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PONTE VEDRA



TP SEEN
edition

Recorder

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Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com



INSIDE Check it Out!

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



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Who's Who in Law Page 32-35

A FIERCE FINISH



Photo by Craig O'Neal

Justin Thomas storms through
final two rounds with a tournament
record-tying two-day score to win
THE PLAYERS Championship last
Sunday at TPC Sawgrass, as
early frontrunners Lee Westwood,
Bryson DeChambeau implode
down the stretch. *For more from
the tournament, go to page 42.*

TP SEEN: A look at activities, events and more surrounding the tournament, **INSIDE**



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

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

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

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

Holly Tishfield
Reporter
holly@opcfla.com
(904) 285-8831

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

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
904-463-4407

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

NOTE TO READERS

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.

ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

Hello and let me introduce myself! My name is Trixie, I am a 1-year-old female tortoise shell. I adore sitting perched in a window or just snuggling on your lap. Come see me at the Pet Center today! # 57841



DOG OF THE WEEK

Greetings! My name is Lotus!. I am a 2-year-old male, terrier mix who came to the shelter as a stray. I was hoping someone would claim me, but that didn't happen so I am ready to find a new fur-ever home — maybe with your family? I am very friendly, and while it is great here, I would rather be with a family of people who will love me and I can love them back! Come meet me at the Pet Center today! #57818

Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to its new environment. Please reinforce house training and behavioral training, and be mindful of interacting with other pets.

St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions are \$30 for males and \$40 for females. Dog adoptions are \$45 for males and \$60 for females. Adoption fees include microchipping, neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The Pet Center is located at 130 N. Stratton Road in St. Augustine, off U.S. 1 between County Road 210 and International Golf Parkway. Business hours are Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is closed to the public on Sunday. On Monday, the office is open by appointment only to claim a lost pet. **For more information, please call the St. Johns County Pet Center at (904) 209-6190.**

BRIEFS

St. Johns County receives Regional Award for Excellence in affordable housing

St. Johns County was recently awarded the Regional Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing by the Northeast Florida Regional Council for the county's new workforce housing zoning designation. The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners authorized a new zoning designation that would offer incentives for local developers to produce housing for families that make less than the annual median income. The award recognizes individuals, organizations or specific projects with a primary focus on meeting the planning

and growth management needs of communities within the Northeast Florida region. For more information, go to www.sjcfcl.us/GrowthManagement/index.aspx.

New St. Johns County Art in Public Spaces exhibit features local artists

St. Johns County's Art in Public Spaces program will host the "Outside the Box" art exhibition through April 29 at the County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View in St. Augustine. Hosted in partnership with the St. Johns Cultural Council and Art Box, the exhibit, which features more than two dozen talented St. Johns County artists, has

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

DANCE	ARP	BREW
OPIUM	PUL	SUITE
GENRE	ENE	ALGAL
REDSOX	BATBALL	
SIT	AERY	
HAG	STAB	CRITIC
IRON	ELAN	STOMA
JUTE	RELIC	ETAS
ABASH	SOLE	MAGE
BATTED	NEAR	LOY
	ROVE	SET
FIELDER	GEHRIG	
OLDIE	OAR	AIDED
BIDED	ODE	SNEER
SAYS	MOW	HEADY

1	2	6	5	9	4	7	3	8
9	8	3	1	2	7	6	5	4
5	7	4	6	8	3	2	1	9
8	6	7	9	5	2	3	4	1
2	4	5	3	1	8	9	6	7
3	9	1	7	4	6	5	8	2
6	5	2	8	7	1	4	9	3
4	1	9	2	3	5	8	7	6
7	3	8	4	6	9	1	2	5

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

CALLING ALL EXPLORERS

Spring Zoo Camp registration now open!



Register today at jacksonvillezoo.org



Briefs

Continued from 2

artwork in a variety of mediums including paint, photography and woodworking. In addition, four of these featured local art-

ists created large scale murals specifically for this exhibit to represent and showcase the beauty of St. Johns County. Visitors are invited to view the exhibit from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. To learn more about the St. Johns Cultural Council, go to www.historiccoastculture.com.

SJC Master Gardener Volunteer Program to hold fundraising plant sale

UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Master Gardener Volunteer Program is holding a fundraising plant sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, April 16, at 3125 Agricultural Center Drive in St. Augustine. Only cash or checks will be accepted. Only 20 shoppers will be permitted in nursery at a time. All CDC and UF guidelines for social distancing, face coverings and sanitation will be followed. For more information, call (904) 209-0430.

Ponte Vedra Democratic Club to hold meeting, continue series April 14

The Ponte Vedra Democratic Club will hold its monthly Zoom meeting and Part 2 of its series on the branches of govern-

ment at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14. The meeting will feature Ambassador Nancy Soderberg, current UNF political science professor, former ambassador, former U.S. Senate staffer and former congressional candidate (FL-6) discussing "The Legislative Branch." To request Zoom link for the meeting, email janetkary@gmail.com.

Hospital Creek Bridge to temporarily close for project

As part of the Hospital Creek Bridge improvement project located on State Road A1A just west of the Vilano Bridge, the Hospital Creek Bridge will be temporarily closed, nightly, to traffic intermittently (30-minute increments) from 9:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. Thursday, March 18, through Wednesday, March 31.



Jeff Hart Memorial Service Above Self Scholarship
Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Palm Valley

One \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded to the top applicant from Ponte Vera and Allen D. Nease High Schools.

Applicants must be:

- Involved in community service/volunteer work
- A junior or senior at Ponte Vedra or Allen D. Nease H.S.
- In good academic standing
- Planning to attend a two or four year college or university, or a technical/trade school with a one year or longer program of study

Applications due April 3, 2021
Apply at tinyurl.com/y5k3cvfe



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DeSantis appoints Ponte Vedra resident to Environmental Regulation Commission

North Florida Land Trust president joins 3 other appointees to board

Gov. Ron DeSantis announced four appointments to the Environmental Regulation Commission on March 12, including Ponte Vedra resident Jim McCarthy.

Dr. Thomas K. Frazer, Cari Roth and Eric Buermann were also appointed to the commission.

McCarthy is president of the North Florida Land Trust. Previously, he was executive director of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and president of Spectrum Marketing and Public Affairs. McCarthy currently serves on the Environmental Regulation Commission and has been involved with the Jacksonville Chamber

of Commerce, the University of North Florida's Osprey Club, the Alliance of Florida Land Trusts and the Florida Conservation Coalition.

Frazer is dean of the College of Marine Science at the University of South Florida. Previously, he was director of the University of Florida's School of Natural Resources and Environment and served as the state of Florida's first chief science officer. Frazer also previously served as acting director of the University of Florida's Water Institute and associate director of the university's School of Forest Resources and Conservation in addition to leading their Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Program.

Roth, of Tallahassee, is vice president of governmental and regulatory affairs for Lykes Bros, Inc. Previously, she was

a shareholder at Dean Mead and general counsel and assistant secretary at Florida's Department of Community Affairs. Roth currently serves on the Environmental Regulation Commission and is a member of The Florida Bar, Tallahassee Women Lawyers, Leadership Florida and the Capital Women's Network.

Buermann, of Key Largo, is an attorney and former chairman of the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board. Previously, he was of counsel at Squire Patton Boggs. Buermann has volunteered his time with the National Tropical Botanical Garden, the University of Miami School of Law Center for Ethics and Public Service, Ransom Everglades School and the National Audubon Society.

These appointments are subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Parking on Ponte Vedra Boulevard

To residents of Ponte Vedra Beach, Currently parking on the entire stretch of Ponte Vedra Boulevard for lawn, landscape, pool and general service vehicles is allowed for a limited reasonable duration. With the increase in traffic, this is causing dangerous conditions. The MSD is requesting that the Ponte Vedra Zoning Board "PVZAB" rewrite the current parking code to read as follows:

11.d "Truck Tractors or Truck Tractor Semi Trailers, as those terms are defined in Chapters 316, Florida Statutes, but only when used to transport and deliver furniture, appliances, bulk materials, or other belongings or property of a person and only for so long as is reasonably necessary to load or unload. Parking of said vehicle for greater than 10 minutes shall require the use of onsite flag persons or safety cones. This exception does not apply to vehicles used for regular periodic deliveries or regular periodic services provided to a property or person, including for the purposes of lawn/landscape maintenance or other maintenance and repair services."

If this code change is made, it will be illegal for service trucks and trucks with trailers, which do regular periodic services like lawn, pool, and pest maintenance to park in the right of way. They will need to park in yards or driveways and not block sidewalks. Only government and public service vehicles will be allowed. Currently, this is how Corona Road, Solana Road, Roscoe Boulevard, and Ponte Vedra Boulevard north of the county line all operate.

Carriers like UPS, Amazon, appliance, furniture, and construction material deliveries will be allowed time reasonably necessary, and if greater than 10 minutes, shall require use of flag person or safety cones, as in moving vans.

Parking for parties on your own property is permissible. Valet or parking in the right of way requires a permit and officer as currently written in the code.

I would propose that if this code change causes a hardship, a homeowner should have the right to apply for a variance to add a circular drive on lots with less than 150-foot frontage, as is currently required.

Too many times, zoning changes do not get attention until after being passed, so if you have an opinion, attend the next PVZAB meeting on the first Monday of April at 3 p.m. at the county auditorium on Lewis Speedway in St. Augustine.

Sincerely,
Brad Scott,
Ponte Vedra Beach resident

Reps. Rutherford, Pappas, Waltz, Lawson, Stivers reintroduce PAWS Act

Bill, which would benefit organizations like K9s For Warriors, receives bipartisan support

U.S. Rep. John Rutherford recently announced the reintroduction of H.R. 1022, the Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers (PAWS) Act of 2021, which will increase access to service dogs for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.

The PAWS Act establishes a competitive grant program through the Department of Veterans Affairs for organizations, such as K9s For Warriors in Ponte Vedra, to pair service dogs with veterans suffering from PTSD. Rutherford (R-Florida) joined in this effort with Reps. Chris Pappas (D-New Hampshire), Michael Waltz (R-Florida), Al Lawson (D-Florida) and Steve Stivers (R-Ohio).

"Research from the V.A. has concluded that service dogs are a proven therapy for those suffering from PTSD," Rutherford said. "With 20 veterans



John Rutherford



Al Lawson

taking their own lives each day, we must do more to help those with PTSD and other service-connected forms of trauma. I am proud to reintroduce the PAWS Act to help our warfighters lead productive and successful lives once they return to civilian life."

Lawson, whose district comprises part of Duval County, said, "For many of our returning veterans, often we see that the battle on the frontlines has turned into

an inner battle at home. Our service men and women sacrifice so much for our freedom, and we must do our part to assist those dealing with invisible illnesses. Through the PAWS Act, these trained service dogs will help our nation's heroes with their mental wellness and make transitioning from active duty to civilian life an easier feat."

K9s For Warriors CEO and Jacksonville City Councilman Rory Diamond has been a strong proponent of the PAWS Act since the beginning,

"Making service dogs more accessible to veterans will ultimately empower our nation's heroes to successfully reintegrate into civilian life," Diamond said. "The PAWS Act would commit considerable resources towards proper training and pairing service dogs with veterans who would most benefit from them. We thank Congressman Rutherford for his continuing dedication to our nation's veterans with the introduction of this bill."

Collage Day School appoints new head of school

Anthony Mortimer has been named as Collage Day School's head of school. The announcement was made by Katie Falwell, the private school's founder.

Mortimer, a retired naval officer, has served as middle school principal and associate head of school.

According to the school, Mortimer's priorities include developing top instructional talent to build faculty teams

that consistently deliver high-quality, research-based, relationship-focused holistic education.

Mortimer is a former member of the board of directors for the Florida Council of Administrators of Special Education. Currently, he is treasurer of the board of directors for GlobalJax. He holds a master of arts degree in teaching from Jacksonville University and a doctorate

in education from the University of North Florida. He is state certified in reading, exceptional student education and education leadership.

Falwell's educational system also includes Palm Valley Child Development Center, Mandala Family Wellness and Keystone Behavioral Pediatrics.

Go to www.CollageDaySchool.org for more information.

Flagler Health+ recognizes anniversary of 1st patient diagnosed with COVID-19 in Northeast Florida

One year ago, on March 10, Flagler Health+ made history as the first health-care system in Northeast Florida to treat a patient diagnosed with COVID-19. And over the course of the year that would follow, nearly 600 patients were treated for COVID-19 at Flagler Hospital, thousands of people were tested, and now, thousands vaccinated by Flagler Health+.

“We felt it was important to commemorate the anniversary of the first COVID-19 case and recognize the incredible achievements that have occurred throughout this unprecedented time,” said Flagler Health+ President and CEO Jason Barrett. “I continue to be awed by the resilience and unwavering commitment that our team has demonstrated through what many consider to be the most challenging time in our immediate history. I could not be more proud of our staff.”

Each staff member — both clinical and non-clinical — was vital to ensuring that patients received the best possible care. And now, each team member will be recognized as being a COVID-19 hero with a commemorative pin. Close to 2,000 pins will be distributed in recognition of the resiliency, sacrifice and unwavering commitment to the patients served throughout a very difficult year.

With the arrival of COVID-19 to St. Johns County, so came changes to the Flagler Hospital campus. The most visibly noticeable change was an emergency medical triage tent that was established to isolate patients presenting to the ER



Photo provided by Flagler Health+

Flagler Health+ doctors Todd Batenhorst (from left), Javier Aduen, Jerome Tuitt, Brian Kiekover and Vivek Manikal and were affectionately designated “The Fab Five” for their work in treating COVID-19 patients.

with COVID-19 symptoms. This allowed patients presenting with unrelated illnesses and injuries to be cared for without the risk of additional infection spread. Inside the hospital, dedicated units were established to safely care for COVID-19 patients, with many unknowns about transmission at that time. An inter-professional team made up of environmental services, facilities, supply chain, respiratory therapy, the emergency department, critical care and medical staff collaborated to set up these units within days.

And while the entire world was learning the best courses of treatment for patients with COVID-19 from each other in real-time, Flagler Health+ providers also needed to lean on the expertise of each other to collectively analyze, maintain and adjust treatment plans for each patient. Chief Medical Officer Miguel Machado, in collaboration with the Medical Executive Committee, assembled a team of physicians to oversee and approve developing treatment protocols.

This team, affectionately designated

“The Fab Five,” included hospitalist Jerome Tuitt, M.D., emergency care physician Brian Kiekover, M.D., critical care physician Javier Aduen, M.D., infectious disease specialist Vivek Manikal, M.D. and primary care physician Todd Batenhorst, M.D. For months, this team rotated call every day and night, providing guidance and support for achieving the best outcomes for patients with COVID-19 diagnosis.

Their collaboration and expertise helped chart the course for recovery for many patients, with some of the best outcomes in the state.

“This pandemic required us to be nimble while also laser focused,” said Nangela Pulsfus, patient care services, chief clinical officer. “The fear of the unknown could have been a barrier; however, this is not what we experienced at Flagler Health+. I felt very proud and inspired by the sincere dedication and continuous collaboration. Teams were working closely together to navigate these uncharted territories, including opening additional beds, conserving PPE, increasing safety surveillance, managing shortages of medication and PPE, and most recently managing the vaccination clinics. Many of us have mentioned how nice it has been work with professionals that we don’t typically see throughout the day. It felt like it brought a new meaning to being a ‘work family.’”

To learn more about Flagler Health+, go to flaglerhealth.org.

Florida nonprofit helps youth athletes reduce plastic pollution



Photo provided by Beaches Go Green

Beaches Go Green, in partnership with Flagler Health+ and the Ponte Vedra Athletic Association, has distributed more than 1,200 stainless-steel water bottles to youth sports participants to use instead of single-use cups and plastic bottles.

Imagine a greener world with less plastic pollution. This is what local nonprofit Beaches Go Green hopes to inspire. Through its Reusable Bottles for Sports program, BGG connects a local sponsor with a school or community sports team to provide team-branded reusable bottles to young athletes.

The most recent success is a partnership with Flagler Health+ and Ponte Vedra Athletic where BGG has distributed more than 1,200 SIC-brand stainless-steel water bottles for athletes to use instead of single-use cups and plastic bottles.

PVAA teams including Jaws lacrosse, Riptide lacrosse, Storm soccer, JDL football, baseball and wrestling have all received a reusable bottle as part of their uniform. Athletes are strongly encouraged to use these reusable bottles over single-use plastic at practices and games.

“Every sports season, our trash cans are overflowing with single-use plastic beverage bottles around our fields,” said Chris Greco, PVAA Lacrosse president. “We recognize that recycling is only a small part of the solution and by providing our

PVAA athletes both education and alternatives (to plastic), we are creating awareness and making changes for the better of the planet.”

Partnering with local organizations like Flagler Health+ is a key component of the Reusable Bottles for Sports program. Local partners cover the cost of the bottles and donate them to a local school or sports team through this Beaches Go Green effort.

“Flagler Health+ stands behind our commitment to advancing the physical, social and economic health of Northeast Florida communities,” said Carlton DeVoght, SEVP CAO of Flagler Health+. “Supporting the Reusable Bottles for (youth) Sports program is another way that we can reinforce the importance of caring for our planet and our own health.”

There are multiple goals for the BGG Reusable Bottles for Sports program. The first goal is to create awareness in the community about single-use plastic pollution. The second objective is to inspire

Len Mattiace has won two PGA TOUR events, played 450 TOUR events total, had 12 exempt years on the PGA TOUR, had two top 10s at THE PLAYERS Championship and was a runner-up at The Masters. Today, the Nease High School alumnus is with PGA TOUR Champions.

Len Mattiace

As told to Shaun Ryan

In a career filled with highlights, are there one or two that really stand out for you?

I would say the best highlight is winning my first PGA tour event. It was 2002 in Los Angeles. That Nissan Open at the famous Riviera Country Club has a deep, rich history of great players winning there, and my name was now included.

I shot rounds of 69-66-65-68 to win by one shot over Scott McCarran. I birdied the 17th hole to be tied for the lead in a solid par on 18, which got me my first victory. It was worth \$665,000.

My second highlight, I would say, would be winning for the second time a few months later at the FedEx St. Jude Classic in Memphis. I shot 65-64 on the weekend to come from behind to win again. That year I was one of four hottest golfers to win multiple times along with Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson.

Tell us about your youth when you were just learning the game. Did you have any inkling that you would one day go on to compete — and win — on such a high professional level?

My dad got me involved when I was eight, nine and 10 years old, and I loved it. He was a great teacher —not many words, just mostly by doing.

I love watching the pro players on TV and in person. We could watch a tour event when it was close to our home.

I'd say I was about 15 when I knew I wanted to play on the pro tour level.

Becoming a top golfer requires a lot of hard work and practice. Was there someone who encouraged or inspired you along the way?

My dad was passionate about golf, so he did it all the time — other than his work. He had his own chemical sales company. He learned the game by being a caddy when he was young. He would make \$2 for carrying a golf bag around, sometimes up to \$5 for carrying the golf bag for nine or 18 holes.

He was always inspiring to me: a super-positive attitude and a hard-work ethic. Very loving, very consistent, very fair, and he always had our backs.

My two brothers were instrumental because they're older and they love golf, too. So at times we would play together or practice together. I was always watching them because they were better when they were teenagers and in their 20s than me, and I always picked up good tips and quickly learned from them.

When I was a pro I was introduced to Jim McLean, a famous golf coach, and



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Two-time PGA TOUR winner Len Mattiace and Kaitlyn Chana are seen at the Rolls Royce Players Party on Friday, March 12.

he was with me for 15 years and was instrumental to my professional success. Not only did Jim teach me a lot about the golf swing and consistency, but he gave me a lot of confidence on how to deal with winning on the PGA TOUR.

What advice would you give young people who would like to pursue a professional golfing career?

Give it all you got. It's a great life and go after it. Don't be distracted by social media and what other people are thinking. And work harder than others. Always surround yourself with great people and a loving circle.

Tell us about the Len Mattiace Foundation and what it does.

My Len Mattiace Foundation has two pillars. We conduct monthly events to raise money for kids' programs at The First Tee of North Florida. These are at various country clubs in the North Florida area where we connect members with The First Tee kids' nine-hole events, and it's really great energy. Friendships evolve. We raise money, as well. Since the year 2000, we have raised over \$400,000 for The First Tee of North Florida.

Our second pillar has nothing to do with golf. It's a Stop the Bullying Campaign in Duval County. We partner with Communities In Schools. We're

inside about 20 different schools, reaching kids from roughly nine years old to 17 years old. We give the students monthly initiatives to talk about bullying, the effects and how it can be better. We're trying to change the energy around. The bullying is a very serious topic. It can affect children and families in a very, very deep way. So, we recognize that, and we want to give kids every chance to be in a school environment that can be safe, healthy and so they can prosper onward. These monthly initiatives that the kids do can be service projects, posters, papers, speeches, different things for different months. Every month, we have a different theme, and we're really proud of the work we're doing. This has been going on now for three years. With more funding we can reach more kids, we can recognize schools and kids and keep spreading the word in a very healthy positive way.

You attended Nease High School and live in Jacksonville. What do you like best about making your home in North-east Florida?

People who live here know it's a great place to live. The beach is close and, especially for golfers, the weather is fantastic. It's not a super-huge city like Atlanta or Houston but big enough to where we have all of the amenities that we need.

I feel like I could live anywhere in the world, but I choose to live here. I love the people, the weather, the location, so it all works. My time at Nease High School was fantastic. At the time, Nease was brand new, and everybody was kind of learning the ropes. They were very important years for my golf. Looking back — I started there in ninth grade — and ninth grade, 10th grade, 11th grade, 12th grade, I got better and better as a golfer where I was the number one junior in the country in the rankings.

In your spare time, do you have any hobbies or special interests you enjoy?

I love any type of athletic activity: biking, swimming, hanging out with friends, but most of my spare time I'm dedicated to my foundation. When I'm not competing, it's a full-time passion to be able to help kids in the community we live in.

How can people get involved?

I would ask people to help get involved whether they be a sponsor of the foundation or want to volunteer. They can contact me on lenmattiace.com for more information. We are grateful that we raised a total of \$500,000 for various Jacksonville charities, and we're looking forward to hitting the million mark in a couple years from now.

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

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."
— Audrey Hepburn



Kathy Esfahani
Columnist

HERB AND VEGETABLE GARDENS:

Start your herb garden today!

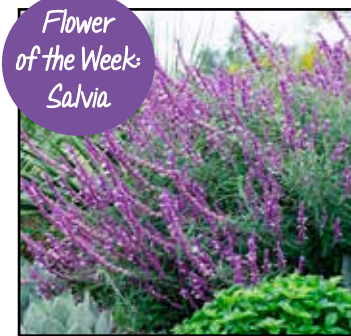
Most herbs grow easily, especially in a variety of conditions ... perfect for any novice gardener. When planting herbs and vegetables in zone 9A, we need to keep in mind that the best plantings will be hot-weather plants. Spring is the best time to start these plantings.

Planting in this zone requires well-drained soil and will rot if it becomes too soggy. A good rule to follow is to water when the first two inches of soil feel dry. If you see wilting, the plant is too dry, and needs water immediately. Most herbs will grow, so don't overcrowd them in your garden. Generally, these plants need 6-8 hours of sun per day to thrive. Some popular herbs in this zone include basil, oregano, dill, parsley, rosemary, mint and thyme.

Northeast Florida is considered a year-round planting area for vegetables. This means there are a variety of vegetables throughout the year to continuously plant and harvest. Peppers, beans, lettuce, squash, eggplant, zucchini and tomatoes are popular vegetables to plant in this zone. An adequate amount of six hours of sunlight, water and compost or organic matter are crucial in the success of your vegetable garden.

Why not start your herb garden in a favorite pot or container?

Herb and vegetable gardens can be created into your landscaping, or in pots or boxes on patios or window sills. Feel free to get



Photos provided by Kathy Esfahani

creative, as long as all other criteria are reached. Tending to an herb and vegetable garden often can aid in the growth of the plants, and eventually the overall taste when harvested!

How deep does an herb planter need to be?

Eighteen inches is the standard. When selecting your pot for planting herbs, such as parsley or basil, you'll want to ensure the pot or container is at least eighteen inches deep ... be sure to place some mulch or something similar in the bottom of the container before placing potting soil to ensure your plants have adequate drainage.

When you purchase your herb plants in nursery pots from a garden center or nursery, you should at least plant them into new pots double the size of its nursery container. Be sure to read the plant tag for requirements for light. You'll also need a water source nearby for easy access.

Follow these quick steps to get started today:

- Select herb pots that have good drainage holes
- Choose the right size pot for your herb plants
- Choose the right materials for your herb pots

Happy planting!

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

Bottles

Continued from 5

a change in personal habits by encouraging reusable items over single use. Third, and perhaps most important, BGG aims to protect children from the potential harm chemicals in plastic can leach into human bodies.

"We recognize that drinking and eating from plastic not only has health implications for the planet, but it can have serious effects on our own health," said Anne Marie Moquin, founder of Beaches Go Green. "Plastic leaches chemicals into our food and drinks when it's heated or as it breaks up into microplastics. These chemicals, often found to be endocrine disruptors, mimic hormones in our own bodies and can be especially harmful for adolescents."

Reducing single-use plastic consumption and pollution is an important step toward preserving our health and saving our planet for future generations.

The nonprofit Beaches Go Green aims to create awareness and education around the waste humans produce and how it impacts the planet.

If interested in getting your team involved in the program or to sponsor a local team, email annemarie@beachesgogreen.org. For more information on Beaches Go Green, go to beachesgogreen.org.



Oceanfront Oasis

Built to last, this tri-level home was built using masonry construction in 2016 and had a new bulkhead installed in 2018. Spectacular views from every room and vantage point. Elevator services all floors. 2 master suites, ground level guest suite with kitchenette, and all newly renovated bathrooms. The kitchen and greatroom provide expansive views through retractable sliding doors leading to huge oceanfront Trex deck. **4 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, 1 half bathroom. \$1,575,000.**



Well Appointed Sawgrass Country Club Patio Home

This patio home was fully renovated in 2020 with waterfront views and southeastern exposure. Impeccable attention to detail in interior design includes Master BR/BA both upstairs and down, and fully heated and cooled detached 2 car garage. Lush landscaping, courtyard entry and outdoor lighting are the finishing touches. **3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms + office. \$1,595,000**



Pristine Craftsmanship on Ponte Vedra Blvd.

Thoughtfully designed and showcasing exquisite craftsmanship throughout, this custom coastal home offers master suites on both floors, along with an office, loft area, ample storage and a flex space ideal for a 5th bedroom. **4 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms \$2,150,000**



Stunning Riverfront Estate

Riverfront/SanMarco. 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**



Water to Golf Views in Marsh Landing

Exquisite lagoon to golf views from this cul de sac beauty. Open floorplan/kitchen/dining spaces w/fireplace and oversized windows. Guest ensuite, 1/2 bath & laundry room finish off the first floor. Master retreat w/ fireplace, HIS & HERS baths/closets, wet bar w/ fridge leading to outdoor deck & hot tub. Private with Summer Kitchen and fire pit overlooking pool and lagoon. **5 Bedrooms, 5 Bathrooms. \$1,450,000**



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Rotary, Recorder seek nominations for 29th annual Local Heroes Awards

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach and the Ponte Vedra Recorder are seeking nominations for the 29th annual Local Heroes Awards.

Presented each year, the Local Heroes Awards recognize individuals who give back to the community and reflect the spirit of the Rotary Club's motto, "Service Above Self." From

volunteering with local charities to giving back through the arts, education, environmental protection activities and more, the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach and Recorder seek to recognize the "unsung heroes" who make Ponte Vedra such a special place to live, work and raise a family.

Residents who know of an individual

they believe is deserving of recognition as a Local Hero are encouraged to complete the nomination form on this page and email it to Rotarian Steve Crosby at stevecrosby101@gmail.com.

Nomination forms may also be mailed to: Local Heroes Awards Committee, Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach, PO Box 70, Ponte Vedra Beach,

FL 32004. To submit a nomination online, go to pvbrotary.org and click on the "Nominate a Local Hero" link on the home page.

The deadline for submission of nominations is March 31.

For more information, contact Rotarian Steve Crosby at stevecrosby101@gmail.com.



The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach

in cooperation with **The Ponte Vedra Recorder**

2021 Local Heroes Awards *Nomination Form*

Nominate your friend, neighbor or colleague for the Local Heroes Awards recognizing individuals who give back to the community!

Complete and return this form, or submit your nomination online at: pvbrotary.org

Nominee Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____ Telephone: _____

Nominee's contributions to the community (attach additional pages as needed):

Nomination Submitted By:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____ Telephone: _____

Nomination Deadline: March 31, 2021
Email entries to: stevecrosby101@gmail.com
or mail to: Local Heroes Awards, Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach
 P.O. Box 70, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004

***Thank you for
your nomination!***



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Congratulations to our February Top Producers!



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LAUREL HILL IN CRYSTAL SPRINGS

Renovated Pool 2440 SF home on over .25 acres. 3 bedrooms & 3 baths plus non-conforming 4th BR/Office plus detached shed & covered parking for boat or RV. MLS 1096224. Offered at \$399,000. Call Matt & Naomi at 904-234-5014.



THE RANCH AT TWENTY MILE IN NOCATEE

Contemporary 4/3.5 Estate Home with Luxury features throughout. Gourmet kitchen with built in Thermador appliances including full size refrigerator & freezer, built-in coffee machine & more. MLS 1087116. Offered at \$1,155,000. Call Cherya Cavanaugh at 904-599-8326.



BIG CYPRESS IN PONTEVEDRA BEACH

Exquisite custom built home boasts remarkable pool, spa, summer kitchen and dock on the tidal creek leading to the ICW. Breathtaking views thru expansive windows from almost every vantage point. MLS 1097780. Offered at \$1,425,000. Call Cherya Cavanaugh at 904-599-8326.



VILANO OAKS OVERSIZED CUL-DE-SAC LOT

Steps to the ocean in prime residential neighborhood! Ready to build your dream home in the best location? This is it! MLS 1095015. Offered at \$325,000. Call Malia Finger at 904-994-8444.



RIVERWOOD BY DEL WEBB IN NOCATEE

Practically brand new and move in ready! This 2nd floor living space is open and bright with vaulted ceilings and plenty of well positioned windows. Master is toward the back of this quiet condo. MLS 1097526 Offered at \$295,000. Call Tara Belanger at 904-501-9036.



TWENTY MILE VILLAGE IN NOCATEE

Move in ready home in Ponte Vedra A+ School District. Schools are open! Pets and kids have plenty of space to play in one of the largest preserve lots in popular Twenty Mile Village. MLS 1098642. Offered at \$829,500. Call Wanda Petersen at 904-537-4594 or Kelly Whitaker at 904-233-1991.



MARSH LANDING IN PONTEVEDRA BEACH

Stepping inside this totally remodeled and redesigned home, expect to be wowed! This elegant Coastal Casual two-story was completely transformed inside and out by Classic Design Homes of Ponte Vedra with unparalleled quality and craftsmanship. MLS 1098704. Offered at 1,295,000. Call Susie Mullinax at 904-910-1121



SIENA AT TOWN CENTER

A spacious gourmet kitchen and dining area are perfect for entertaining guests or spending quality time with the family. Views from this space look out onto the covered lanai. 4 BRs, 3 BAs + office. COMING SOON. Offered at \$535,000. Call Kelly Whitaker at 904-233-1991 or Wanda Petersen at 904-537-4594.



SOUTH PONTEVEDRA BEACH OCEANFRONT

Wake to the sound of ocean waves, and watch the sunrise to start your day. Stunning oceanfront home with panoramic views overlooking the ocean. 3 BR/3 BA. with flex space downstairs. MLS 1087295. Offered at \$1,425,000. Call Ron Horst at 904-613-0102.

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 158 Marketside Ave, Suite 14
 904-834-7682

PONTEVEDRA BEACH
 100 Corridor Road, Suite 101
 904-280-1115

ST.AUGUSTINE
 85 Ava Way, Suite 107 (Vilano Town Ctr)
 904-814-8964

NOCATEE HAPPENINGS

COA announces new Nocatee community senior center

Council on Aging recently announced the opening of its newest senior center, the Nocatee Community Senior Center, at the Flagler Health+ Health Village at Nocatee, located at 351 Town Plaza Ave.

Designed for adults who live in St. Johns County, enjoy staying active, being social and living a healthy lifestyle, COA welcomes those over the age of 60 to participate in a variety of programs there on Tuesdays and Wednesdays starting March 23.

The senior center is the product of a partnership with Flagler Health+, which has provided the space for the center in its new Flagler Health+ Health Village facility. The senior center has also received support from a generous grant from Republic Services, a waste and recycling service provider in St. Johns County.

Starting Tuesday, March 23, the Nocatee Community Senior Center will begin offering the following programs and activities:

■ **COA's Integrative Memory Enhancement Program (IMEP):** 10-11 a.m., Tuesday, March 23

■ **Upcoming Speaker Series:** Tuesdays starting March 23 from 1:30-2:30 p.m.. March 23 speakers will be COA's Tom Torretta and Amy Robinson discussing COA's Elder Guard and COA volunteer opportunities.

■ **Doctor's Corner Lecture Series:** Wednesday, March 24, and Wednesday, April 7 from 9-10 a.m. with Dr. Lou DeMaria, M.D., retired geriatrician. Topics to be discussed are "How to Keep Healthy in Later Life" on March 24, and "Keeping Yourself Safe While Taking Medication" on April 7.



Photo provided by Council on Aging

■ **Tai Chi:** Wednesdays starting March 24 from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

■ **Art studio and beading:** Wednesdays starting March 24 from 9:30-11 a.m.

■ **"Matter of Balance" health and balance improvement programs:** Wednesdays starting March 24 from 1-3 p.m.

■ **Caregiver Support Group:** Starting in April. For more information, contact COA's Paulette Kozlowski at caregiving@stjohnscoa.com or (904) 209-3674.

Registration for programs is required, as seating is limited and walk-ins are not permitted. To register for courses, RSVP with name and program name to nocatee-center@stjohnscoa.com to reserve a spot. For the health and safety of participants, masks and social distancing will be required.

"We are grateful to be able to offer these new programs to the thriving senior community in Nocatee," said COA's Executive Director Becky Yanni. "After a difficult year for all, we are excited to meet new people, welcome them to the COA community and introduce them to all COA has to offer."

For more details on upcoming programs and events, go to www.coasjc.org/nocatee-center or call (904) 209-3700.

Next Generation applications open for NE Florida's emerging leaders

Leadership Jacksonville announced Next Generation 2021 applications are open through Tuesday, April 6. Next Generation is for young professionals, interns, undergraduate and graduate students at school or living in Northeast Florida who are 18-30 years old.

More than 500 young professionals, undergraduate and graduate students have participated in Next Generation since it began in 2005.

Program Details:

■ The Leadership Jacksonville Next Generation 2021 will begin on May 27, and end on July 31. The program includes an opening reception, four weekday and three Saturday sessions.

■ The Next Generation program fee is \$500. Need-based assistance may be available to those accepted into the program.

■ All applicants will be scheduled for a 20-minute Zoom interview.

"Leadership Jacksonville recognizes that preparing the next generation of leaders yields a great return for Northeast Florida's workforce and the community. Next Generation does this each summer," said Leadership Jacksonville Chief Executive Officer Jill Langford Dame.

Leadership Jacksonville Next Generation 2021 applications are accepted online through Tuesday, April 6, at www.leadershipjax.org.

To learn more about Leadership Jacksonville and its programs, go to the website or call (904) 396-6263.

Timucuan Parks Foundation to host St. Johns River cleanups

Volunteer projects will be held March 20 at 3 parks

On the first day of spring, Timucuan Parks Foundation will be leading volunteer events for the St. Johns River Celebration 26th annual cleanup at three sites. The annual event, hosted and coordinated by the City of Jacksonville and Keep Jacksonville Beautiful, will be held Saturday, March 20, throughout the city with most cleanups beginning at 8 a.m. Volunteers will be removing litter and debris from the shoreline at area parks, boat ramps and neighborhoods.

Timucuan Parks Foundation will be leading three of the events. One at Fort Caroline National Memorial at 12713 Fort Caroline Road that will run from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at Reddie Point Preserve at 4499 Yachtsman Way from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., and another at Castaway Island Preserve

at 2921 San Pablo Road South from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

All volunteers should wear closed-toe shoes and clothes that can get dirty. Bring sunscreen, insect repellent, a hat, sunglasses and a reusable water bottle. Courtesy of the city, work gloves, trash bags and other supplies will be provided onsite, and Timucuan Parks Foundation will provide snacks and water.

Volunteers must be 18 years old or be accompanied by an adult and will be eligible for community service hours. Pre-registration is not required. After the cleanup, T-shirts and snacks will be distributed to volunteers at the Riverside Arts Market while supplies last. For more information, go to www.timucuanparks.org/calendar/st-johns-river-cleanup-and-celebration-4/, or call Keep Jacksonville Beautiful at (904) 255-8276.

If you are a student and unable to attend



Photo provided by Timucuan Parks Foundation

Timucuan Parks Foundation will be leading volunteer events for the St. Johns River Celebration 26th Annual Cleanup at three sites on Saturday, March 20.

this cleanup event, consider participating in Timucuan Park Foundation's "Student Self-Guided Cleanups" to earn your com-

munity service hours. More information can be found at www.timucuanparks.org/self-guided/.

Caddie Competition adds extra challenge, fun to THE PLAYERS

THE PLAYERS Championship Caddie Competition in memory of Bruce Edwards was held ahead of THE PLAYERS Championship on Wednesday, March 10, at the Island Green 17th hole at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass

The winner of the event, which is a closest-to-the-pin competition, was Chris Rice, caddie for Harold Varner III, with a distance of 1 foot, 2 inches, a record for the competition. In second place was Yuan Liu, caddie for Xinjun Zhang, with a distance of 7 feet, 3 inches, and in third was Collin Morikawa's caddie JJ Jakovac with a distance of 11 feet, one inch.

The Caddie Competition is a tradition unique to THE PLAYERS and one that provides an added layer of entertainment for the fans, players and caddies. The competition is named to honor Tom Watson's longtime caddie and friend Bruce Edwards, who passed away in 2004 from ALS or "Lou Gehrig's Disease."

The winning caddie receives all player contributions to the pot on the 17th tee, a personalized, engraved money clip and a VIP parking spot in the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse lot, Thursday-Sunday of THE PLAYERS.

The amount raised is matched by the PGA TOUR and donated to the Bruce Edwards Foundation.



Photos by Craig O'Neal

PGA TOUR player and 2016 PLAYERS champion Jason Day (center) reacts as his caddie Luke Reardon hits a shot during the annual Caddie Competition in memory of Bruce Edwards on Wednesday, March 10, at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass.



Michael Thomson, caddie for Robert MacIntyre, hits a shot during the Caddie Competition.



Phillip Mollica, caddie for Patton Kizzire, watches his shot during the Caddie Competition.

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Your Choice of:

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(peppers, onions, ham, cheddar cheese)
- **Veggie Souffle**
(spinach, peppers, onions, mushrooms)
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Available All Day

**Blackened Shrimp
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Fresh local Shrimp, blackened and
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After 2PM Special

Prime Rib (10oz)

served with au jus,
potatoes and veggie

\$26.99

Served with:
Bacon or Honey Ham
Hashbrowns or Grits
Old City Overnight French Toast
(cinnamon & raisin)
and a cup of fruit



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Dominik Tajti enjoys a special meal prepared by celebrity Chef Art Smith.

Sawgrass Marriott holds celebrity chef event

The Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa hosted a five-course, prix-fixe dining experience at Vernon's First Coast Kitchen & Bar with cooking from famed Chef Art Smith.

The March 10 pop-up event, dubbed "A Preview of Reunion by Chef Art Smith," was a sampling of the culinary creations that Smith will serve later this year at his new Chicago-based restaurant on the Navy Pier, Reunion by Chef Art Smith, with dishes heavily influenced by his Southern roots.

The pop-up event ran in conjunction with THE PLAYERS Championship and ended on Sunday, March 14.

Photos by Holly Tishfield



A special five-course meal was served to guests at the pop-up event with celebrity chef Art Smith (above).



Megan and Michael Kilis attend a pop-up "A Preview of Reunion with Chef Art Smith" on Tuesday, March 10, at the Sawgrass Marriott Resort and Spa.



ABOVE: Elaine Gonzales and Bobby Gonzales attend Chef Art Smith's pop-up event at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa.



LEFT: John Vidor and wife Gladys Vidor take part in the exclusive celebrity chef event on Tuesday, March 10.

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UNDER CONTRACT

**162 Hidden Palms Lane, Unit 201
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3 BD / 2.5 BA / 2,326 sq. ft.

Price: \$485,000

MLSID: 1098248

Lisa Barton Team - (904) 465-9139



UNDER CONTRACT

**421 Royal Tern Road South
Marsh Landing Country Club**

6 BD / 6 BA / 5,575 sq. ft.

Price: \$1,420,000

MLSID: 1098922

Katherine Auchter - (904) 955-7410



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**694 Ponte Vedra Blvd.
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5 BD / 5 BA / 5,213 sq. ft.

Price: \$2,445,000

MLSID: 1092689

The Volen Group - (904) 314-5188



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COMING SOON

**150 Oak Avenue
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*Source: Keller Williams Multi-Trend Report & MLS

Local IKEA donates teddy bears and virtual reality glasses to charity

IKEA Jacksonville has donated 500 plush teddy bears, in addition to some virtual reality glasses, to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville as part of the company's nationwide "Let's Play" campaign, which gives customers the opportunity to purchase new soft toys and donate them to a local organization.

"Let's Play" is an eight-week campaign that ran Nov. 1 to Dec. 24. It generated support from hundreds of local IKEA supporters and employees.

IKEA loyalty manager Andrea Dombrowski was excited to join other employees in personally delivering the plush bears.

DONATION continues on **Page 15**



Contributed photo

IKEA Jacksonville employees prepare to deliver stuffed animals to Ronald McDonald House of Jacksonville. The toys were donated as part of a company campaign.

UNF chemistry professor awarded patent on cancer-fighting compounds

Kenneth Laali, University of North Florida Presidential Professor of Chemistry, has recently been awarded a U.S. patent for his research on the synthesis of novel curcumin analogs (curcuminoids) to fight cancer tumors.

The compounds that Laali has developed provide novel therapeutic opportunities for specific cancers and may also aid in the discovery of therapeutics for multiple diseases.

His patent on "Novel 'Curcuminoid-Inspired' Synthetic Compounds as Anti-tumor Agents" discloses the synthesis and characterization of structurally diverse libraries of "curcumin-inspired" compounds (CURs), and reports on their anti-tumor activity against a host of cancer cell lines.

Through these studies, Laali and his research group synthesized and characterized more than 120 new compounds, and in the process discovered a number of "hit-compounds" that are effective not only in stopping cancer cell growth but



Ken Laali

also killing cancer cells and are therefore suitable for pre-clinical development.

This new patent is the culmination of over five years of Laali's research at UNF with contributions by UNF undergraduates, master's level research interns and visiting scientists.

Laali's work has provided prominent research opportunities for UNF students, several of whom went on to pursue doctoral degrees at universities with the highest levels of research.

To date, seven peer-reviewed publications have resulted from this work and one made the cover of the journal ChemMedChem.

Laali hopes this patent, along with another one that is pending, could attract a pharmaceutical company for develop-

ment of new anti-cancer compounds and therapeutics.

Laali is the inventor of two other UNF patents. He has authored and coauthored more than 220 peer-reviewed publications, several books and monographs.

He has been at UNF since 2009 and was the founding chair of the chemistry department. His research focuses on organic chemistry utilizing multifaceted projects that combine synthetic, structural/mechanistic, spectroscopic and theoretical approaches to solving diverse problems in biological chemistry, green chemistry and materials chemistry.

Laali began his academic career at Kent State University in 1985, becoming a full professor in 1996. He earned his doctoral degree from the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom and completed postdoctoral appointments at King's College London, University of Strasbourg, University of Amsterdam, ETH-Zurich and University of Southern California.

Newcomers Alumnae holds fashion show at monthly luncheon

March is normally fashion month for the Newcomers Alumnae. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Newcomers Alumnae decided to hold its own fashion show, where its members were the models and had time to be "on the runway."

Since clothing stores were not able to present any onsite shows, this fashion show, held March 3 at Marsh Landing Country Club in Ponte Vedra Beach, offered members the ability to wear new fashion and offer anecdotes to the group about many of the beautiful or unusual articles of clothing, shoes or jewelry.

The next monthly luncheon will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 7 at Marsh Landing Country Club. The event will feature guest speakers Maria Mark and Paul Herman from Beaches Watch. Established in 2004, Beaches Watch is a nonprofit civic organization providing information on local and state government decisions and issues that affect the quality of life and future of Northeast Florida beach communities. Reservations for lunch must be made by March 31 by emailing bartshar@comcast.net. The cost for the luncheon is \$23. Social distancing and mask guidelines will be followed.

Newcomers Alumnae is a social group comprised of women who live in Ponte Vedra Beach, Nocatee, Jacksonville Beach, Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, Jacksonville and St. Augustine. The group provides an opportunity for graduates of other newcomer groups to continue growing in the community and to foster friendships through social activities. For information on Newcomers Alumnae, go to newcomersalumnae.wildapricot.org or email brooke-meister@msn.com for membership information.

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OBITUARIES

Joel Berger

Joel Berger, 82, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died March 14, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Joseph "Joe" M. Valley Jr.

Joseph "Joe" M. Valley Jr., 73, of Jacksonville, Florida, died March 12, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Volunteers sought for annual food and wine event

4-day festival will be held May 6-9 in St. Augustine

Volunteer opportunities are available for the St. Augustine Food + Wine Festival, a four-day food-and-drink celebration to be held May 6-9.

Positions include general registration, beverage and culinary serving, wine and food booths set-up, assistance with guest relations and ambassadors, VIP lounge management and more.

Details can be found at staugustine-foodandwinefestival.com/volunteer.

The inaugural festival is a showcase of culinary, beverage, culture and music that highlights celebrity guest chefs, local chefs, celebrity winemakers and proprietors, artisans, farmers, local craft spirits and beers, along with renowned wine, spirits and beer brands.

The festival offers a wide variety of events, from wine dinners and tasting events, to master classes and more. Most events will take place at the host location

sites, the World Golf Hall of Fame and the official hotel partner, World Golf Village Renaissance St. Augustine Resort.

Volunteers must be 21 years of age or older to volunteer for events at the festival. Volunteers receive a souvenir apron, glassware and an opportunity to enjoy the event in which they are volunteering after their shift ends and possibly free event ticket opportunities, depending upon the number of volunteer hours a volunteer can commit.

Those who volunteer for more than 30 hours will earn a free “Smoke on the

Walk” ticket.

Festival organizers have precautionary health and safety plans in place for the festival, including social distancing for tasting booths and all events, hand sanitizing stations and limiting attendance at outdoor and indoor events.

Advance festival tickets are on sale now through March 31 at tickets.staugustine-foodandwinefestival.com/p/tickets.

The most up to date festival information is available at staugustinefoodandwinefestival.com.



Contributed photos

A child at Ronald McDonald House of Jacksonville holds a teddy bear donated as part of an effort by IKEA Jacksonville.

Donation

Continued from 14

“We believe kids are the most important people in the world, and IKEA is excited to be part of their development through play and imagination as the building blocks for their future,” she said. “When we looked at organizations that we felt would experience the greatest impact from this donation, it was an easy choice to choose Ronald McDonald House of Jacksonville.”

“The employees and customers of IKEA have done an exceptional job collecting these adorable teddy bears

and amazing virtual reality glasses for children staying at our house,” said Diane Boyle, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville executive director. “To receive this thoughtful donation after a busy holiday season really reminds us that the Jacksonville com-

munity is committed to our seeing our children weather their medical diagnosis with a smile. These bears will certainly bring comfort not only to children who are physically staying with us, but also to children who are still receiving inpatient care at local hospitals.”

CATHERINE ANDRÉ

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ALL ABOUT PETS

Puppies bring golf fans to the PGA TOUR Superstore

By Holly Tishfield

While THE PLAYERS Championship was getting underway in Ponte Vedra, the PGA TOUR Superstore in the St. John's Town Center was busy with guests searching for the perfect golf merchandise, but on March 10, golf equipment was not the only thing drawing crowds to the store.

California-based nonprofit organization Puppies & Golf partnered with the PGA TOUR Superstore to bring a pop-up event with a litter of 12 adorable puppies to the outside of the superstore.

The Puppies & Golf organization was founded by Amanda Balionis, a determined woman with a passion for rescuing animals. Balionis, a full-time golf reporter for CBS, decided to combine her passion for animal rescue with her passion for sports reporting. The organization she created works to "protect and advocate for dogs in need of companionship by supporting and promoting organizations dedicated to connecting humans and dogs for a lifetime of purpose and love," according to its website.

For the pop-up on Wednesday afternoon, Puppies & Golf chose local St. Augustine rescue Ayla's Acres as its shelter of the month. Ayla's Acres, a no-kill animal shelter that takes in lost or unwanted animals, operates through fund-raising, donations, and its own Ayla's Acres thrift store in St. Augustine.

Twelve adorable 7-week-old puppies were available for adoption at the Puppies & Golf event. Ayla's Acres predicts the puppies to grow quite large, as they are Treeing Walker coonhound mixes and already nearing 10 pounds. The meet-and-greet of sleeping puppies provided a perfect opportunity for hopeful families and individuals to play with the animals and juggle the idea of adoption.

Balionis herself made an appearance at the event, advocating for the support of Ayla's Acres and meeting fans.

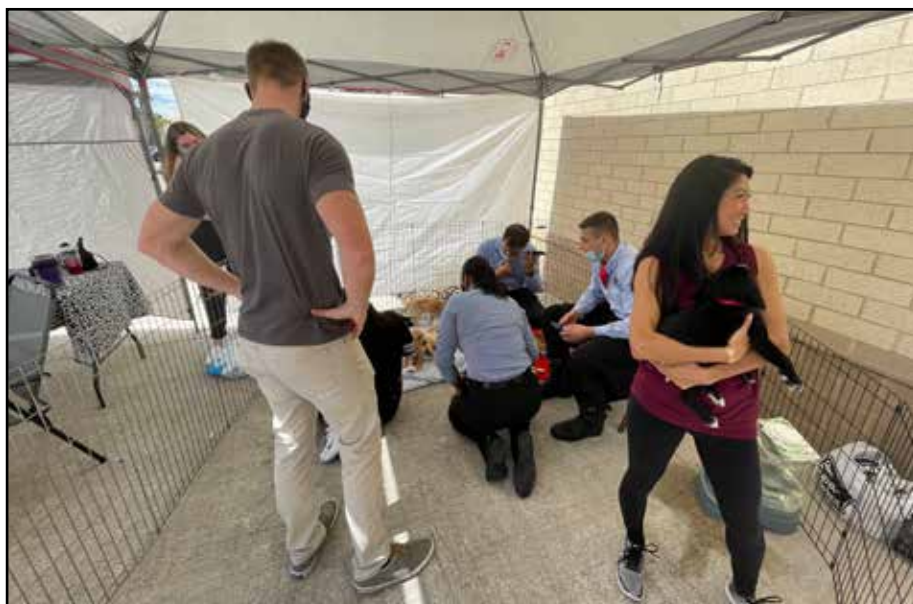
To learn more about the Puppies & Golf charity, go to puppiesandgolf.org. To adopt one of the puppies at Ayla's Acres, go to aylasacres.org to fill out an adoption form.



The litter of 12 puppies are just as excited to meet their potential adopters at the Puppies & Golf event March 10.



One of the 12 puppies up for adoption waits to find his forever home.



ABOVE: All of the day's excitement left the puppies in need of a nap.

FAR LEFT: Excited guests interact with the 7-week-old litter of puppies.

LEFT: Guests gather outside the PGA TOUR Superstore for the Puppies & Golf event March 10.

Photos by Holly Tishfield

Pet therapy inspires Starling resident to create portrait



ABOVE: Ward, a blind Appaloosa therapy horse brought to the Starling at Nocatee as part of a pet therapy program, was a big hit with Starling residents, especially Jerry Norton (left).



RIGHT: Residents enjoy the company of the furry companions at Starling's pet therapy event.

Photos provided by Starling at Nocatee

By Holly Tishfield

Starling at Nocatee, an independent living community, works to enrich its residents with weekly activities, one of which being the “Starling Scholars” presentations, which brings in local professionals to share their stories with the residents. Sometimes, the Scholars can be business professionals or professors, but beginning in December of 2020, Starling at Nocatee began partnering with Pet Partners of North Florida.

Pet Partners of North Florida is a nonprofit organization that aims to improve human health and well-being through the animal-human bond. It brings together variations of animal species for pet therapy events to brighten the community. For residents at Starling, these animals have done exactly that.

On its latest visit, Pet Partners brought three dogs — Mia, Obi Wan and Lucie — and a horse named Ward.

Ward is a 21-year-old Appaloosa who lost his eyesight some years ago to a degenerative disease known as uveitis, or ERU. Ward’s handler, Maggie Hillman Hendel, accompanied him to greet residents at Starling.

Ward was a hit with all the residents, inspiring them to share their own stories



Ward, the blind Appaloosa therapy horse, inspired Starling at Nocatee resident Jerry Norton to paint this portrait.

of former horseback riding and farming days.

“It was a really great afternoon for everybody,” said Kristen Drought, director of engagement at Starling. “The point of the pet therapy event is to bring that joy to our residents, that familiarity.”

Ward’s biggest fan was Jerry Norton, a long-term resident at Starling and local artist, who was moved by the horse’s

STARLING continues on **Page 18**

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Bark 4 Art event on March 27 benefits Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach

Grab a leash and bring your dog out to Bark 4 Art from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 27, in Jacksonville.

The event, hosted by Pawsitive Healing-Veterinary Rehabilitation, helps to support arts education programs in Duval and St. Johns counties. Pawsitive Healing uses acupuncture and alternative medicine in addition to traditional veterinary practices to improve pets' health and well-being.

Tails will be wagging with the following fun activities:

- There will be drawings at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. for pet and people treats

- Artist Anna Washington will demonstrate how pet portraits and paintings are done

- Pictures of you with your pet by a professional photographer. Tarrah Wellington Photography will be taking photographs to share on social media.

- Agility course

- JaxHorizon Advanced Imaging, Crosswinds Veterinary and other pet service providers will be on hand to answer questions

- Tours of Pawsitive Healing

- Light refreshments provided by Sawgrass Events

"It is an absolute honor to have the opportunity to collaborate with the Cultural Center of Ponte Vedra Beach on a community-driven project that will benefit our youth's exposure to arts and culture," said Dr. Carla Rodrigues, of Pawsitive Healing-Veterinary Rehabilitation.

CCPVB President and Executive Director Donna Guzzo said, "Partnering with Pawsitive Healing Clinic has been phenomenal to have visibility in the San Marco area of Duval County as we prepare to expand more services to the Jacksonville area. We have the clientele that can

benefit from Dr. Rodriguez's expertise as their pets get older or need alternative options. We are expecting folks from Duval and St. Johns to attend the event. It will be a family-pet-fun atmosphere to connect, engage and experience. Our mission is to bring the arts to our community. This is exactly what we are doing. Success is imminent!"

Tickets are available at ccpvb.org/events/upcoming-events. For more information, contact Brenda Swann, by email at bswann@ccpvb.org or call (904) 280-0614, ext. 1202.



ST. JOHNS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY TO HOLD PET FOOD AND BEDDING DRIVE

The St. Johns County Public Library is hosting a St. Johns CARES, Inc. pet food and bedding collection drive at three branch library locations through March 26. Patrons are encouraged to bring pet food, towels and blankets to assist in restocking local animal shelters and food pantries. Collection boxes will be located at the Anastasia Island Branch, Ponte Vedra Beach Branch and Southeast Branch libraries. Donations will be collected, sorted, and boxed for the non-profit organizations. Monetary donations are accepted at www.stjohnscares.org, and will be used to purchase additional pet care supplies. Established in 2007, St. Johns CARES, Inc. is a nonprofit organization committed to assisting local charities. To learn more about St. Johns CARES, Inc., go to www.stjohnscares.org. For more information about this partnership, go to www.sjcpls.org or call your local branch library.



Photo provided by Starling at Nocatee

Obi Wan the golden retriever comes in close for a snuggle with residents during a pet therapy event at Starling at Nocatee.

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Starling

Continued from 17

beauty and loved the fact that Ward has a seeing-eye donkey named Poppy as a friend.

Norton uses painting as a form of pain management, according to Drought, and is known among the other residents for his incredible pet portraits.

"He is the one person you can find in the art studio at any time of day," said Drought. "He was just enamored by how beautiful Ward was."

Drought said she knew Norton used to work with horses, so when Ward showed up, she ran to find him. Norton snapped some photos of Ward and got to work painting him. When he was finished, he sent the painting to Ward's owner, Hendel.

"I am so moved by Jerry's talent," Hendel said in a Facebook post. "He captured not only Ward's 'Treat Face,' but his soul. This is why Ward and I do what we do."



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Special needs kids are stars at 1st Tesori Foundation clinic of 2021

By Shaun Ryan

The giant green gorilla — also known as Golfrilla — returned to the Sawgrass Country Club on Wednesday, March 10, for the Tesori Family Foundation All-Star Kids Clinic.

And, once again, the iconic inflatable was joined by some big names from the world of golf.

But the real stars, as the clinic’s title suggests, were the 26 children and youth with special needs who attended the event for one-on-one golf instruction, lots of laughs and fun in the sun. They rotated in teams to try their skills in four categories: driving, putting, chipping and trying to hit ring-shaped “golf balls” into Golfrilla’s mouth — and that of his companion inflatable, a giant alligator.

Before the kids tee off, though, PGA TOUR caddie and former TOUR golfer Paul Tesori had a message for them.

“Each of you kids here today, you’re not broken,” Tesori said. “There’s nothing wrong with you. You’re just made differently. We all have our own challenges, and each one of you brings so much joy to our lives.”

He tied his message to a quote from John 9:1-3, where the disciples ask why a certain man was born blind. Jesus tells them, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.”

“God made you the way you are so that the works of the Father could be seen through you,” Tesori told his audience. “Please remember that. Don’t allow other people to dictate who you are or what you’re about. You are a precious prize for all of us, and we’re thankful you’re here today.”

The clinic, in its seventh year, is a team effort between the foundation, PGA TOUR friends at THE PLAYERS Championship, Wyndham Championship, Wells Fargo Championship, the Sanderson Farms Championship and chapters of The First Tee.

In addition to Ponte Vedra Beach, clinics are held at Greenboro, North Carolina; Charlotte, North Carolina; and Jackson, Mississippi.

Tesori said his goal is to have a clinic at every stop of the PGA TOUR, as well as the LPGA Tour.

The idea for the clinic came about with the birth of the Tesori’s son, Isaiah, who has Down Syndrome. About that time, Wyndham Championship tournament director Mark Brazil suggested they put together a clinic for kids with special needs.

And in 2014, the first All-Star Kids Clinic was held.

“We wanted to celebrate the kids, introduce them to a game that’s been so good to me, but also be in a situation where we can help them have fun, give



TP SEEN

Photos by Shaun Ryan

A coach offers one-on-one guidance to a young golfer during the Tesori Family Foundation All-Star Kids Clinic on March 10.



ABOVE: Young golfers test their chipping skills during the Tesori Family Foundation All-Star Kids Clinic.

LEFT: A young golfer attempts to hit a ring-shaped “golf ball” into the mouth of Golfrilla, a large, inflatable, green gorilla.



ABOVE: A young golfer makes a successful putt during the Tesori Family Foundation All-Star Kids Clinic on March 10.



RIGHT: A young golfer demonstrates his skill on the driving range during the Tesori Family Foundation All-Star Kids Clinic.



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Participants from First Tee – North Florida experience THE PLAYERS

THE PLAYERS Championship provided 75 tickets for participants and families from First Tee – North Florida for each day of the championship, courtesy of the tournament's Proud Partner, Optum, a diversified health services company and part of UnitedHealth Group.

In addition, ahead of the 2021 championship, 17 participants from the chapter were selected to interview Optum Brand Ambassador and THE PLAYERS' 2019 champion, Rory McIlroy, through a virtual kid press conference, where they asked him various questions related to personal health, golf's impact on his life, and his interests outside of the game.

"THE PLAYERS and Optum have

provided multiple opportunities that allow our participants to not only put their life skills and core values they've learned to the test, but also created moments they will remember for the rest of their lives. We are grateful for THE PLAYERS, Optum, and Rory's generosity in providing these opportunities to our children," said Jeff Willoughby, executive director of First Tee – North Florida. "They are helping us make a difference in the lives of young people by providing opportunities to engage in meaningful experiences, where kids feel excited to grow, safe to fail, and better equipped for whatever comes their way."

"We are so grateful to the team at Optum and our reigning champion for

allowing First Tee youth in our community to have an incredible experience at THE PLAYERS this year," said Jared Rice, executive director of THE PLAYERS. "First Tee is one of our tournament's, and organization's, longest-served charitable beneficiaries, and we are honored to continue supporting its mission of building game changers on and off the course."

Additionally, Optum made a \$50,000 donation to First Tee – North Florida to help with the expansion of a new Learning Center at Blue Cypress, a public golf course and park near downtown Jacksonville. Currently, the chapter is serving over 150,000 young people in North Florida. New facilities, like Blue Cypress, will give

more children the opportunity to explore the game of golf and grow their character foundation.

"Optum is honored to support First Tee – North Florida and its important mission of enabling children to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of new challenges," said Eric Murphy, chief growth and commercial officer, Optum. "As a Proud Partner of THE PLAYERS and together with our Health Ambassador Rory McIlroy we are excited to help empower future generations of leaders through unique experiences here at the championship and through the expansion of the new First Tee Learning Center at Blue Cypress."

Tesori

Continued from 20

the parents a little bit of a break and just kind of celebrate them," Tesori said.

Most of the one-on-one coaches for the March 10 event were from the local First Tee. But professional golfers Bubba Watson, Webb Simpson and Brittany Lincicome and others turned out to help make the day a success.

It was the first clinic of 2021, two having been canceled out of an abundance of caution in the wake of COVID-19. Last year, the foundation hosted four live clinics and five virtually via Zoom. Clinic volunteers take every precaution — including masks, temperature checks, distancing and sanitizing — to help ensure that everyone remains safe.

The nature of the clinics, however, poses some challenges.

"One of the habitual, great personality traits of kids with special needs is the desire to hug and have social and physical interaction," said Tesori. "So, it's a little bit tough at times. We kind of remind the kids they can't do certain things."

Still, the precautions didn't appear to dampen the joy the young participants always exhibit. It's one of the traits clinic volunteers admire.

"If they don't hit a good shot, they celebrate and have fun," said Tesori. "If they hit a really good shot, they celebrate it even more."

Challenging Golfrilla as the most popular attraction at the clinic was the Dunkin' pavilion, where the young golfers were able to enjoy a treat. Franchisee John Griffey has been a strong supporter of the clinics and, according to Tesori, has donated more than \$30,000 in cash and \$70,000 in goods.

"It's tremendous what he's been able to do," Tesori said.

At the start of the clinic, Tesori thanked businesses and individuals who helped make the event a success.

Go to tesorifamilyfoundation.org to learn more about the foundation and the clinics,



ABOVE: At the Tesori Family Foundation All-Star Kids Clinic on March 10 are, from left: foundation Executive Director Genna Lancaster, Webb Simpson holding Isaiah Tesori, Brittany Lincicome, Bubba Watson, Paul Tesori and Michelle Tesori.

LEFT: Young golfers line up along the driving range during the Tesori Family Foundation All-Star Kids Clinic on March 10.

Photos by Shaun Ryan



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SPECTRUM
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Training U gives student athletes day of career inspiration

By Holly Tishfield

Amid THE PLAYERS Championship week, 35 students from various high schools in the Duval and St. Johns counties gathered March 10 at the Sawgrass Marriott for an exclusive “Training U” event, powered by CDW.

The event, which normally hosts more than 250 people in the week leading up to the tournament, was scaled back in capacity this year due to the pandemic, but that did not stop the eager students from taking their socially distanced seats and enjoying an inspirational morning.

This sports-and-education forum is meant to introduce students to career opportunities beyond the sports that they play by giving them the opportunity to engage with high-ranking professionals.

Marsha Oliver, VP of Community and Inclusion for the PGA TOUR, began the morning by welcoming the students and commending them on their outstanding achievements, both on the field and off.

Chris Porter, sports director for First Coast News, took the stage next to announce that CDW and Intel were donating \$25,000 to Northeast Florida Regional STEM2 Hub, an organization that works to assure students have equal opportunity for future STEM careers.

The Beyond the Sport panel discussion brought together four outstanding professionals to give advice and answers questions from the students. Moderated by former President of WNBA and CEO of Orender Unlimited Donna Orender, familiar faces such as Shannon Miller (seven-time Olympic medalist and president of Miller Worldwide), Michael Collins (ESPN golf analyst and former PGA TOUR caddie), MaliVai Washington (Wimbledon finalist and founder of the MaliVai Washington Foundation) and Len Mattiace



TP SEEN

Photo by Holly Tishfield

Beyond the Sport panelists Chris Porter, Donna Orender, Shannon Miller, Michael Collins, MaliVai Washington and Len Mattiace shared their stories of success with student athletes at Training U on March 10 at Sawgrass Marriott.

TRAINING U continues on Page 25

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"Mourning" By Lizzi Stevens, 2019 High School Show Award Winner



ABOVE: Troy Okerberg, field services manager of the CDW, presents a \$25,000 donation check to STEM2 Hub Executive Director Kathleen Schofield during Training U on March 10.



RIGHT: Students Katarina, Alanis, Aliyah, Miniya and Trinity await the Training U presentation to begin.

Photos by Holly Tishfield



Students visit the College and Career Corner at Training U on March 10 at Sawgrass Marriott.

Training U

Continued from 24

(two-time PGA TOUR winner and founder of the Len Mattice Foundation) shared stories about their lives and careers.

“Today could be the first day of a future we have not seen,” said Orender, offering her wisdom to the students. “Where you will end up, we do not know, but we will prepare.”

Later in the morning, students were given the chance to speak with seven distinct Career Champions from the area, including Asia Gholston (director of marketing for the Jacksonville Jaguars)

and Harold Crow (general manager of the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp), while also speaking to representatives from colleges such as FSCJ, JU, UNF, Edward Waters and the U.S Navy.

During the Fireside with Firsts discussion panel, four PGA TOUR professionals spoke more with the students about career opportunities. There was a surprise virtual Q&A with PGA TOUR legend Harold Varner III, where he also announced to students the \$25,000 STEM2 Hub donation would be used to purchase each student in the room a new laptop computer.

Students rounded out the morning with a tour of the course and yet another surprise visit from Varner himself.



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Photo by Craig O'Neal

ABOVE: Fans sit on the grass at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course ahead of the trophy presentation on Sunday, March 14.

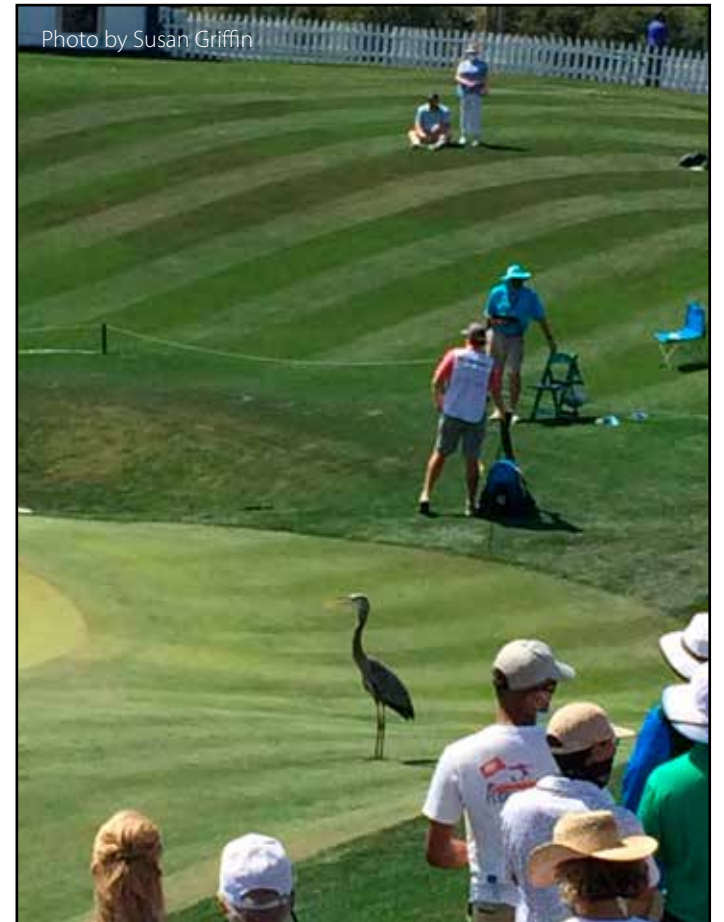


Photo by Susan Griffin

RIGHT: A bird enjoys the grounds of THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass during the tournament.



Photo by Craig O'Neal

A Rolex clock keeps track of the time on the course grounds.

TP Scene

A look at some of the sights and scenery from THE PLAYERS Championship last week at TPC Sawgrass.



Photo by Craig O'Neal

An eagle returns to its nest on grounds of TPC Sawgrass.



Photo by Craig O'Neal

Volunteers remind guests to wear masks at the tournament.



Photo by Craig O'Neal

THE PLAYERS Championship trophy is packed up ahead of its presentation to 2021 champion Justin Thomas.

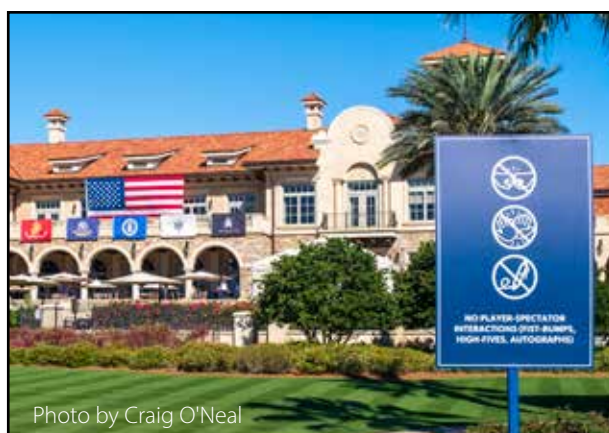


Photo by Craig O'Neal

A sign informs guests of safety protocols for the tournament.



Photo by Susan Griffin

The Sawgrass Splash was served at the Commissioner's Suite.



Photo by Craig O'Neal

Fans have their photo taken in front of the No. 17 Island Green during practice rounds for THE PLAYERS.

People at THE PLAYERS

A look at some of the fans who attended THE PLAYERS Championship last week at TPC Sawgrass.



Photo by Craig O'Neal

BELOW and RIGHT: Fans dress to display their golf spirit during the THE PLAYERS Championship.



Photo by Craig O'Neal



Photo by Craig O'Neal



Photo by Susan Griffin



Photo by Craig O'Neal

ABOVE: Fans wear matching outfits while attending the tournament.

LEFT: Young fans have their photo taken in front of the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse.



Contributed photo

ABOVE: Laura West Howson and Bruce Howson have a great view of the 17th hole during the tournament.

LEFT: Jim Moyer and Brian Zehren pose in the Lexus Suite during THE PLAYERS on Friday, March 12.

Len Mattiace's Rolls Royce Party raises money for kids' programs

By Shaun Ryan

Ponte Vedra Beach was the perfect setting for the perfect gathering Friday, March 12, when two-time PGA TOUR winner Len Mattiace hosted his inaugural Rolls Royce Players Party.

The weather was on its best behavior as guests arrived at the exclusive charity event designed to benefit the Len Mattiace Foundation and its programs for local kids. Those in attendance had an opportunity to make donations while enjoying mixed drinks, music from The Chris Thomas Band and oceanfront vistas behind the Ponte Vedra Boulevard home where the party was held.

Attendees also had an opportunity to showcase their skills in a chipping game on the back lawn. Anyone who could hole a 25-yard chip shot would win a ride on a private jet to a PGA host course and play 18 holes with Mattiace.

Motor car enthusiasts also had an opportunity to examine a trio of Rolls Royce vehicles up close.

Of course, the event served an important charitable purpose. The foundation supports kids' programs at The First Tee of North Florida and a Stop the Bullying Campaign in Jacksonville.

"Every month, we go to a golf course, and we invite kids from The First Tee of North Florida to come join with members who sign up," said Mattiace.

The youths between the ages of 13 and 18 are given an opportunity to learn from, and form friendships with, golfers from the community. For some, it offers insights into the world outside their own.

These kids, said Mattiace, "don't really have access to golf courses. Their parents aren't members at a country club. So, we really embrace the idea of connecting with those kids to give them a chance to meet quality people in the community. It will change those kids' lives forever."

The adults gain something, as well.

"They get to see The First Tee up close and see what The First Tee's all about," said Mattiace. "These kids are good golfers, and they're great kids. They're great people. The First Tee is doing an exceptional job."

MATTIACE continues on Page 31

TP SEEN



Photos by Shaun Ryan

Guests arrive at two-time PGA TOUR winner Len Mattiace's Rolls Royce Players Party on Friday, March 12.



ABOVE: Guests walk the red carpet at Len Mattiace's Rolls Royce Players Party.

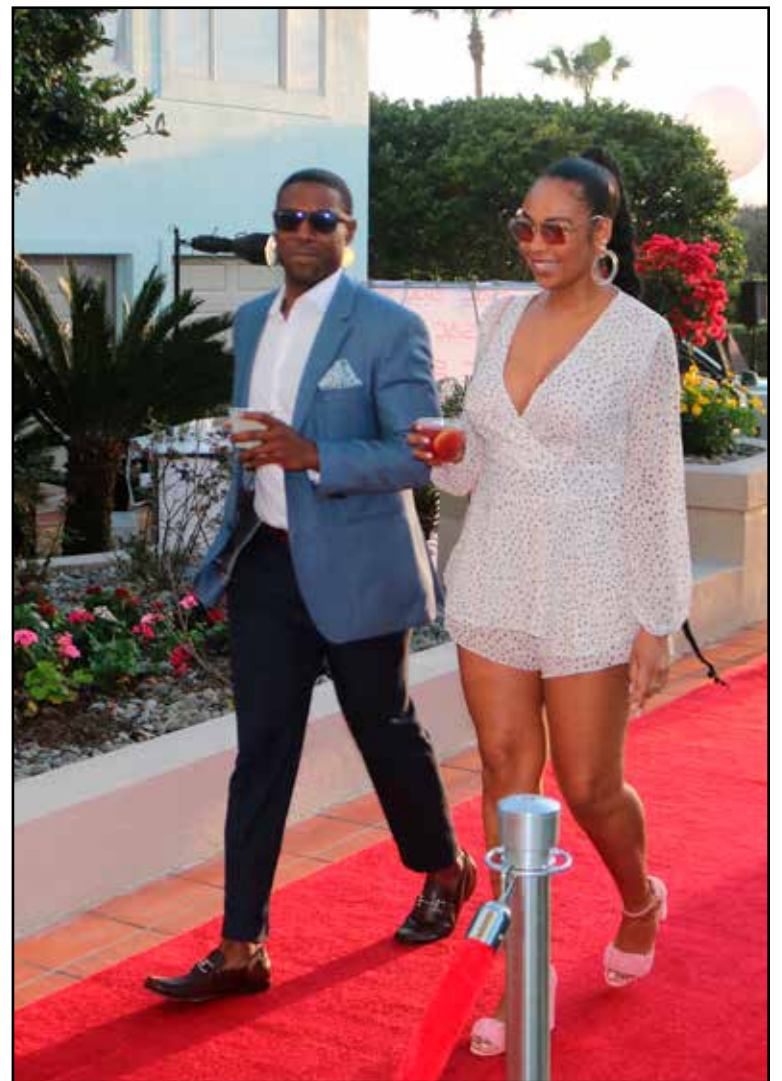
LEFT: Rolls Royce Motor Cars Orlando was the title sponsor of the party.



ABOVE: A Rolls Royce sits in front of the home on Ponte Vedra Boulevard where the party was held.



RIGHT: The Chris Thomas Band performs at the inaugural Rolls Royce Players Party on March 12.



Mattiace

Continued from 30

Since Mattiace started the foundation in 2000, it has been able to donate more than \$400,000 to The First Tee of North Florida.

The other initiative by the foundation is its work to stop bullying. Every month, the campaign has a theme, and students do projects, write papers and make speeches to get the message out.

Getting the students involved is one of the keys to solving the issue.

“Kids know what’s going on in the schools; you know, who’s bullying who,” Mattiace said. “Who makes fun of kids because they didn’t shower the night before or they have the same clothes on a few days of the week.”

Behind both of the foundation’s pillars is its core philosophy: kindness, compassion and inclusion.

“In everything that we do, we want to make sure when we reach the kids, we want to pass those messages along,” Mattiace said. “If we pass those messages along to the kids, the world will be a better place.”

The idea for the fundraiser started with SAC Collective, the foundation’s presenting sponsor. The party was to be held last year, but could not because COVID-19 forced social events to be suspended. It was conducted this year, however, with the support of Fields Auto Group and title sponsor Rolls Royce Motor Cars Orlando.

In all, the event had 45 sponsors and 60 volunteers.

To learn more about the foundation or to donate, go to lenmattiace.com.

Photos by Shaun Ryan

Guests arrive at two-time PGA TOUR winner Len Mattiace’s Rolls Royce Players Party on Friday, March 12. More party photos on page 30

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Jason Packo, Sydney Greene, Mike Greene, Robin Packo, Bernie Packo and Darryl Reed attend the Rolls Royce Players Party, hosted by two-time PGA TOUR winner Len Mattiace on Friday, March 12.

A party with a purpose

The inaugural Rolls Royce Players Party, hosted by two-time PGA TOUR winner Len Mattiace, was the place to be Friday, March 12. The exclusive charity event in Ponte Vedra Beach benefitted the Len Mattiace Foundation kids' programs at The First Tee of North Florida and the Stop the Bullying Campaign in Jacksonville.

Photos by Shaun Ryan



Brittney Greene, Victoria Greene and Colby Anderson



Seth Waller, Kerri Dowd and John Dinneen



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Kids enjoy fun, frolic at THE PLAYERS Championship YOUTH DAYS



Children participate in activities during a scavenger hunt at YOUTH DAYS sponsored by Nemours Children's Health System last week at THE PLAYERS Championship at TPC Sawgrass.

Photos provided by Nemours Children's Health System



Nemours Children's Health System sponsored event to help promote wellness

Early last week, children enjoyed YOUTH DAYS sponsored by Nemours Children's Health System at THE PLAYERS Championship.

A scavenger hunt, with 12 cutouts of children around the course, featured activities to encourage kids to engage in wellness. These physical challenges included catching a ball, playing with a hula hoop and jumping jacks, and children were asked to take a selfie with each cutout in order to be eligible to win prizes.

This year at the annual event, Nemours sponsored YOUTH DAYS Presented By Nemours Children's Health System, which allowed up to two youth, ages 15 and under, to be admitted free with a ticketed adult on Tuesday and Wednesday of the tournament.

Also this year, given the COVID-19 pandemic, THE PLAYERS featured Nemours Virtual Kids Zone at THE PLAYERS Championship.

During the events, Nemours recognized a few of its patients during special moments.

Christian Blyden, 13, was diagnosed

with hemophilia as an infant, and as a result, he cannot play contact sports, like his peers. His stepdad suggested he try golf, and it has given him a good outlet for his anxiety. His family put a putting green in the backyard and noticed how Christian's confidence grew. He loves the game and now has many friends through his local golf club in Pensacola.

Christian and his family travel to Nemours Children's Specialty Care in Jacksonville every three months to receive blood transfusions. Christian was selected by Dreams Come True to have a special meeting with his favorite golfer, Dustin Johnson, who was competing at THE PLAYERS.

Norah Sproules, 9, sees a number of specialists at Nemours Children's Specialty Care, Jacksonville. In fact, even with the best multiple-appointment scheduling, Norah and her mom, Megan, are at Nemours 30 times or more per year. In keeping with Nemours' approach to integrate patients and families in designing new spaces, Norah and her mom provided feedback and ideas that were incorporated in the new renovations at THE PLAYERS LOBBY at Nemours Specialty Care, Jacksonville, which were made possible thanks to a lead gift of \$500,000 from THE PLAYERS.



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Business Weekly

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Construction of Flagler Health+ Village at Nocatee completed

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Photo by Susan Griffin

Attendees network and enjoy the activities at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Glow Golf Outing & Soirée on March 4 at The Palencia Club in St. Augustine.

St. Johns County Chamber holds inaugural Glow Golf Outing & Soirée

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and Florida Power & Light presented the inaugural Chamber Glow Golf Outing & Soirée on Thursday, March 4 at The Palencia Club in St. Augustine.

The event gave attendees the opportunity to make connections and cocktails and golf under the stars at The

Palencia Club. Guests were able to network with fellow Chamber members on the open-air courtyard overlooking the 18th green or join a distinguished group of golfers in lighting up the night for a friendly round of glow golf.

More photos from the event, page 34

Chamber EDC meeting to present transportation panel discussion

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce will host its next quarterly economic development breakfast from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. March 26 at the Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Vedra Beach. This event will be the Chamber's first indoor event since the pandemic started one year ago.

Featuring a panel of transportation experts, the event will be moderated by Shannan Schuessler, a former Florida Department of Transportation chief of staff, currently with The Fiorentino Group.

It will feature discussions by Greg Evans, FDOT District 2 secretary; Nat Ford, Jacksonville Transportation Authority CEO; and Phong Ngyuen, transportation development manager, county Growth Management Department.

They will address the role of transportation in local and regional economic development.

The event will take place outdoors for networking and breakfast and indoors for the panel discussion. Following best practices and CDC guidelines regarding social distancing, no more than five guests will be seated at each indoor table with each table spaced at the appropriate social distance. Pursuant to Marriott policy, all guests will be asked to wear a mask or facial covering while not actively eating or drinking on the property.

To register, go to www.sjchamber.com and click on

EDC continues on Page 34

Judge John: Bikes are part of the sand life at Jacksonville beaches



John Miller
Guest Columnist

Bicycling at the beaches is a way of life. Many beaches residents prefer to take their beach cruiser up the road than to bring their car out of the garage. This is especially true on weekends when beach roads are packed and slow moving.

In Florida, the bicycle is legally defined as a vehicle, and the bicyclist as a driver.

Bicyclists have the same

rights to the roadways and must obey the same traffic laws as the drivers of other vehicles. These laws include stopping for stop signs and red lights, riding with the flow of traffic, and using lights at night. Among our Beaches cities, Atlantic Beach has an excellent webpage on bicycle safety. Motorists and bike riders alike should review it.

Cyclists under the age of 16 are required by law to wear helmets. Many would argue that all people riding a bicycle on the road should be required by law to wear a helmet.

Florida Cycling Attorney Chris Burns of Jacksonville recently said "Bicycling is very important in the lives of Duval County citizens. It's available to almost anyone for travel to work and school and errands. Bicycling is a beloved form of recreation and exercise. It reduces gas emission, traffic congestion, and improves our overall public health. Duval County, including the Beaches, has faced a crisis of injuries and even deaths being sustained by bicyclists in our community. We must take necessary steps to improve safety and accessibility. We must support programs to educate motorists and cyclists on how to interact safely. We must improve our bicycling and pedestrian infrastructure and facilities." Burns also points out that police enforcement of traffic rules will make the roads safer for cyclists. Sadly, it has only been a few months since a cyclist was killed at the beach.

Judge John would be remiss if he failed to note that one problem with bike ownership is the propensity of theft. A bicycle is stolen every seven seconds. In order to combat this, the city of Jacksonville Beach has created a Bicycle Registration Program. Please check it out at their web site and be sure to lock your bike.

"Share the Road" is more than just a slogan. Vehicle drivers must give bicyclists a minimum of 3 feet of clearance when driving alongside or passing them; it's the law. Cyclists can help by "riding big"

JUDGE JOHN continues on Page 34

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Janet E. Johnson, P.A.

Criminal Defense Attorney



Janet Johnson is committed to aggressively defending people accused in all criminal matters in state and federal court. In practice since 1994, she is a member of the Florida Bar, The Federal Bar, Colorado Bar, as well as the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She has been on the faculty of FACDL “Blood, Breath & Tears” annual DUI seminar. Ms. Johnson has been awarded the AV preeminent rating™ from Martindale-Hubble® and was named a fellow to the prestigious Litigation Counsel of America™, as well as one of the ten best criminal defense attorneys nationally for client satisfaction by the American Institute of Criminal Law Attorneys. She also appears as a legal commentator on CNN and HLN.

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GLOW GOLF OUTING & SOIRÉE

Attendees network and enjoy the activities at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Glow Golf Outing & Soiree on March 4 at The Palencia Club in St. Augustine.

Photos by Susan Griffin

RIGHT: Dr. Erika Hamer, Trudy Toche and Lisa Petges



Sharon Friedes and Alan Lowe



Carol Saviak and Reba Ludlow



Representatives from T-Mobile participate in the event.



The event gave Chamber members a chance to network and enjoy some golf.

EDC

Continued from 22

Events. The registration fee is \$50 for Chamber members at the Economic Development Council level, \$70 for other Chamber members and \$85 for guests. For guests who prefer to attend the event virtually in webinar format, registration will open for virtual attendance when in-person capacity has been reached. Virtual registration is \$20. Future chamber members are invited to contact Sam Ruiz at Samuel.Ruiz@sjcchamber.com to register.

"We are so fortunate that our speakers have agreed to convene to discuss how transportation affects our econom-

ic development," said Isabelle Renault, Chamber president and CEO.

Sponsors for the event are St. Augustine and St. Johns County Board of Realtors MLS, North Avenue Capital, Jackson Law Group, PuroClean Emergency Restoration Services and The Fiorentino Group.

The Chamber has a limited number of additional sponsorships available for this event. Call or email Cathy Newman, Economic Development manager, 904-829-5681, cathy.newman@sjcchamber.com, for more details.

To learn more about the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce or to become a member, go to www.sjcchamber.com, call 904-829-5681, or connect on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sjcchamber.

Pivot CPAs senior tax manager takes on new trustee role

Pivot CPAs, the area's largest locally-owned independent CPA firm, has announced that CPA Debra Smith has been selected to serve as a trustee of the Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Foundation.

A member of the Pivot CPAs team since 2012, Smith has nearly two decades of experience working in the professional accounting field. She currently serves as a senior tax manager. As a foundation trustee, her responsibilities include reviewing the organization's books and financials, preparing Form 990, aiding the board of directors in awarding grants, and preparing the treasurer's report and presenting it at board meetings throughout the year.

"As a longtime member of the Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club, I am thrilled at the opportunity to serve on the foundation," said Smith. "One of the most exciting aspects of my new role is helping to advise on grant awards. I look forward to playing a role in giving aid to those in need."

Established in 1983, the Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club has been serving the local community for nearly four decades. The group organizes and hosts a wide range of events, including community service projects, club service activities and club social events. To learn more, go to pvbrotary.org.

A magna cum laude graduate of Valdosta State University, Smith holds a bachelor of business administration degree in accounting. In addition to her involvement with the club, she is a member, past board member and treasurer of the Ponte Vedra Women's Club; a past board member and treasurer of the Jacksonville Humane Society; and a founding member of the Sawgrass Pointe Women's Club.

She has lived in Ponte Vedra Beach for more than 25 years.

Judge John

Continued from 32

or taking up a sufficient amount of the lane so that they are visible to the operator of a car or truck, who must take precaution to pass with care.

Beach residents love the feeling of sun on our skin, wind in our hair, and salt on both. Judge John implores all readers to exercise care to keep our beaches roads safe for everyone.

Many thanks to alert reader Sam Veal for suggesting this article. We would love to hear from our fellow beach residents any ideas for future articles concerning our Sand Life.

John Miller is the Special Magistrate for the City of Neptune Beach. His law firm, Rock Solid Law, provides expert guidance in all areas of Business Law, Real Estate, Estate Planning and Probate and Trust Administration. (904) 241-1113



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Stellar completes Flagler Health+ Village at Nocatee

The \$19 million project features biophilic design

Stellar has officially completed its construction of the new Flagler Health+ Village at Nocatee. The \$19 million design-build project includes a multi-story medical office building totaling 40,000 square feet.

Built on a four-acre site in the Nocatee Town Center, the property is located in the heart of the growing master-planned community.

The new health village offers residents a variety of comprehensive medical services, including:

- Primary care and family medicine
- Laboratory and diagnostic services
- Concierge medicine

- Imaging (MRI, CT scans, X-ray, ultrasound and mammography)
- Heart and vascular care
- Orthopedics
- Health coaching
- Wellness and educational classes

The building's biophilic design is intended to better connect visitors and staff to the surrounding natural environment. It incorporates a green moss wall that helps cleanse the air of toxic VOCs, reduces noise and adds a clutter-free, natural design element to the space. The site also includes large expansive views to the exterior, a curtain wall, airy skylights and a one-acre park.

"We're honored to be a part of translating this innovative health-and-



Contributed photo

Flagler Health+ Village at Nocatee includes a multi-story medical office building totaling 40,000 square feet.

FLAGLER continues on Page 37

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Women's Food Alliance plans event at Spice & Tea Exchange

Time is running out to make reservations for the Women's Food Alliance visit to Colleen Messner's Spice & Tea Exchange. The event will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. March 29. This includes a pre-reception prior to the 6 p.m. trolley boarding.

Guests will step into history in St. Augustine aboard a private Old Town Trolley. Then, the party gets started at The Spice & Tea Exchange, 167 San Marco Ave.

At the Spice & Tea Exchange, guests will find a creatively designed and prepared tasting menu of seasonal dishes and beverages.

The building housing the business is the 1870 Hildreth House, originally the north

wing of the Hildreth Plantation House. Currently being restored, in the late 1800s it was home to the practice of "Dr. Percy Dreggors ... Physician, Dentist and Undertaker." Dreggors specialized in the painless removal of bullets and teeth.

All food and beverages at the event are being created by Colleen Messner and Angie Fletcher, using Spice & Tea Exchange specialty products.

The cost to attend is \$44 if paid by check and \$46 if by PayPal. Send checks to Leigh Cort Publicity, 68 Thicket Creek Trail, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081. PayPal payments may be sent to leighcort@bellsouth.net.

Reservation deadline is March 25.



Contributed photo

The Spice & Tea Exchange is the place for the next visit by the Women's Food Alliance.

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Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, Gate Hospitality plan hiring fair

Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, The Lodge & Club, The River Club and Epping-Forest Yacht & Country Club will host a hiring fair for various hospitality positions from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 27.

The event will be held at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club

Conference Center, 200 Ponte Vedra Blvd. It is being managed by Gate Hospitality, the parent company of the resorts and clubs.

More than 120 hospitality positions are open to be filled. The full list of positions is available at [hospitality-](https://hospitality-online.com/gate-hospitality-group/jobs)

[online.com/gate-hospitality-group/jobs](https://hospitality-online.com/gate-hospitality-group/jobs).

COVID-19 health and safety precautions will be in effect throughout the event. All attendees are required to wear face coverings and maintain a distance of six feet to comply with social distancing norms.

Flagler

Continued from 36

wellness concept into a reality for First Coast residents,” said Richard Lovelace, senior vice president, commercial at Stellar. “We’ve partnered with Flagler Health+ to build the health village in the Murabella community, which is now open, as well as the forthcoming health village at Durbin Park. While all of these locations offer the consistent quality of care patients expect from Flagler Health+, each boasts a unique ‘personality’ with world-class features and functions.”

Stellar partnered with architects at RS&H to complete the health village. Crews first broke ground on the property in September 2019, and despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the project was completed safely and on schedule.



The building’s biophilic design is intended to better connect visitors and staff to the surrounding natural environment.

Contributed photo



The new health village offers residents a variety of comprehensive medical services, including MRI, CT scans, X-ray, ultrasound and mammography.



A view of one of the rooms within the Flagler Health+ Village at Nocatee.

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Inaugural Lightner Local exhibition presents Antwan Ramar: Contemporary Impressions

The inaugural Lightner Local exhibition presents Antwan Ramar: Contemporary Impressions. In his work, Ramar brings a contemporary vision to landscape painting while embracing historic traditions and techniques. Presenting his plein air studies alongside larger studio works, Ramar's exhibition at the Lightner explores his process of art making from field study to final painting.

Antwan Ramar: Contemporary Impressions will be on display from April 2 to May 23 in the Lightner Museum's East Room Gallery above the historic swimming pool. The exhibition will open on Friday, April 2 during St. Augustine's First Friday Art Walk from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Guests should enter through the Granada Street door of the Café Alcazar. Masks are required.

Originally from rural Wisconsin, Ramar has always been inspired by nature's beauty. Ramar studied art in Southern California, in some of the finest ateliers under teachers with extensive experience in their fields. In that time, his curricular focus was on conceptual art. Learning the fun-



Photo provided by the Lightner Museum

The inaugural Lightner Local exhibition will feature Antwan Ramar: Contemporary Impressions from April 2 to May 23 at the Lightner Museum.

damentals of drawing and painting gave him the tools to take his art in any direction. Today, Ramar is a full-time painter, splitting his time between painting in his studio, teaching classes and participating in plein air events around the country. He loves to travel and paint but spends most of his time in sunny Orlando.

"My paintings tell stories through the ephemeral mood of natural light. I look for the subtle poetry of each subject, trying to paint the "adjective" and not the "noun" of the scene," Ramar said.

For more information about upcoming programming and exhibitions, go to lightnermuseum.org or call (904) 824-2874.



Photo provided by the St. Augustine Amphitheatre

Latin jazz artist Al Di Meola will perform on the Backyard Stage of the St. Augustine Amphitheatre on March 26.

Latin jazz pioneer to perform at St. Augustine Amphitheater

Latin jazz pioneer Al Di Meola will perform two shows at the Backyard Stage at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre on Sunday, March 28. The performance previously scheduled at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on Friday, March 26, was canceled.

Patrons who purchased tickets for the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall performance online at Ticketmaster.com will automatically be refunded back to the original payment method. Those who purchased tickets at the box office are advised to check the hours of operation before going to the venue.

Tickets for the Backyard Stage performances are on sale now at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office and Ticketmaster.com.

Meola's fascination with complex rhythmic syncopation combined with provocative lyrical melodies and sophisticated harmony has been at the heart of his music throughout a celebrated career that has spanned four decades and earned him critical accolades, three gold albums and more than six million in record sales worldwide.

He has recorded more than 20 albums and collaborated on a dozen or so others with the likes of the fusion

DI MEOLA continues on **Page 39**

Bluesy rockers Tab Benoit, Samantha Fish to bring co-headline tour to St. Augustine Amphitheatre

The St. Augustine Amphitheatre announced blues rockers Tab Benoit and Samantha Fish will bring their first ever co-headline tour to The Amp on Saturday, April 10, for a limited-capacity concert with distanced seating. Enhanced safety measures and protocols are in place, including contactless digital ticketing, face covering requirements and mobile ordering for concessions. The concert event is presented by the St. Augustine Distillery.

Following their unforgettable appearance together at the historic Ryman Auditorium in Nashville last November, Benoit and Fish bring their distinctive and powerful brand of Americana roots and blues to fans on their first ever co-headline tour.



Tab Benoit



Samantha Fish

Benoit is a Grammy-nominated singer, songwriter and guitarist who has built a remarkable 30-plus year career on the foundation of his gritty and soulful Delta swamp blues. He earned five Blues Music Awards, including B.B. King Entertainer of the Year (twice), and been named one of

the 30 Best Blues Guitarists in the world today by *Guitar World* over the course of six albums and a tireless tour schedule.

Fish has quickly ascended from one of the most promising young blues performers on the scene to a stage savvy, multi-talented performer and songwriter who expertly works in elements of everything from rock to funk to raw country blues. Fans can count on a full set from both artists.

Tickets are on sale at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre Box Office and online at Ticketmaster.com. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre Box Office is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Fridays and 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays. The box office will only accept payment via debit or credit card.

Legendary Americana pioneer Robert Earl Keen comes to The Amp on April 11



Photo provided by The St. Augustine Amphitheatre
Robert Earl Keen to perform at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre on Sunday, April 11.

The St. Augustine Amphitheatre, in partnership with Flying Saucer Presents, announced legendary Americana pioneer Robert Earl Keen will perform at The Amp on Sunday, April 11, for a limited-capacity concert with distanced seating. Enhanced safety measures and protocols are in place, including contactless digital ticketing, face covering requirements and mobile ordering for concessions.

It's not always easy to sum up a career, let alone a life's ambition, so succinctly, but those five words from Robert Earl Keen's calling-card anthem — "and the party never

ends" — just about do it. But it's the part about the journey that gets right to the heart of what makes Keen tick. Some people take up a life of playing music with the goal of someday reaching a destination of fame and fortune; but from the get-go, Keen just wanted to write and sing his own songs, and to keep writing and singing them for as long as possible.

"I always thought that I wanted to play music, and I always knew that you had to get some recognition in order to continue to play music," Keen said. "But I never thought of it in terms of getting to be a big

star. I thought of it in terms of having a really, really good career and writing some good songs, and getting onstage and having a really good time."

Now three-decades on from the release of his debut album, with 19 other records to his name, thousands of shows under his belt and still no end in sight to the road ahead, Keen remains as committed to and inspired by his muse as ever. And as for accruing recognition, he's done alright on that front, too. From his humble beginnings on

KEEN continues on **Page 41**

Beach Boys return to The Amp on May 14

The St. Augustine Amphitheatre recently announces The Beach Boys will return to the The Amp for their 2021 “Feel Flows Tour” on Friday, May 14, for a limited-capacity concert with distanced seating. Enhanced safety measures and protocols are in place, including contactless digital ticketing, face covering requirements and mobile ordering for concessions.

As the Beach Boys mark more than a half century of making music, the group continues to ride the crest of a wave unequalled in America’s musical history. The Beach Boys have become synonymous with the California lifestyle and have become an American icon to fans around the world

Since the band’s co-founder, lead-singer and chief lyricist Mike Love penned the lyrics to The Beach Boys’ first hit, “Surfin’” (1961), dozens of the bands chart toppers have become eternal anthems of American youth: “Surfin’ USA,” “Surfer Girl,” “Fun, Fun, Fun,” “I Get Around,” “California Girls,” “Help Me Rhonda,” “Barbara Ann,” “Good Vibrations,” “Wouldn’t It Be Nice,” “Rock and Roll Music” and “Kokomo.”

The Beach Boys have sold more than 100 million records worldwide and have received more than 33 RIAA Platinum and Gold record awards. The Rock and Roll Hall of Famers where also honored at the



Photo provided by the St. Augustine Amphitheatre

The Beach Boys will return to the St. Augustine Amphitheatre for a concert May 14.

2001 Grammy Awards with the Lifetime Achievement Award. With more than five decades of touring under their belts, The Beach Boys have performed more concerts than any major rock band in history.

“Sounds of Summer: The Very Best Of The Beach Boys,” Capitol/EMI’s 30-track collection of the band’s biggest hits, has achieved triple-platinum success with sales of more than three million copies in the U.S. since its release.

The Beach Boys are led by Mike Love, who, along with longtime member Bruce Johnston, musical director Scott Totten, Brian Eichenberger, Christian Love, Tim Bonhomme, John Cowsill, Keith Hubacher and Randy Leago, continue the legacy

of the iconic band. This concert will not feature Brian Wilson, Al Jardine or David Marks.

Tickets for The Beach Boys are on sale at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre Box Office and online at Ticketmaster.com. Tickets are sold in pre-configured pods (groupings) ranging from two-to-eight seats per pod. Each pod is at least six feet from one to the next, and all seats within the pod must be purchased together. Additionally, all tickets are digital. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre Box Office will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Fridays and from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays. The box office will only accept payment via debit or credit card.

Di Meola

Continued from 38

supergroup Return to Forever (with Chick Corea, Stanley Clarke and Lenny White), the celebrated acoustic Guitar Trio featuring fellow virtuosos John McLaughlin and Paco de Lucia, and the Rite of Strings trio with bassist Clarke and violinist Jean-Luc Ponty.

A pioneer of blending world music and jazz, going back to early Latin-tinged fusion outings like 1976’s “Land of the Midnight Sun,” 1977’s “Elegant Gypsy” and 1978’s “Casino,” the guitar great continues to explore the rich influence of flamenco, tango, Middle Eastern, Brazilian and African music with his World Sinfonia, an ambitious pan-global group that he formed in 1991. Their exhilarating world music fusion has been documented on such releases as 2000’s “The Grande Passion,” 2007’s “Live in London,” 2011’s “Pursuit of Radical Rhapsody” and the 2012 DVD, “Morocco Fantasia.”

The St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays and 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays.

The Backyard Stage at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre is an outdoor, open-air concert space with physically distanced seating. It is presented by Intuition Ale Works.

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Butterfield Gallery features 'Backyard Studio Kitchen' artist

Nancy Hamlin-Vogler presents "Backyard Studio Kitchen," a new series of mixed-media paintings throughout March at Butterfield Garage Gallery in St. Augustine. The artist will also lead a demonstration and Q&A on the gallery portico from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, March 20.

During the past year's isolation, Hamlin-Vogler became immersed in a still-life series, in which studio ephemera and her environment appear in diverse contexts: abstracted, realistic and within an imagined location. Hamlin-Vogler treats her subjects intriguingly, mixing her favorite materials — paints, pastels, collage, and recycled silkscreens — often leaving the viewer hanging by a thread yet satisfied with multiple possibilities.

Hamlin-Vogler's artistic life has flowed in a series of interesting transitions. While in graduate school to continue her studies in French literature, Hamlin-Vogler became enthralled with silkscreen printing after taking a printmaking class at the University of Maine. She designed a colorful series of fine art cards, later to become the trademark images for her greeting card company, Eastern Sun Printworks. Upon earning her M.A., she left Maine and the U.S. for a backpacking trip around the world. During those profound two-and-a-half years, she kept written and painted journals, collected kitchen utensils and fabrics from many countries and gathered a wealth of experience to enrich her life's journey and fuel her creative resources.

Fast forward 35 years, after hard work and accomplishment in printmaking, Hamlin-Vogler has refocused her time to paint and experiment in her spacious studio near the Fountain of Youth in St. Augustine. Ac-



Photos provided by Butterfield Garage Gallery
"Worlds Apart," an acrylic-mixed painting by artist Nancy Hamlin-Vogler.



"Where Blue Meets Green," an acrylic-mixed work by Hamlin-Vogler.

tive in the local art scene, Hamlin-Vogler is a managing member of Butterfield Garage, a member of the Art Association and has received numerous high awards in outdoor juried art shows. Last September, several of her paintings were selected for a stellar exhibition at Crisp Ellert Art Museum, "The Nameless Now, NE FL Artists Respond."

In 2020, Hamlin-Vogler was recognized with an art ventures grand from The Community Foundation of Northeast Florida to explore and reinterpret the contemporary still-life genre. To follow her creative journey, go to www.nancyhamlinvogler.com

Butterfield Gallery is located at 137 King St. in St. Augustine and is open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with free parking.

Theatre Jacksonville accepting video submissions for Jr. Mainstage Production

Students ages 7-18 invited to submit 1-minute monologue

The annual Jr. Mainstage Production, created and cast by middle- and high-school students from the community, is one of the most popular spring offerings each year at Theatre Jacksonville. This year, Theatre Jacksonville is reimagining the production by featuring young voices from across the Northeast Florida area in a video montage. Students ages 7-18 are invited to submit a one-minute monologue recording, using the theme "Imagine Your World," either an existing monologue or one of their own original works.

Submissions are due by 4 p.m. on Monday, April 5.

"We are thrilled to be able to showcase a number of talented students throughout our region by compiling individual submissions into a 'time capsule' produc-

tion format," said Education Director Ron Shreve. "Throughout the pandemic, we have relied upon creative reimagining for our programming, and this is a great opportunity to bring our Jr. Mainstage Production to a wider audience, since an audience cannot yet return to us."

Video submissions, no longer than 90 seconds, should be submitted via email to Loudise@TheatreJax.com, and selected monologues will be compiled into the "Imagine Your World" time capsule virtual show. The Jr. Mainstage Production show will be viewable from Monday, May 3 through Sunday, May 9. Tickets are available through the Theatre Jacksonville website.

For more information about submitting a one-minute monologue or for ticket information for the Jr. Mainstage Production, go to www.theatrejax.com or call (904) 396-4425.

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- Washington, e.g.
- Grow dim
- Extraterrestrials' rides
- Pilot's stunt
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Free concert series continues at St. Anastasia Catholic Church

Pianist Peter Simon will perform a free concert March 20 at St. Anastasia Catholic Church.

Contributed photo



The St. Anastasia Catholic Church free concert series continues this month with pianist Peter Simon performing on Saturday, March 20. The concert starts at 7 p.m.

Take a walk down Memory Lane as Simon performs some of the most treasured classics ever written, including “Moonlight Sonata,” “Clair du Lune,” “Sabre Dance,” “MMinute Waltz,” “The Entertainer,” “Malaguena” and “Rhapsody in Blue.”

Simon, a native of Denver, is a former university profes-

sor with degrees in philosophy and music. He has toured throughout Europe and Asia and has performed at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center.

The concert is open to the public and will take place in the church, which is located at 5205 A1A South on Anastasia Island. The church, which under normal circumstances seats more than 1400, will be sectioned for social distancing. Masks are required. Parking is free.

Call (904) 471-5364 for information.

Keen

Continued from 38

the Texas folk scene, he’s blazed a peer, critic and fan-lauded trail that’s earned him living-legend, not to mention pioneer, status in the Americana music world. And though the Houston native has never worn his Texas heart on his sleeve, he’s regarded as one of the Lone Star state’s finest true singer-songwriters.

A breakthrough album for Keen, “A Bigger Piece of Sky,” and its songs, such as “Amarillo Highway,” “Whenever Kindness Fails” and “Corpus Christi Bay” are mainstays of his live set. The album was recorded in Nashville, produced by Garry Velletri, and mixed by Velletri and Jeff Coppage. The project features an amazing lineup consisting of Garry Tallent (E Street Band) on upright and electric bass, Marty Stuart on mandolin, Dave Durocher

on percussion, Jay Spell on accordion, Jonathan Yudkin on violin and Maura O’Connell on vocals. It also features guest musicians George Marinelli (Bonnie Raitt) on harmony vocal and electric guitar, Tommy Spurlock on guitar, Michael Snow on tenor banjo, Bryan Duckworth on violin, Dave Heath on upright bass and Jennifer Prince on harmony vocals.

Tickets for Robert Earl Keen are on sale at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre Box Office and online at Ticketmaster.com. Tickets are sold in pre-configured pods (groupings) ranging from two-to-eight seats per pod. Each pod is at least six feet from one to the next, and all seats within the pod must be purchased together. Additionally, all tickets are digital. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre Box Office will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Fridays and 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays. The box office will only accept payment via debit or credit card.



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Sports

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THE PLAYERS: A monumental success

By Kathy Bissell

No matter how you look at it, THE PLAYERS Championship 2021 was an enormous success — from the weather to the winner and everything in between. The only thing that could have improved it was no COVID-19, and everyone is trying hard to get rid of that.

The 2021 PLAYERS had more fans than any golf tournament, perhaps any sporting event, in the last 12 months. Assuming things continue to go well, the PGA TOUR intends to continue to open up golf tournaments to more and more people, so long as the local and state authorities where the tournaments are held will allow it. (You know how they are in California! Expect them to be last.)

Attendance was capped at 20% of 2019, which everyone estimates at between 200,000-250,000 people (because we don't really know the number). That would mean between 10,000 and 15,000 fans were allowed in each day — or somewhere between 40,000 and 50,000 in all.

People were sensible. They were asked to wear face masks and it looked like a majority of them did. When they were sitting around the 17th green, many fans separated themselves from other people. Whatever the actual number was, they created real enthusiasm, a force field of energy. And boy, did the golfers enjoy having them around.

“You start to really feel like you can get into a round, like the fans are kind of with you, willing putts in, that kind of stuff,” Jordan Spieth said early in the tournament. “It felt like just back to normal inside the ropes for us, and I think that players in general really enjoy that.”

“I'm so happy they're back,” said newly minted PLAYERS champ Justin Thomas. “The things that I felt out there today and those last couple holes is something that I haven't felt in a really long time because of all this (COVID).”

“I love seeing the fans out. I love interacting with them,” said Bryson DeChambeau. “I think it's fun. I think it's part of the great atmosphere that we live in and play under, and it's great having them cheer me on.”

While players enjoy the fans, they still have to keep their distance because most of them are so young, they will be in the last groups to get the vaccine. The Tour intends to educate all players on the vaccine and will encourage everyone to get it. But enough about that.



Photo by Craig O'Neal

Justin Thomas gets a high-five from his caddy after sinking the winning putt at THE PLAYERS Championship on Sunday, March 14 at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass.

The golf was stupendous. The course was in great condition. If you happened to miss the final round, it was like a high wire act with no net and performers falling off and crashing frequently. It was calamitous. It was shocking. It was thrilling. The only things missing were a crew of medics and monster sized band-aids. Of course, if you don't like golf, I'm sure you had a nice nap on Sunday while the rest of us were spellbound.

At the start of play on Sunday, 47-year-old Englishman Lee Westwood, a winner

of 44 worldwide golf tournaments on every continent but Antarctica, led Bryson “The Incredible Bulk” DeChambeau by two shots.

DeChambeau has become the most interesting guy in golf because he gained 40 pounds and studied long drive contestants in order to learn how to maximize the distance he could hit a golf ball. The Saturday and Sunday before THE PLAYERS, at the Arnold Palmer Invitational, DeChambeau hit drives over the lake on the 6th hole that went 370 yards. It was

hard to know what he would do at TPC Sawgrass because it's a much tighter golf course. He did very well, considering.

Behind them, just one more back, were Justin Thomas and Doug Ghim. Thomas is so good that he won a major championship, the PGA, early in his career. I mean he's only 28, so when I say early, he was about 22 when turned pro in 2014 and about 25 when he won the PGA Championship in 2017.



ABOVE: 2021 PLAYERS champion Justin Thomas hits a shot from the first tee during THE PLAYERS.

LEFT: Lee Westwood hits a drive in front of the championship trophy at THE PLAYERS.

PLAYERS

Continued from 42

Thomas was tied with 24-year-old Doug Ghim, playing in his first Players and ranked 257th in the world (which shows you how messed up the rankings can be, but that's another story). Starting out those were the main characters.

We knew it was going to be a crazy day when the leaders got to the 4th hole. The tee shots DeChambeau and Westwood hit were ridiculous, to be kind about it.

Westwood hit his tee shot into the water on the right side. He was developing a case of the rights which lasted through the round, so much so that he dropped his driver onto the tee of the 11th at the end of his backswing after hitting a bad shot. But that was later. At the 4th, he found water, took a drop into the rough, hit a shot to more rough, got to the green and finished with a bogey. It was fairly ugly.

That's when DeChambeau out did him. It looked like he topped one off the tee into the water, although later he said it wasn't really a top, just a thin. Then, taking a drop and playing from the ladies tee, he took out what is being called his nuclear 4-iron and hit it so far right that people thought he might not be on the golf course any longer. He also cracked the 4-iron so it was out of play.

The ball was eventually located under some trees in the pine straw way to the right of the green. He muffed a shot from there and was still in pine straw. Shotlink, the system that will tell you where the balls have gone and how far shots are hit,



Photos by Craig O'Neal

Bryson DeChambeau reacts to fans during THE PLAYERS Championship at TPC Sawgrass.

said it was hit "to landscaping." Next, he hit a miraculous shot just to get his ball onto the green and ended up with a six.

This was a "Who are these guys?" moment. Nerves? Pressure? Well, according to all who contended, it was a nervous day. But almost nobody else played shots as nuts as those two did on the 4th. However, one person actually played a worse shot. Brendon Todd. When he got to the 17th, he hit a shank off the tee that went so far right it nearly hit the other island at the 17th, the one with a palm tree and a bed of flowers.

The tournament outcome was defined by Justin Thomas' play from the 9th through the 12th where he went birdie-birdie-eagle-birdie. With that stretch, he took the lead for the first time after the eagle. Then lost the lead or was tied. Then he took it for the second time when he birdied the 16th.

Now despite all the mishaps and disasters, Westwood was still only one back of Thomas at the end of the day. Had he made par at the 17th instead of bogey, there would have been a playoff, and who knows what the outcome would have been.

DeChambeau, except for the 4th hole, didn't really squander a lot of shots. But he needed to make up three more shots to tie Thomas and four to beat him, and couldn't get it done. He only birdied one of the par fives on Sunday, and as he said, his putting was not as good as he would have liked it to be.

Thomas hit some magnificent shots on the par fives. At the 9th, he slung a 5-iron around the trees and got a great bounce for the ball to land on the green. Made birdie. At the 11th, he belted a 4-iron to within 20 feet and made the putt for eagle. At the 16th he curved a screaming, left hooking driver around the corner -- he has a hard time hitting shots that go left -- and then smashed a 5-wood to the green with his second shot. That's where he took the lead again.

He gave himself a scare with a 5-wood off the tee at the 18th. It started rolling left and looked for a while like it might roll into the lake, but it straightened out and Thomas made a par there for the victory. When Westwood bogeyed the 17th, it was apparent that Justin Thomas would be the 2021 Players champion.

With Thomas' 14th career title, he became one of four golfers since 1960 to win that many times on the PGA Tour before turning 28, joining Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Johnny Miller. It is pretty good company and demonstrates the quality of his game.

Now, we start the countdown to Players 2022 when we think all fans will be back and we hope the noise will be so loud on the 16th and 17th that the ground actually shakes.



Sergio Garcia hits a putt during THE PLAYERS Championship last week at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass.



Phil Mickelson on the course for THE PLAYERS Championship.

The players at THE PLAYERS

A look at some of the players, plays and highlights from THE PLAYERS Championship last week at TPC Sawgrass.

Photos by Craig O'Neal



Bryson DeChambeau hits a shot during the tournament.

ABOVE: Lee Westwood lines up a putt during THE PLAYERS

RIGHT: PGA TOUR player Rory Sabbatini gets a fist bump from the caddy for PGA TOUR player Brendan Steele (far right) during the third round of THE PLAYERS Championship on Saturday, March 13.



Justin Thomas tees off on the 17th hole during the final round.



THE PLAYERS Championship winner Justin Thomas (right) listens to PGA TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan during the trophy presentation on Sunday, March 14.



Bryson DeChambeau signs autographs for fans during the tournament.



Jon Rahm hits out of the grass during THE PLAYERS Championship.



ABOVE: Webb Simpson (left) and Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland react after finishing on the 18th green during the second round of THE PLAYERS Championship on March 12. McIlroy, the defending champion, missed the cut after the round.

Photo by Sam Greenwood/Getty Images



LEFT: Brian Harman reacts after holing out for eagle on the first hole during the third round of THE PLAYERS Championship.

Photo by Kevin C. Cox/Getty Images



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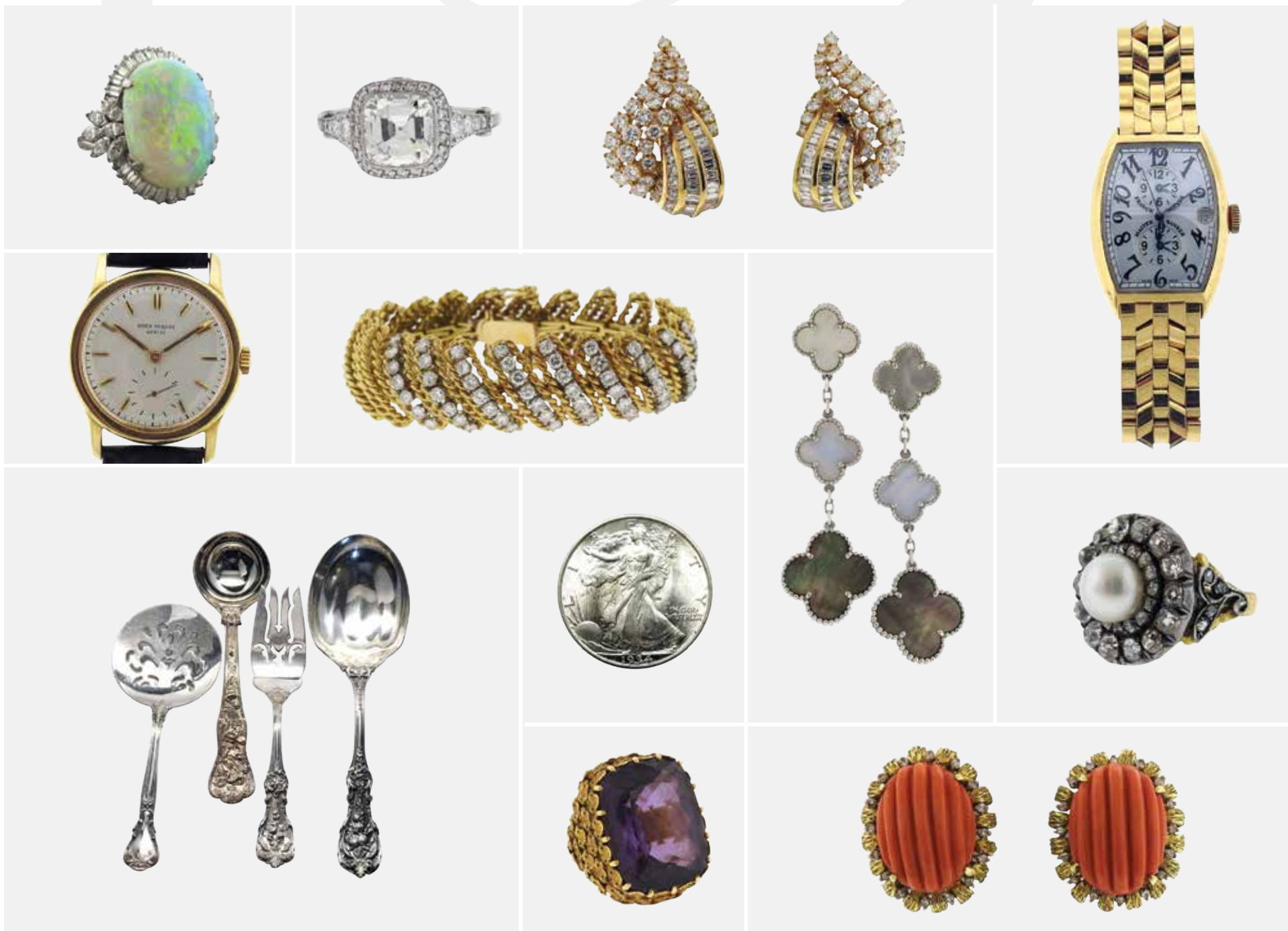
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