from the program are accepted into the prestigious ranks of leadership alumni in St. Johns County and across Florida. Many LSJ graduates have gone on to the prestigious statewide Leadership Florida program.

Isabelle Renault, the Chamber’s president/CEO and a graduate of Leadership St. Johns and Leadership Florida, suggested that involvement in LSJ can be a stepping-stone to participating in nonprofit and volunteer government advisory boards as well as involvement in future elected office. “We also want our class members to consider using the skills honed through the LSJ experience to engage actively in the governing of St. Johns County.”

EDC

Continued from 14

spike in mental health episodes.

Activity has bounced back in some areas. Inpatient treatment is at 92% of the pre-COVID-19 level. Outpatient heart procedures are at 96%, outpatient surgery is at 70%. Emergency care is at 61%, which is consistent with numbers nationally.

The hospital saw a financial impact of about \$15 million and has received federal funding to contend with that; much of it is a loan. Grant funding covered about 40% of lost revenue.

COVID-19 has not disrupted the hospital’s growth strategy. It is on track to open a health village in Nocatee in November, and groundbreaking on a Durbin Park health and wellness campus in partnership with UF Health is expected to be held in September.

Welcome

Morgan Stanley is proud to welcome Douglas F. Cochrane Captain, US Navy, Retired.



Doug Cochrane

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<https://advisor.morganstanley.com/doug.cochrane>
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PINSPIRATION HOLDS RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY



Photo provided by the SJC Chamber

Pinspiration owner Jen Schlechte (center) holds a ribbon-cutting ceremony with employees and Chamber members on June 6. Pinspiration is a DIY Craft Studio where people of all ages can come make the trendiest projects.

BURN BOOT CAMP OPENS



Burn Boot Camp opened its doors recently at the Nocatee Town Center. The camp focuses on challenging workouts to transform the lives of its members. While classes are conducted in a group setting, the camp is complying with recommendations set by the CDC. Franchise partner Jessica Melquist cut the ribbon to open her camp. Burn Boot Camp worked with the St. Jo's Chamber of Commerce to get business back on track during the COVID-19 pandemic. Businesses with questions or needing help should contact the chamber at www.sjchamber.com/business-continuity-recovery.

Photo by Lucia Miller, SJC Chamber

Nominations begin June 25



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

The Ponte Vedra Recorder is holding its 2nd annual BEST OF THE BEST OF PONTE VEDRA contest.

Readers will have the chance to nominate their favorite businesses in various categories online. Online voting will begin once nominations are complete.

www.pontevedrarecorder.com



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From the actions your local government is taking, to lists of local stores that are delivering and tips on what to do while you're at home, the Ponte Vedra Recorder is committed to bringing you the news you need, when you need it.

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To subscribe, call (904) 285-8831 www.pontevedrarecorder.com

New management takes over Ponte Vedra Auto Show

Art 'n Motion brings extensive car experience to event, set for Sept. 27

The annual Ponte Vedra Auto Show will continue under new ownership, announced the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

“I am excited to inform the community that this annual event will continue and be strengthened by the management of Art ‘n Motion,” said Isabelle Renault, president and CEO, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Art ‘n Motion was created to display classic and rare automobiles that are available for sale in a unique building just within the St. Augustine city entrance.

“We are pleased that this opportunity arose,” said Justin Felker, president of Art ‘n Motion. “We have always admired this well-regarded community event and look forward to continuing the show and supporting the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.”

Many of the vehicles are collected by the founders, but car owners will often display their rare car in the building’s “showroom” to display for other car lovers and collectors. Art ‘n Motion’s floor-to-ceiling windows facing the main road show off the vehicles and attract car lovers on a daily basis.

“We want to continue the public’s fascination with interesting automobiles and believe that events like the Ponte Vedra Auto Show need to be continued,” Felker said. “We also have some new ideas on creating a dynamic event that will continue for many more years.”

The 2020 show will be held on Sunday, Sept. 27, at the Nocatee Station Field. It will continue to be free and open to spectators and will feature both classic and new collectors’ cars vying for trophies. Cars can be registered at the website, www.pvautoshow.com. The 2020 Ponte Vedra Auto Show is funded in part by the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council.

To find out more about the St. Johns



The 2019 Best in Show Classic in Honor of Larry Weisman, sponsored by Wells Fargo Advisors, was awarded to Douglas Greer for his 1950 Plymouth Special Deluxe at the Ponte Vedra Auto Show in Nocatee on Sept. 22.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Visitors check out cars on display at last year’s Ponte Vedra Auto Show. This year’s Auto Show is scheduled for Sept. 27 at Nocatee Station Field.

County Chamber of Commerce or to become a member visit www.sjchamber.com, call (904) 829-5681, or find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sjchamber.

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PAGES 21-26



Mission House Christmas in July

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Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation fights COVID-19 with special masks

Mary Rosario knows how dangerous COVID-19 is, and like so many mothers she's taking precautions to protect her family.

But for Mary wearing masks, social distancing and disinfecting everything all the time is a full-time job. That's because her 7-year-old son, Gabe, has type 1 diabetes, and people with diabetes are at a higher risk of getting seriously ill or even dying from the virus.

"Having an immune-compromised child during this time has been challenging," Rosario said. "We need to be very careful everywhere we go and with anyone we come in contact with."

In addition, Rosario is also concerned about the impact the virus has had on fundraising events that underwrite vital research for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

The foundation drives research through advocacy and fundraising and with a consortium of researchers. It is the largest private funder of diabetes research worldwide.

"We have lost a substantial amount of funding that would have been raised through our community walks and galas, so COVID-19 forced us to

'reimagine' our fundraising efforts by taking our spring walk virtual, re-strategize how we connect with the community, supporters and those with type 1 diabetes," explained Brooks Biagini, executive director of JDRF North Florida.

The organization has had to make difficult decisions, Biagini said. About two months ago, it furloughed half its workforce and reduced salaries of the remaining staff by 20% to help ensure its mission is funded.

Even after these cost cutting measures, the foundation still faces a funding gap at a time when diabetes, types 1 and 2, is putting people at a higher risk with COVID-19.

Biagini emphasized that now is not the time to slow down research for treatments and a cure.

In an effort to reduce the funding gap and protect the community from the dangers of COVID-19, JDRF North Florida started the #StrongerTogether mask campaign.

For a donation of \$25 or more, donors will receive a branded, high-quality polyester-and-spandex, washable mask. Donors can also choose to have

them donated to an essential worker or someone with underlying conditions like diabetes through the website at www.strongertogethermasks.com.

Meanwhile, the global outbreak of COVID-19 has added new challenges, fears and uncertainties for people living with diabetes.

"My husband Robert and I feel very blessed to have the local JDRF to help support us with information as well as to provide us with supplies like these masks to assist in ensuring Gabe has the best opportunity to reduce his exposure to COVID-19," Rosario said.

No decision has yet been made on whether JDRF North Florida's 20th anniversary Miracles Gala, scheduled for Oct. 17, will be in person or virtual.

"We are watching the infection rate, and we want to make the safest decision," Biagini said. "Many of our diabetic clients and their families attend this event, so we are holding out on making a decision yet. We also know things are financially tight for so many people, but if you are in a position where you can help support one of our most vulnerable populations, we need your help."



Photo provided the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
Mary Rosario and son Gabe wear masks available through the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's #StrongerTogether campaign.

20TH ANNIVERSARY JDRF MIRACLES GALA

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LOCATION!

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KASEY REPASS
Gala Event Co-Chair



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH | PONTE VEDRA INN & CLUB

Join JDRF North Florida for the 20th Anniversary Miracles Gala, when the community will come together to have a positive impact on the lives of millions living with type 1 diabetes.

Guests will enjoy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a seated dinner, silent and live auctions and entertainment.

Let's celebrate the collective efforts that have helped advance JDRF's mission over 20 years on the First Coast.

We continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19 and will manage plans appropriately to ensure the health and safety of our community.

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Visit www.jdrf.org to learn about the latest type 1 diabetes advances, resources and education



Photo provided by K9s for Warriors

K9s for Warriors celebrates its June graduates from the Ponte Vedra-based facility.

Leadership Florida presents 2020 Florida Impact Award to PV-based K9s For Warriors

K9s For Warriors has received the 2020 Florida Impact Award from Leadership Florida, an organization dedicated to building a better Florida.

The Florida Impact Award recognizes a business or nonprofit organization that has created a specific project or body of work that is transforming the future of its region or beyond and has the potential to

transform Florida as a whole.

K9s For Warriors was recognized for its innovative service dog program, which challenges the traditional system to better provide disabled veterans with the opportunity to pursue lifesaving tools and proves rescue dogs can be heroes.

K9S FOR WARRIORS continues on **Page 26**

K9S FOR WARRIORS
We are grateful for our community's support

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Due to current health concerns, the SenioRITAs at Sawgrass have decided to cancel the Tennis Tournament, Auction Party and Kickoff Party in 2020. We are not asking local businesses for donations this year due to the difficult economic environment. Instead, we would like to thank them for their faithful support and encourage you to **“BUY LOCAL”**.

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TWO DUDES SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
TWO WOMEN AND A SHOVEL

UNDER ARMOUR SPORTS
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“WORKING FOR CRAZY”, BO & TIA
WORLD GOLF HALL OF FAME

WE LOOK FORWARD TO RESUMING ALL OUR SENIORITA EVENTS IN 2021!

Port in the Storm thanks community for saving homeless youth

One year ago, the people of St. Johns County came together to celebrate the completion and grand opening of Port in the Storm Homeless Youth Center. Since then, thanks to the commitment of the community, more than 100 youth have found hope, a safe place off the streets and a bridge to the future.

Port in the Storm provides the only comprehensive services for the homeless unaccompanied youth of St. Johns County. The program is unique in that it serves local youth, males and females, is low-barrier — youth are not court-ordered there — and is presently com-

pletely community supported.

Port in the Storm currently serves youth ages 18 to 24. This is the fastest growing population of homeless in Florida and the United States. St. Johns County has the highest instance of successful suicide for this age group in the state.

The program at Port in the Storm includes day drop-in services for all homeless youth and safe overnight shelter for up to 16. Professional trained staff provide programs that are based in

PORT continues on Page 26



Port in the Storm Homeless Youth Center is marking its first anniversary. The program helps at-risk youth ages 18-24.

Photos provided by Port in the Storm

Teens help nonprofit to feed children

A group of local teens has been helping to make sure hungry children have enough to eat.

The 20-member team of Nease High School students has been providing 200 healthy weekend meal packs for elementary school students at risk of hunger each week during the school year.

The team has been working with the First Coast Chapter of Blessings in a Backpack, which makes sure that students who depend on the school lunch program receive two healthy meals and two healthy snacks on weekends when they aren't in school.

According to chapter managing director Susan Evans, the chapter normally serves 3,800 students in Duval and St. Johns counties, but during the COVID-19 shutdown, that number ballooned to about 9,000. Next year, the chapter will add Clay County students to the program.

For several years, graduating senior



Photo provided by Blessings in a Backpack
Maya Albold, this year's valedictorian at Nease High School, helped to lead the Blessings student team.

Students Maya Albold, Taylor Hampson and Khushi Jamwal led the Nease team in purchasing, packaging and distributing the meals to local students.

"Partnering with First Coast Blessings and working with my team at Nease allowed me to do what I loved to do and be of value to my community," Albold said. "It also proved to me again and again that change, real change, can start in your neighborhood, your school and your home. It begins with your heart, and then you make it happen."

Albold is this year's valedictorian and president of her senior class. She has been accepted to Yale University.

Carolyn Milian is Nease librarian and Blessings student team advisor.

To learn more, go to firstcoast.blessingsinabackpack.org

Lori Anderson leaves Mission House to head Beaches Dial-A-Ride nonprofit

By Amber Lake

Mission House's Executive Director Lori Anderson recently announced she is beginning a new chapter at another local nonprofit, Beaches Dial-A-Ride.

Anderson will be taking the role of executive director after 10 years of making Mission House the top provider of compassionate homeless care at the beach. Carina Saladino will be taking her place as the new Executive Director of Mission House.

"[Ten years ago] I had no nonprofit experience whatsoever," Anderson said. "I had a good management background, however, and that's what Mission House needed."

During her tenure, Anderson helped create a day facility where local homeless individuals could have access to resources, more than doubled their budget and team, expanded the Mission House building and created an endowment that ensures the basic life services provided by Mission House would never be threatened — even in an economic downturn.

Anderson credits a hard-working staff for Mission House's success over the years.

"My motto is 'I hire good people and then get out of the way,'" she said. "Together, we built something amazing."

Anderson will start July 6 providing much-needed transportation assistance for the area's elderly population at Dial-A-Ride.

"When [seniors] lose their driving privileges, they lose everything," Anderson said. "They lose their freedom and their independence. Sometimes, they even lose their will to keep going."

Dial-A-Ride is the flagship service of the Beaches Council on Aging and has been providing eldercare for seniors and people with disabilities since 1975. During her time with Dial-A-Ride, Anderson said she hopes to make the program a household name at the Beaches.

"I've told some of my friends where I'm going and they say, 'What's Dial-A-Ride?'" Anderson said. "We are going to let this community know a valuable resource that we have, and that people's grandparents, mothers and fathers can use. We are going to get the word out."

For more information about the Beaches Dial-A-Ride, go to www.beachescoa.com.

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K9s For Warriors

Continued from 23

The nomination came from Nan Rothstein on behalf of the Northeast Regional Council of Leadership Florida.

“Knowing how many other outstanding nonprofits there are in Florida, this award is absolutely humbling to receive,” K9s For Warriors CEO Rory Diamond said. “I assure you that our staff and volunteers are incredibly dedicated to transforming Florida to be a leader in veteran suicide prevention and rescuing dogs from shelters to give them a new purpose. All of us at K9s For Warriors thank Leadership Florida for this recognition and honor.”

Leadership Florida comprises multiple programs that connect individuals, organizations and businesses to build a better Florida through both individual and organizational capacities.

“K9s For Warriors provides an invaluable service to our disabled American heroes,” said Broward College President and Leadership Florida Chair Gregory Adam Haile. “We can never do enough in service of our veterans, who have given so much to keep us safe and secure. Leadership Florida is proud to recognize K9s For Warriors with the 2020 Florida Impact Award.”

Leadership Florida presented the award at its annual business meeting on Thursday, June 18.

Port

Continued from 25

positive youth development, which builds on a youth’s strengths and provides support and opportunities that will help them achieve goals and transition to adulthood in a productive, healthy manner.

The young people served at Port in the Storm are often disconnected from their families and other social support. Many have endured traumatic childhood experiences.

In addition to living on the streets, they have survived abusive homes, aged out of foster care or have been victims of human

trafficking and exploitation.

One such youth came in last week. She has experienced a lot of pain in her short life and has been selling herself to survive. But now she is safe, away from those who just use her and with people who will provide the hope and direction that she so desperately needs.

Port in the Storm has publicly thanked the community for making youth a priority.

To donate or learn more, go to www.stfrancisshelter.org or call (904) 824-8987.

Port in the Storm and St. Francis House are programs of St. Augustine Society Inc. providing comprehensive housing crisis services for homeless youth, adults and families in St. Johns County.

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Port in the Storm and St. Francis House are programs of St. Augustine Society, Inc., providing housing crisis services for homeless youth, adults and families in St. Johns County.

Business Weekly

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THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020

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Send us your business news to pvrecorder@opcfla.com



GreenWise Market opens in Nocatee Town Center

Local residents lined the sidewalk on Saturday, June 20, for the official opening of the GreenWise Market in Nocatee Town Center. Store Manager Leslie Anderson cut the ceremonial ribbon for the 25,147-square-foot store, which features all-natural and organic products.

This is the Publix Super Markets' ninth GreenWise Market, its fifth in Florida. The address is 250 Pine Lake Drive.

According to a company spokesperson, experience zones in the store add new elements and variety to the customer's shopping experience.

Customers will find vitamins, nutritional supplements, natural soaps and more in the "Cares" zone; meats raised with no antibiotics or added hormones and sustainably sourced seafood in "Cuts"; made-to-order meals in "Eats"; wine and imported cheese in "Finds"; and a beverage area featuring locally roasted coffee, wine and beer on tap in "Pours."

Another GreenWise Market is being planned for the intersection of International Golf Parkway and State Road 16, though no opening date has yet been determined.

GreenWise Market holds a grand-opening ceremony at its new location at the Nocatee Town Center on Saturday, June 20. The Nocatee location is just the ninth GreenWise Market in the country, and the fifth in Florida.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Financial Focus: PPP loans now have more flexibility



Karsten Jacobson
Columnist

If you're a business owner struggling with some of the provisions of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) — part of the CARES economic stimulus legislation for small-business owners designed to address

COVID-19 — you may find its new provisions provide you with more flexibility. And if you haven't yet applied for a PPP loan, it's not too late.

First, here's a little background. The PPP was designed to help companies with fewer than 500 employees receive loans from banks and other lenders, primarily to cover payroll costs and other operating expenses during the crisis. If businesses met certain conditions, these loans would be forgivable. But some parts of the PPP still proved problematic for business owners.

For one thing, the PPP program initially required businesses to spend 75% of their loan proceeds on payroll within eight weeks of loan receipt. This provided little flexibility on how the loan proceeds could be used. For businesses closed because of COVID-19, it may have been difficult to meet other costs, such as mortgage payments, rents and utilities.

Now, due to just-passed legislation known as the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act (PPPFA), the amount of the loan required to be spent on payroll is reduced from 75% to 60%, freeing up 40% of the loan proceeds for approved operating expenses. Further, the PPPFA extends the period for spending the loans to the earlier of 24 weeks or Dec. 31, 2020. As such, businesses now have additional time to rehire workers and use the loan proceeds toward their salaries, with those amounts still eligible for loan forgiveness. Under the original legislation, to have the loan proceeds fully forgiven, businesses had to

rehire their workers by June 30, even if they weren't open or operating at full capacity.

Even with these new, more relaxed rules, some businesses still won't be able to meet the payroll requirements for loan forgiveness — but the PPPFA has something for them, too. The first version of the PPP only gave businesses two years to repay the loans, or parts of the loans that weren't forgiven, but the new legislation expanded this period to five years.

Also, the PPPFA allows businesses to defer Social Security payroll taxes on the forgivable portions of their loans; previously, this deferment was not allowed under the CARES Act.

If you've already obtained PPP funding, you may not have to take much action, because most of the PPPFA changes are retroactive and will automatically apply to your loan. However, lenders that made loans before the PPPFA was enacted are not required to modify existing loans to the five-year repayment period, so you may

want to contact your loan provider for more information.

And if you haven't yet applied for a PPP loan, you may still have the opportunity. As of early June, about \$130 billion in PPP loan money was available, according to the Small Business Administration (SBA). For more information on how you can apply for a loan, visit www.sba.gov or contact an SBA lender, federally insured depository institution, federally insured credit union or Farm Credit System institution.

In seeking relief from the effects of COVID-19, business owners have faced a tough road with plenty of bumps along the way. But the latest source of help from Washington may just make your path a little smoother.

Karsten L. Jacobson, CFP, is a financial advisor for Edward Jones at 2208 Sawgrass Village Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach. For information, call (904) 285-9898. This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.



Artist Jeanine Owen cuts out a silhouette of Linda Konopacki during the Lightner Museum gift shop's recent open house.

Lightner Museum opens new gift shop

Unveiling symbolic of larger makeover

By Shaun Ryan

In absence of visitors during the recent COVID-19 shutdown, the Lightner Museum has undergone a transformation. Returning patrons will find that almost the entire first floor has been given a makeover.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the gift shop, which was the focus of an open house Thursday, June 18.

The shop, formerly located on the mezzanine level over the old pool area, has been moved into the space that had housed the Victorian Village, which has been retired after three decades on display.

“It makes sense for the gift shop to be on the first floor of the museum,” said Angela de Gregory, volunteer coordinator and events manager. “I think we’ll get a lot more traffic. Also, I think that the new gift shop is kind of symbolic of a larger transition that the museum is making as we move forward.”

The shop is an attraction in itself. The windows, formerly covered over, now let in bright sunlight to give a luster to the treasures on display. The merchandise is unusual, purposefully sought out by store manager and buyer Katie Fieldman.

“I think it makes a unique store, because I try to get merchandise that you don’t see around town,” she said.

She pointed out a selection of purses from London and a display of globes that slowly spin on their axes.

The shop also now sells items branded with the museum’s logo, as well as merchandise with a local flavor such as coffee from The Kookaburra and photography by Jackie Hird.

“We’re trying to expand the items a little bit more to also represent our local community,” de Gregory said.

A seating area, where visitors can enjoy a beverage or a snack, has been added to the



Photos by Shaun Ryan

Kimberly Newsome and Paul Black sit in the shop's new café-style nook.

shop as well.

The area vacated by the shop will house a restored stained-glass exhibit and a new virtual reality exhibit, in which visitors will be able to design their own virtual Gilded Age mansions based upon photos of some of the most popular items from the museum’s collection.

The museum was closed to the public from mid-March through the first week of May in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak. During that time, the entire first floor was repainted and refloored, two new public restrooms were constructed, a new sound system was installed and a lot of plumbing and electrical work was performed.

In the science room, the taxidermied lion once owned by Winston Churchill is among the exhibits being spruced up.

“He’s, overall, in good shape, but I think we’re going to give him a new eye and brush him a little — just give him a little makeover,” said de Gregory.

The shutdown came as museum officials were planning to recreate the gift shop anyway. The enforced absence of the public allowed staff to make use of the time to the museum’s advantage.

The museum at 75 King St. is located in the former Alcazar Hotel, built in the 1890s by Henry Flagler. The hotel eventually closed and the building was purchased by Otto C. Lightner, who opened the museum in the 1940s.

THEME: 4TH OF JULY

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ACROSS

- 1. Begone!
- 5. Blue
- 8. Instinctive motive
- 12. Barbershop supply
- 13. Cover with asphalt
- 14. Twist and distort
- 15. Dismounted
- 16. Tiny particle
- 17. Like smell of burning rubber
- 18. *King of Great Britain when America won independence
- 20. Same as pleaded
- 21. "Well-___ machine"
- 22. *Abigail Adams ___ Smith
- 23. *Preferred cooking device on the 4th
- 25. They play dead
- 29. Tiller's tiller
- 30. Santa's reindeer
- 33. Dwarf buffalo
- 34. Smart ones?
- 36. "___ the hills and far away"
- 37. Penicillin holder, e.g.

- 38. Part of both levorotary and levorotatory
- 39. *Like 4th of July
- 41. Cholera
- 42. Egg dishes
- 44. Actress Close
- 46. *Jefferson was three and Washington was ___
- 47. Medal of Honor word
- 49. Castle material
- 51. *Roman Candles and Fountains, e.g.
- 55. Manuscript sheet
- 56. Dirty money
- 57. Dire fate
- 58. Type of wrench
- 59. Charitable contribution
- 60. Genesis twin
- 61. Dad's lads
- 62. General Services Administration
- 63. Job for a body shop

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	2	1	3		6			

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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.

- 14. Stares
- 19. Decorates with gold leaf
- 22. Negative conjunction
- 23. Jewish folklore creature
- 24. "Superman" star
- 25. Machu Picchu country
- 26. Remove from Pinterest board
- 27. Grieve
- 28. *Many retailers hold one for the 4th of July
- 29. Sign of a saint
- 31. * ___ of Liberty
- 32. Rooster's girlfriend
- 35. *13 of these at the start
- 37. Give a green light
- 39. *What contestants did at Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest
- 40. Ends of shoe laces
- 43. "___ a high note"
- 45. What river did to bank
- 47. Viola da Gamba, pl.
- 48. Wafting pleasantness
- 49. Aria, e.g.
- 50. Comrade in arms
- 51. *It should never touch ground
- 52. Official flower of the Kentucky Derby
- 53. Riddle without solution
- 54. Obscenity
- 55. Like The Beatles

DOWN

- 1. Without a date
- 2. *American Revolutionary War spy, Nathan
- 3. Miscellany
- 4. Type of local tax
- 5. French composer of "Gymnopédies" fame
- 6. Steer clear
- 7. Prefix for half
- 8. *U. S. personified
- 9. Steak choice
- 10. Power system
- 11. Former times
- 13. Saffron-flavored rice dish

Sports

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Send your sports news to
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Kirk's sobriety, final-hole birdie leads to first victory in 5 years

By Don Coble

Chris Kirk considered quitting golf a year ago. The demons that controlled his life sent him spiraling out of control as he dealt with the pressure of a game that never was supposed to be so difficult.

He thought he found resolution in the bottle.

Kirk continued his professional and personal comeback Saturday afternoon with a three-foot birdie putt on the 72nd hole to win the King & Bear Classic at World Golf Village.

A four-time winner on the PGA TOUR won for the first time since winning the Charles Schwab Challenge at Fort Worth, Texas, in 2015 by getting up-and-down on the final hole to beat Justin Lower by a shot.

Kirk finished with 5-under 67 for a four-day total of 26-under 262.

The victory was worth \$108,000. But what it meant to his recovery was priceless.

"It gives me a deeper sense of appreciation and gratitude for everything," Kirk said. "I'm a completely different person than I was two years ago. When you're faced with a situation where you're completely out of control of your own life, it changes things."

Kirk took an indefinite leave of absence from the TOUR a year ago to deal with his drinking problem and depres-

sion. He quickly learned the answers couldn't be found in a cocktail or on the golf course.

"I didn't touch a club for three and a half months and was able to get some help thankfully and get myself back on the right track," he said. "I think my alcoholism may have happened to me no matter what, but part of it was being on the road away from my family, which I hate, and the pressure of golf and trying to maintain a high level of playing became too much for me.

"I hate that it did but taking that break and getting some help gave me some perspective that maybe this isn't as important as we make it out to be. Yes, it's my career and my passion and what I love to do, but there are bigger things in life. I can't wait to get home [Saturday night] and give my wife and three boys a hug and that's what I care more about now, it's amazing seeing the complete shift in my mentality as far as that's concerned."

Kirk quickly erased a four-shot deficit during the final round. Vince India led by four after 54 holes, but a final-round 76 dropped him to an eight-way tie for sixth-place. Included in that group was Nocatee's Jared Wolfe.

Lower birdied four of the final five holes, including a birdie at 18, for a 66. All he could do is watch helplessly as Kirk clinched the win with a birdie.

"It was a great week," he said. "Things were working



Photo by Ben Jared PGA Tour via Getty Images

Chris Kirk tees off at the 17th hole during the final round.

better than it has been. I made one bogey each day, just one little mistake each day here and there and that's golf, that's the way it is, but I'm proud of the way I fought toward the end."

Joseph Bramlett (64) and Will Zalatoris (68) finished tied for third, while Wes Roach (68) was fifth.

Bramlett finished second a week earlier at the Korn Ferry Challenge at Pete Dye's Valley Course and TPC Sawgrass.

Kirk hopes to play his way back onto the PGA TOUR. If so, he will embrace the opportunity.

"Everybody out here works really hard, but that guarantees you absolutely nothing and so that was one of the feelings I was having, that I didn't want to beat my head against the wall anymore," Kirk said. "But after not playing for a few months it was easy to remember why I love playing and competing. There are times it can beat you down, but the success and the good times are well worth it."

Tesori amazed by calm nature of Simpson's whirlwind victory

Nocatee caddie confounded by couple's RBC Heritage win

By Don Coble

The final six holes of last Sunday's RBC Heritage were such a blur, Paul Tesori couldn't wait to get home to watch a replay.

He drove 200 miles from Harbour Town Golf Links at Hilton Head, South Carolina, to Nocatee. He sat down with a couple slices of pizza and hot wings to see exactly how his golfer, Webb Simpson, rallied down the stretch for the couple's second victory of the year.

Tesori, Simpson's longtime caddie, said the lack of fans and a frenzied, yet quiet, rally by many of the PGA TOUR's top players was too much to comprehend during the heat of battle.

Simpson birdied five of his last seven holes, including a tournament-clinching 18-foot birdie at No. 17, to break the Heritage 72-hole scoring record by two shots. A 7-under-par 64 gave Simpson a four-day total of 22-under, and it propelled him to the top of the FedEx Cup standings.

Tesori wasn't hopeful after Simpson only made birdies on two of his first 11 holes,

especially since everyone else was playing lights-out.

"Walking to 12, I wasn't giving up, but it probably wasn't going to be our day," he said Monday. "Before you knew it, it happened so quickly. We all know golf is a momentum sport, but before we knew it, an hour later we were walking up the 18th fairway and you think, 'I don't know what happened.'

"It's only the second time Webb and I have won two [tournaments] in the same season, going all the way back to our first season in 2011. I see the difference in the kid then to the man I work for has been really special to sit back and watch."

Together they've won seven times, including the 2012 U.S. Open and THE PLAYERS in 2018.

Wins at Phoenix and Harbour Town have helped propel Simpson to No. 5 in the world rankings. Yet Tesori's most-lasting memory always will be the couple's runaway win at TPC Sawgrass' Stadium Course in 2018.

"There's not really much to compare," Tesori said. "At THE PLAYERS, we hadn't won in almost five years — I think it was four and three-quarter years — not that we

keep count. He was the man all week at THE PLAYERS.

"So many guys had a chance to win this one, where at THE PLAYERS we pretty much knew it was on our shoulders. We just went ahead and got the job done. Nothing is ever going to replace the '18 PLAYERS in my mind. I've told everyone it's my biggest win as a caddy. Fortunate to win over 20 tournaments as a caddy, including 2012 U.S. Open [with Simpson]. THE PLAYERS, for me, blew them all away."

Still, last weekend's victory was special. Simpson beat Abraham Ancer by one stroke; Tyrell Hatton and Colonial winner Daniel Berger by two; Sergio Garcia and Joaquin Niemann by three and Brooks Koepka by four.

Months earlier, Tesori was home hitting balls and playing golf. Now he's back on equally-familiar ground — the Winner's Circle.

Simpson opened this year's PLAYERS with a 4-under 68 to trail Hideki Matsuyama by five shots. Shortly after the first round was completed, the PGA TOUR canceled the tournament — and the next 12 tournaments — to keep players and fans safe from the coronavirus.

Tesori, a three-time All-America player at Florida and part of the Gators' 1993 national championship team, worked on his own game during the 13-week in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The TOUR resumed operations two weeks ago with the Colonial at Fort Worth, Texas. And, like Heritage, it didn't include fans.

"One of my fears going into this without fans was momentum," Tesori said. "We saw a little of that at Colonial. Those guys at that level, when things aren't going good and you make a putt for birdie, the jolt of energy from the crowd can kind of push you forward."

The lack of galleries also made it difficult to judge what other players were doing.

"When Webb got to the 13th hole and saw the leaderboard, he was in shock," Tesori said. "What was happening? Where are all these birdies coming from? The level of play from the field was so deep, like nothing I've ever seen. You would have known that from the past with all the roars, with Brooks going nuts and Berger making a big push. Joaquin making a push ahead. You would have heard it, but there wasn't any."

But it finally came into focus after Tesori watched a replay of their victory.

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