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PONTE VEDRA



# Recorder

May 27, 2021  
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75 cents

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com



## CELEBRATING THE ARTS IN STYLE

A fashion show, presented in cooperation with fashion designer Dr. Arun Gulani, was one of the highlights of the annual Beaches, A Celebration of the Arts event on Sunday, May 23, at The Surf Club at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

For more, go to page 40

Photos by Shaun Ryan



Aishwariya Gulani, Miss India USA 2019-20, was one of the stars of the "Bespoke on the Boulevard" fashion show.



**INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!**  
The Recorder's Entertainment EXTRA featuring TV listings, streaming information, puzzles and more!



**Sand Castles**

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**Legal Eagles**

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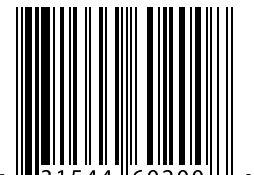


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## Send us your news

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

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



Find us on Twitter @[@PonteVedraNews](https://twitter.com/PonteVedraNews) and on Instagram @[pvrecorder](https://www.instagram.com/pvrecorder)

## 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](mailto:don@opcfla.com). We'll add you to the list.

## ADOPT A PET

### CAT OF THE WEEK

Hello, my name is Julep. I am a 2-year-old female domestic shorthair cat. I came to the Pet Center with my sweet baby kittens, who have all found wonderful new homes. Now it's my turn to get all the attention and love a momma cat deserves. I am anxious to find a new home to call my own. Please call the shelter and arrange a meet and greet. I promise you will fall in love. #58682



### DOG OF THE WEEK

Hi! My name is Boomer. I am a 5-year-old male lab/terrier mix. I found myself at the Pet Center as a stray, I have made lots of friends here, but I am ready for a real home, one to call my own. My ideal family will just love me and understand that, while I am heartworm positive, I can be easily cured of this disease and go on to live out my days bringing my new family joy. I know several commands and am very gentle. Come see met at the Pet Center today. #58732  
*Note: The Friends of the SJC Pet Center, offers a \$250 voucher towards treatment of Boomer's heartworm treatment. His case is easily treatable with preventatives.*

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 Public Library extends hours, opens meeting rooms to public

All St. Johns County libraries will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. All libraries will remain closed on Sundays and Mondays. In addition, meeting rooms will be available for public use during business hours, and may be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis by calling the branch library. For

more information on the extended hours, or to find the meeting room policy and application packet, go to [www.sjcpls.org](http://www.sjcpls.org).

### Art in Public Spaces exhibit features members of foster care community

St. Johns County's Art in Public Spaces program is hosting the "Experience and Expression" art exhibition through July 5 at the County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View in St. Augustine. Launching during National Foster Care Month, this

BRIEFS continues on Page 5

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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9	8	6	5	1	3	7	4	2

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

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# Send us your nominations for Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra

The Ponte Vedra Recorder has launched its third annual Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra contest, covering ZIP codes 32082 and 32081.

Readers currently have the chance to nominate their favorite businesses, professional services, organizations and more in multiple categories online. From best new business to best charity event, best real estate agent to best personal trainer and best seafood to best boutique, the categories run the gamut and are sure to include your favorite things.

Nominations can be made on the website at [pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2021](http://pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2021).

Anyone can nominate a business or person — there is no limit to the number of nominations each person can submit. Online voting will begin once nominations are complete. The nominees who receive the most votes will be



named 2021 Best of the Best of Ponte Vedra. Nominations and voting are completely free and open to the public.

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

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

For more information or to find out how to get your nominated business or product involved in promotions that will be going on throughout the contest cycle, contact your sales representative, email [susan@opcfla.com](mailto:susan@opcfla.com) or call (904) 686-3938.



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DAVID DANZEISEN: 1943-2021

# Ponte Vedra business leader dies at 78

By Shaun Ryan

David Paul Danzeisen, one of Ponte Vedra Beach's pre-eminent business leaders, died May 11 at the age of 78. News of his passing spread quickly with friends and acquaintances expressing surprise, even shock.

"It was very, very sad to hear of him passing," said Dr. Erika Hamer, who served with him on the board of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division. "He will be very missed. He was a very, very active member of our community."

"Dave was one of a kind," said Susan Griffin, publisher of The Ponte Vedra Recorder. "I will miss him. His passing is a great loss to the community."

Danzeisen was born in Lansdale, Pennsylvania, to Frank and Margaret Danzeisen, who owned a dairy farm. He had a brother, Frank Jr., and a sister, Margaret.

He attended college in Westchester County, New York, married and had two daughters, Dianne and Dawn. To support his family, he drove a school bus – a job that would lead to some of his biggest career successes.

After the bus company's owner decided not to bid on a forthcoming contract, Danzeisen saw an opportunity. A friend who was a school bus dealer helped him finance the purchase of buses and get started in that business.

This initiative paid off. Danzeisen won his first school bus contract.

He built on this success by buying out several other contractors and ultimately became one of the largest school bus operators in the state of New York.

But he didn't stop there. He added a commercial coach business, an interstate transportation company called Vanguard Tours.

New Yorkers sat up and took notice of his success.

"He was actually voted the most eligible bachelor in Westchester County," said his former wife of 30 years, Kathryn Danzeisen. Their marriage closed the door on that particular status.

David Danzeisen was a leader in his industry, and became president of four key associations: the American Bus Association, the American Transit Operators, the National Association of Bus Owners and the New York State School Bus Owners Association.



Photo provided by the Danzeisen family

David Danzeisen, a business leader in Ponte Vedra Beach for many years, passed away May 11.



Photo by Susan Griffin

A floral arrangement at services held May 18 for the late David Danzeisen.



File photo

David Danzeisen (far left) sits at a table with other members of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division board in 2016.



File photo

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Isabelle (Rodriguez) Renault expresses her gratitude to Ponte Vedra Beach Division Past Chair David Danzeisen in 2017 for his term in office and service to the community.



Photo by Susan Griffin

A tribute table is shown outside Christ Episcopal Church during services for the late David Danzeisen.



File photo

David Danzeisen with Susan Griffin, publisher of The Ponte Vedra Recorder.

## NOCATEE HAPPENINGS

# Skinner Bros. Realty sells five buildings in Nocatee Town Center for \$15.6 million

Skinner Bros. Realty has sold five, multi-tenant retail buildings in the Nocatee Town Center, comprised of approximately 40,000 square feet and 15 tenants, for a price of \$15.6 million.

The properties are currently 100% occupied. The buildings were sold to Last Mile Investments of Cincinnati, Ohio, a subsidiary of North American Properties, which was represented by Bob Selton and Jason Ryals of Colliers International.

Skinner Bros. Realty started the development in 2015 and completed the fifth building of Phase 1 in 2019.

“While the ownership has been transferred, Skinner Bros. Realty will continue to represent Last Mile Investments as property manager for all five buildings,” said Riley Skinner, vice president of Skinner Bros. Realty. “In addition to our property management role, we continue to be involved in the development and growth of the Nocatee Town Center.”

“It is truly amazing what has been built in Nocatee, a world-class community that we are proud to be joining,” said Ryan Moore, CEO of Last Mile Investments. “Thank you to Skinner Bros. Realty and all involved.”

Skinner Bros. Realty, in partnership with the PARC Group, recently completed the Greenwise-anchored shopping center and has broken ground this month on



Photo provided by Skinner Bros. Realty

**A southeast view of the buildings sold by Skinner Bros. Realty.**

the next 10,000-square-foot retail building, adjacent to First Watch.

“We are thankful to be a part of the continued

growth in the community and look forward to bringing more services and retail to the residents of Nocatee,” said Skinner.

## Danzeisen

Continued from 4

Still, he wasn't one to rest on his laurels.

Returning to his roots, he launched a hobby farm in upstate New York on Lake Champlain. Eventually, it grew into a 2,000-acre grain-and-cattle operation that, at one point, supplied barley to Budweiser.

In 1986, life took Danzeisen in a wholly new direction. He sold his bus company and, while visiting his wife's parents in Ponte Vedra Beach, fell in love with this small, First-Coast community.

He resolved to retire here, but as Kathryn Danzeisen said, “Retirement didn't fit him well.”

In 1988, he bought Classic Car Wash and started Clean Getaway Car Wash. He

later launched Showboat Car Wash in St. Augustine and Ducky's Car Wash, with locations throughout Jacksonville.

Meanwhile, his son David and daughter Summer were born.

His daughter remembers how he always seemed to know everyone and how people enthusiastically greeted him everywhere he went.

“He was very outgoing,” Summer Danzeisen said. “He was very charming, very charismatic.”

She said he laughed very easily and that his laughter was infectious.

“He had a wild sense of humor,” she said. “He loved to poke fun at his friends and his family and give us all a rough time – and we'd give it right back. He laughed with all of us.”

Cabi fashion stylist and past Chamber board member Lori Adams attested to his sense of humor.

“He had a comment at the Chamber function when I wore the vintage Cabi flapper dress,” she said.

When she told him she'd renamed her dress the “car wash dress” because it looked like one of those car wash machines when she twirled, he said, “Could you wear that dress and swirl on 3rd Street near my car wash to generate some business?”

A Jacksonville Jaguars season ticket holder, he enjoyed a variety of sports. He attended the World Series while living in New York, and in Florida he enjoyed taking in Tampa Bay Lightning games. He also liked to spend time on his yacht, Champagne, play golf and spend summers at his home in Westport, New York.

He was politically active, and his family described him as “a real patriot.”

He served on the board of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and as

board chair for its Ponte Vedra Beach Division.

A strong supporter of local business, he offered all beach businesses the opportunity to put free advertising materials in his Clean Getaway car wash to help them during the pandemic.

Danzeisen lived in Ponte Vedra Beach for 35 years.

He is survived by Kathryn Danzeisen; children David Paul Danzeisen Jr. and Summer (Mark) Danzeisen of Ponte Vedra Beach, Dianne Batistoni of Morris Plains, New Jersey, and Dawn (Gary) Marchant of Scottsdale, Arizona; four grandchildren, Andrew (Dulcey) Batistoni, Austin Batistoni, Julianna Marchant and Daniel Marchant; and sister Margaret Danzeisen Toro of Pennsylvania.

Services were held Tuesday, May 18, at Christ Episcopal Church on San Juan Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach.

## Briefs

Continued from 2

exhibition features artwork by youth in St. Johns County's foster care community and is hosted in partnership with the St. Johns County Cultural Council, the St. Johns County Family Integrity Program, St. Augustine Youth Services, Fostering Connections St. Johns and the Florida Guardian ad Litem Program. 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](http://www.historiccoastculture.com).

### Santa Rosa drainage improvement project public meeting set for May 27

St. Johns County is hosting a public meeting regarding the upcoming Santa Rosa drainage improvement project from 5 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 27, at the St. Johns County Public Works Complex, 2750 Industry Center Road. The meeting will provide an overview of the upcoming drainage project and allow participants the opportunity to ask staff

questions. call (904) 209-0171 for more information.

### St. Johns Golf Club Patriots Golf Day fundraiser takes place May 28

The St. Johns Golf Club is hosting Patriots Golf Day fundraiser lessons from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, May 28, at 4900 Cypress Links Blvd. Patrons who make a minimum donation of \$20 will receive a 10-minute lesson with a PGA professional. To book a lesson time, email [wtucker@sjcfl.us](mailto:wtucker@sjcfl.us). All proceeds will benefit Folds of Honor, an organization

that provides educational scholarships to spouses and children of America's fallen and disabled service members. In addition, all St. Johns Golf Club patrons will have the opportunity to donate directly at the clubhouse through the Memorial Day weekend. All who donate a minimum of \$10 will be entered into a drawing for golf equipment, including new shoes, wedges and a range finder. For more information on Folds of Honor, go to [www.foldsofhonor.org](http://www.foldsofhonor.org). For additional information on the Patriots Golf Day fundraiser, call (904) 209-0350.

*Liz Kepler is an accomplished watercolor artist living in St. Augustine.*

*There is a lot of demand for her work, especially her depictions of the Nation's Oldest City. But her subject matter encompasses a larger spectrum, and she says she likes when people suggest new ideas.*

## Liz Kepler

As told to Shaun Ryan

### Tell us about your art.

I've been painting sights around St. Augustine. ... I love architecture. I love places in St. Augustine.

I also do florals. I try to do a little bit of everything. I'm trying to expand right now. But most of my sales right now are the St. Augustine paintings. I've done quite a bit of nautical, wildlife, things like that — coastal-types of things.

I've done some sharks' teeth, some oysters. I get a lot of orders for those as well.

I do custom home portraits, as well. I've had people who've had those done for their friends. I've had some real estate agents order them for their clients in cases where they've sold a house they've been in for a long time. It's a great gift.

### Do you sell prints or originals?

I do both. Right now, I have a lot more prints. I've had an Etsy shop up for several years now. And I've done probably a couple of hundred sales on Etsy.

### Do you exhibit your work locally?

My husband [Earnest Kepler] does pottery on the side — he's a physician's assistant, but he does this beautiful pottery on the side. We're both artists. So, once a year, we do an open house. Usually before the holidays. And we've invited quite a lot of people to that. Actually, I made a lot more money doing it that way than I have putting it into a gallery.

I'm probably going to be putting up more on artist websites, where you can sell your stuff like print-on-demand, dropshipping, where companies will show your stuff and then they'll send it out to people, so I have a broader range that I can use to make more money that way.

### When did you decide to become an artist?

I think I decided when I was five. My mother was very creative. She was an artist, and she taught us quite a bit. And I was the only one who really picked up art out of the three siblings.

I did it most of my life, including through difficult teenage years. That was the one constant that I had, was my art.

Back in about 1991 I took a watercolor painting course at the local high school. And so, I learned a more detailed-type of painting. Then I just took off with it, really loved doing it.



Photo provided by Liz Kepler

But then, after having kids, I put it away for a while.

So, 10 years ago, I started back up again. And then I opened an Etsy shop officially in 2014. I had moved to St. Augustine in 2013, and so I really loved the idea of doing coastal, nautical work.

And then, I got into painting some of the sights around St. Augustine, as well, because I love it here. It's given me a lot of inspiration for some of my paintings. I want to do more of the sights and more architectural sites, so I'll be adding more of that to my collection.

### Did the watercolor class help you to decide to pursue that medium?

Yeah. I liked it because it was something that you really couldn't control easily. You always get a surprise with watercolor.

Acrylic painting was nice, but there was just something about watercolor. It was luminous. It was one of those things where you just never knew what you were going to get. I loved the challenge of it.

I always tell people: Start out with acrylics first, and then work your way to watercolor, because it can be hard. You have to keep at it for a while and then you learn how to work it and to let it do its magic, but also how you can control it.

### Do you have any advice for young artists?

Yes. Paint every day, because you can lose some of the skills if you don't. Do a little something every day, and don't always try to make it a perfect painting.

I used to do that, and it would drive me crazy. Just play with it for a while, and then you can get serious, but always leave room for some play and do a little bit every day.

### Where are you from originally?

Originally, I'm from the Midwest. I raised my kids in South Florida. After my first year of college, I came down here in 1983 and then got married in 1984. And lived the rest of my life down in South Florida.

### What brought you to St. Augustine?

A job for my husband. But we were also tired of living in South Florida. It was getting too big and too crazy. And we both had kids at UNF in Jacksonville.

We knew this was an artistic community. It was more of a small-town feel. And the people were just so wonderful up here. We never looked back since we moved up here.

### How do you like to spend your free time?

Now, funny enough, we go down to South Florida once a month to see my daughter and our grandchildren. And we love to travel. We've been to Paris, London and Italy. And that gives me a lot of inspiration and a lot of ideas for art, as well. I've done a couple of paintings from over there.

### Where can readers see your work?

At <https://www.etsy.com/shop/WatercolorsbyLiz>.



Photo by Shaun Ryan

**A group of PVPV/Rawlings Elementary School students representing their Early Act Club presents a donation of more than \$6,000 to the St. Augustine Humane Society. Behind them, from left, are Humane Society Executive Director Carolyn Smith; Director of Development Mike Murphy; the school's gifted resource teacher, Amy Brim; and PVPV/Rawlings Principal Dr. Jesse Gates.**

## Students' donation drive generates \$6K for St. Augustine Humane Society

**By Shaun Ryan**

A group of PVPV/Rawlings Elementary School students visited the St. Augustine Humane Society on Friday, May 21, to donate more than \$6,000 they raised in a special, schoolwide project.

"They are the most go-getter students I have ever known," said Mike Murphy,

the Humane Society's director of development. "I believe they have raised more than any other group of students combined. They have done a fantastic job."

The project was a contest between classrooms at the school, thought up and managed by the Early Act Club, which

**DONATION** continues on **Page 8**



## Celebrating Mothers in May!

**We are all about moms!**

For years, our mother has cared for us, now it's our turn to take care of her. Call today to see how we can save you money with our Mother's Day special.

Schedule a tour, in-person or virtual, and let us show you just how much we care about mom.

We are taking all precautions necessary to keep you and your loved ones safe.



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### Ultimate Atlantic Beach Lifestyle

Live the ultimate beach lifestyle in this midcentury modern on double corner lot just one block from the ocean and only 6 blocks from Atlantic Beach Town Center. Large open great room and kitchen with barn door pantry looks onto private backyard with pool and outdoor kitchen. Spacious master, 3 additional bedrooms & bathrooms plus laundry upstairs.

**4 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms. \$3,800,000**



### 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 \$6,200,000**



### Ideally Located in Sea View Park

Live east of A1A in this updated move-in-ready home ideally located in old Ponte Vedra. Renovated interiors with wood floors, shiplap details, custom built-ins, and coastal accents. The kitchen features white cabinetry, open shelving, quartzite countertops, a farmhouse sink, and a gas stove. The fenced-in backyard features a screened-in porch, outdoor patio, and room for a pool.

**3 Bedrooms, 2 Full Baths, 1 Half Bath. \$890,000.**



### Oceanfront Estate in Ponte Vedra Beach

Enter this gated ocean front estate and be blown away. Everything a buyer could wish for is here in Ponte Vedra Beach. Lightly lived-in with the ocean views from every room on the 1st and 2nd floors. All furnishings are available for purchase separately.

**6 bedrooms, 6.5 bathrooms \$10,500,000**



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"From Cottages to Castles"



### Ideally Located in San Marco

Fully rebuilt in 2005, this 2nd floor end unit condominium is within short walking distance to San Marco Square. It has front and rear balconies and comes with covered parking and an additional storage unit.

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# Ocean Palms springs into summer with fundraising fun

Whether it was a fun night out at the school or a good book to cozy up to this summer, students at Ocean Palms Elementary School had the opportunity to have a little fun, while raising money for their school this spring.

The virtual spring auction, which took place April 21-24 and offered products and services from local vendors, as well as events with teachers and staff, such as ice cream socials, art classes and Lego fun.

Thanks to generous local companies and some healthy bidding among families, the event raised just over \$13,000.

Additionally, the school hosted the Scholastic Book Fair on campus for students and teachers. Books were available for everyone from the pre-kindergarten classes through fifth grade.



Photos provided by Ocean Palms Elementary School

**Students at Ocean Palms Elementary School participated in the Scholastic Book Fair. Funds from the fair are used to purchase leveled readers, Sunshine State Young Readers Award books for classrooms, and to provide books for the media center and classroom libraries.**

Total sales from the fair exceeded \$16,000, a percentage of which goes to the school and will be used to purchase leveled readers, Sunshine

State Young Readers Award books for classrooms next year, and to provide books for the media center and classroom libraries.

# Ocean Palms volunteers win district recognition

Ocean Palms Elementary School's Lucy Miller and Ysabel Jack were named the 2020-21 St. Johns County School District winners of the Outstanding Volunteers of the Year this April in the adult and youth categories, respectively.



Lucy Miller



Ysabel Jack

Among many accomplishments and volunteer efforts, Miller is best known for co-creating the hands-on science lab at the school, alongside Allison Aragon. Here, day-to-day science takes on a life of its own with experiments and hands-on interaction.

Jack, a student ambassador at the school, is also a mentor for students with higher social needs.

The district recognized Miller and Jack for these outstanding accomplishments.

# Donation

Continued from 7

is affiliated with the Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club.

To participate in Pennies For Pets, teachers had to decorate a donation can for their classes. Students would drop money into the cans, which generated a lot of change to be counted.

"It was just crazy," said one of the students.

The donation follows another project two years ago in which the club contributed food, towels and bowls to the Humane Society. A total of 52 fourth and fifth graders ran the Pennies For Pets contest.

After receiving the donation, Murphy gave the students a tour of the facility.

Contrary to popular belief, the nonprofit is not an animal shelter.

"All of our programs and resources focus on addressing the most common reasons why pets are relinquished to shelters," said Murphy.

Its largest program is a low-cost, high-volume veterinary clinic. Services include spay and neuter and dental surgery. The facility has x-ray machines and high-quality surgery and prep spaces.

One of the main reasons people take their pets to a shelter is money.

"People don't want to relinquish their pets," said Murphy. "They're often faced with circumstances where they don't have a lot of choices. So, by providing low-cost options, that really helps mitigate a lot of those issues."

Providing those options relies upon donations, as the nonprofit does not receive government funding. That's one reason



Photos by Shaun Ryan

**St. Augustine Humane Society Director of Development Mike Murphy takes the students on a tour of the facility.**

the PVPV/Rawlins donation was so vital.

In addition to surgery, the Humane Society operates a pet food pantry.

"We distribute about 2,000 pounds of pet food each month to families that would otherwise not be able to feed their pets," Murphy said.

Another source of revenue is the organization's high-end grooming salon, which is open by appointment on Saturdays.

"You feel good knowing that your pet is pampered, and you're helping other pets in need, too," said Murphy.

The Humane Society, located at 1665 Old Moultrie Road in St. Augustine, is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The phone number is (904) 829-2737, and the website is [staughumane.org](http://staughumane.org).



**Lucky, a 12-year-old rescue pug, greets students from PVPV/Rawlins when they arrive at the St. Augustine Humane Society to make a major donation.**



Photo provided by Amy Brim

**Students collect cans of donated coins to be counted at the end of the school day.**



Photo provided by Amy Brim

**Students in the Early Act Club count the pennies and other change donated by students in the Pennies For Pets project.**



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

*"Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul."*



**Kathy Esfahani**  
Columnist

#### ATTRACTING HUMMINGBIRDS TO YOUR GARDEN WITH SONG

The state of Florida is a vast sanctuary for thousands of birds, and many more choose our lovely state when flying South to enjoy the warmer temperatures. Why not liven up your landscape and garden paradise with the beauty and song of native hummingbirds?

Hummingbirds are multi-colored birds that are easy to attract to your brightly colored garden. These remarkable creatures have striking plumage and a high-energy lifestyle. Three species of hummingbird live in Florida throughout much of the year; the most commonly seen in the Northeast is the ruby-throated. This feathered jewel is approximately three inches long and weighs as little as a penny.

To support their high-speed activity, hummingbirds consume vast amounts



of nectar. To attract hummingbirds to your garden, choose plants with brightly colored and/or tubular flowers, such as hibiscus, bottlebrush, blue salvia, native or coral honeysuckle and shrimp plants to name a few, all available at the nursery. Hummingbirds love red, orange and pink flowers and use their long tongues to sip the nectar found within.

Bottlebrush plants get their name from the spikes of flowers that bloom at the ends of the stems, bearing a strong resemblance to a bottle brush. You can grow them as shrubs or small trees that grow up to 15 feet. Most bottlebrush varieties bloom over a long summer season in shades of red or crimson. Bottlebrush plants need a very mild climate. You can also grow bottlebrush plants in pots that you can move to a protected area for

winter. Use a rich, peaty potting soil with a few handfuls of sand added to improve the drainage. If pruned hard every year, the plants will grow in pots as small as six to eight inches in diameter. If you plan to let the shrub grow, you'll need a large tub.

Read more in "Gardening Know How: Growing Bottlebrush Plants" and learn about callistemon bottlebrush care at [www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/shrubs/bottlebrush/growing-bottlebrush-plants.htm](http://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/shrubs/bottlebrush/growing-bottlebrush-plants.htm).

#### FLORIDA NATIVE PLANTS USED TO ATTRACT HUMMINGBIRDS

- Firebush, *hamelia patens*
- Coral honeysuckle, *lonicera sempervirens*
- Coralbean, *erythrina herbacea*
- Tropical sage, *salvia coccinea*
- Crossvine, *bignonia capreolata*



Photos provided by Kathy Esfahani

**Salvia is a plant that attracts hummingbirds.**

- Cardinalflower, *lobelia cardinalis*.
- Necklace pod, *sophora tomentosa*

**Email Kathy at [kathys.creative.gardens@gmail.com](mailto: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.**

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Golfers line up for a shotgun start at TPC Sawgrass for the Taste of Golf event on May 19 at TPC Sawgrass.

## Taste of Golf event celebrates food, fun

16th annual event at TPC Sawgrass benefits First Tee of North Florida

By Holly Tishfield

On Wednesday, May 19, international nonprofit youth development organization First Tee – North Florida held its 16th annual Taste of Golf Tournament at the famed TPC Sawgrass.

At the event, golfers who signed up were privy to an 18-hole golf scramble tournament with delicious chef-prepared bites at stations scattered throughout the golf course. The participating chefs came from local clubs such as the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, The Lodge & Club, Epping-Forest Yacht & Country Club, The River Club, TPC Sawgrass and World Golf Village.

The tournament began with a 10:30 a.m. shotgun start, and after players were finished with their 18 holes, they were treated to a three-hour-long luncheon and deluxe bar experience in the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse. Chefs who prepared culinary bites were also entered in an Iron Chef-like competition where they used a mystery basket full of ingredients to compete for the title of Taste of Golf Champion. The winner of the contest was Chef Michael Cowan of TPC Sawgrass.

An online auction was also up for grabs at the time of the tournament, with a two-night stay at the new Margaritaville Beach Hotel, Tiburón Golf Club Foursome at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort in Naples and a Dazzling Diamond Bolo Bracelet.

At the luncheon post-tournament, a few participants from the First Tee –



ABOVE: At the 18-hole tournament, golfers could sample chef-prepared bites throughout the course.

LEFT: After golfing, participants went back to the clubhouse to indulge in a deluxe bar and luncheon experience

Photos by Holly Tishfield

North Florida Junior Participants spoke to the crowd about the importance of the work that the organization does.

First Tee – North Florida’s mission statement is to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-

enhancing values, and promote healthy choices through the game of golf. It prides itself on providing active learning experiences that develop inner strength, self-confidence and resilience.

## Replica of Columbus’ ship, Santa Maria, open for tours

The Nao Santa María, a 200-ton replica of the ship on which Christopher Columbus first traveled to North America, is expected to be open for tours beginning today at the St. Augustine Municipal Marina.

As one of the historic ships built and operated by the Nao Victoria Foundation, the Nao Santa Maria expects to receive visitors through Monday, May 31, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. The self-guided tour includes the ship’s four decks with panels relating the history of the ship and the experience of Spanish sailors 500 years ago.

Tickets are available for purchase dockside as well as on the Nao Santa Maria website. For complete information, go to [www.NaoSantaMaria.org](http://www.NaoSantaMaria.org).



The Rev. Bernardine Eikhuemelo



The Rev. Richard Pagano

## 2 local priests appointed as Missionaries of Mercy by pope

Bishop Felipe Estévez of the Catholic Diocese of St. Augustine recently announced that the Rev. Bernardine Eikhuemelo and the Rev. Richard Pagano have been named Missionaries of Mercy by Pope Francis.

The pope called, from Dec. 8, 2015–Nov. 20, 2016, an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy to direct attention and actions “on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father’s actions in our lives.” This year, Pope Francis has extended the mandate of the Missionaries of Mercy until further notice as a sign that the graces of the Jubilee of Mercy continue.

“Our culture deals more with justice than it does with mercy,” said Bishop

# St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum, Farm Share partner to feed the local community

The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum has partnered with fellow Florida nonprofit organization, Farm Share, whose mission is “to make sure that no Floridian goes hungry and no food goes to waste.”

On May 18, the museum hosted an event for St. Johns County residents that provided food to individuals and families in need.

“The need in our community continues to grow and has been made worse by the pandemic, loss of jobs and loss of income. As a nonprofit organization, we are honored to give back to those in our local community who are in need,” said Kathy Fleming, executive director of St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum.

Farm Share is a nonprofit organization that works daily to ensure that food-insecure Floridians receive the food and support they need. Last year, Farm Share distributed more than 88 million pounds of food to more than 17.5 million households residing in all of Florida’s 67 counties. Of the 88 million pounds of food distributed, more than 20 million pounds were fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables.



**ABOVE: Food is ready to be distributed to families in need during a food drive hosted by the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum on May 18.**

**LEFT: Volunteers help distribute food during a charity food drive hosted by the St. Augustine Lighthouse benefitting Farm Share.**

Photos provided by the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum

## Missionaries

Continued from 10

Estévez. “Pope Francis has taught that mercy is the name of God. St. Luke Chapter 15 reveals how merciful God wants to be known. Fathers Eikhuemelo and Pagano witness compassionate ministry.”

Pope Francis has appointed priests from around the world and given a special mandate to be “persuasive preachers of mercy,” to commit themselves in a particular way to hearing confessions with the “authority to pardon even those sins reserved to the Holy See,” and to serve as “personal witnesses of God’s closeness and of his way of loving.”

Pagano is pastor of St. John Paul II Parish in Nocatee. Eikhuemelo serves as pastor of three parishes in North Jacksonville: St. Pius V, Holy Rosary and Crucifixion.

Both priests will continue their role as pastors while carrying out their duties as Missionaries of Mercy.

Eikhuemelo and Pagano will be invited by individual diocesan bishops within the United States to give missions or facilitate specific initiatives with particular attention given to the sacrament of reconciliation.



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Doug Matthews, Doc Renuart and Tamara Renuart pose together at the District 4 social event for the St. Johns County Republicans on May 21 at the Palm Valley Community Center.

## SJC Republicans hold District 4 social

The St. Johns County Republicans held a District 4 social May 21 at the Palm Valley Community Center.

Organized by District 4 Chair Lisa Gaglianese, the event featured remarks by St. Johns County Republican Chair Roy Alaimo, refreshments and the opportunity for local Republicans to socialize. District 4 spans from Ponte Vedra Beach down to the St. Augustine airport.

For more information on membership or volunteer opportunities, go to [stjohns.gop](http://stjohns.gop).



Photos provided by Jennifer Logue  
Lisa Gaglianese and Roy Alaimo



The St. Johns County Democratic Party holds an open house and grand re-opening ceremony of its office headquarters on May 22 in St. Augustine.

## SJC Democratic Party celebrates re-opening of office headquarters



Photos provided by Jan Kary  
Gift baskets were available at the silent auction which raised funds during the event.

The St. Johns County Democratic Party held a grand re-opening open house at their headquarters office on Saturday, May 22, in St. Augustine to celebrate its post-COVID-19 re-opening and office renovation.

More than 250 Democrats enjoyed the festivities including live music, Ben & Jerry's ice cream and silent auction gift baskets, along with face

RE-OPENING continues on Page 14

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From left: "Sponsored by Grace" Operations Manager Mariah Taylor, SBG volunteer Caroline Stockton, SBG-sponsored youth member (holding check), CBV Cares member Peyton Stockton, SBG Director of Community Programming Jessie Brumfield, SBG Executive Director Ron Armstrong, SBG sponsored youth member and CBV Cares 2021-22 Chair Carole Bayer.

Photo provided by Carole Bayer



## Realtor group CBV Cares awards \$500 grant to nonprofit 'Sponsored by Grace'

A \$500 donation along with educational tools and food items were presented to "Sponsored by Grace" Executive Director Ron Armstrong on Wednesday, May 19, by the Ponte Vedra Beaches Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty group CBV Cares.

"Sponsored by Grace" (SBG) is a nonprofit organization based in Jacksonville, specifically in ZIP code 32209.

"It is within this area of low income, poverty and high crime that we work together as a nonprofit organization to provide love, encouragement and friendship in hopes to empower the families within," Armstrong said.

CBV Cares member and Ponte Vedra Realtor Peyton Stockton nominated this nonprofit organization to fellow Realtors to receive grant funding.

"SBG exists to release children from poverty across Jacksonville by meeting physical needs, sharing the Gospel and connecting them through sponsorship with local faith families," Stockton said.

For more information on "Sponsored by Grace" and its efforts, go to [www.sponsoredbygrace.org](http://www.sponsoredbygrace.org).

For more information on the Realtor-funded CBV Cares nonprofit organization, go to [www.facebook.com/CBVCares](http://www.facebook.com/CBVCares).

## Veteran racer Hurley Haywood joins Highway to Help Heroes charity drive

The 2021 Highway to Help Heroes Charity Drive will see veteran race car driver Hurley Haywood back on the road. The fourth annual drive will take place on Saturday, June 5, to benefit injured and fallen officers through the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Foundation's Fallen Officer Welfare Relief Fund and military veterans through partnership with K9s for Warriors, the nation's largest provider of veteran service dogs.



Hurley Haywood

Haywood, Jacksonville's motorsport icon, will join as the lead driver on the 45-mile course.

"I'm thrilled to lead the charge during this year's Highway to Help Heroes event," said Haywood, who was inducted into the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America in 2005. "It's such a treat to join car enthusiasts from across Florida for this event to honor the work of our police force and military. I'm looking forward to participating."

Haywood, who retired from racing in 2012 after a 45-year long career, amassed an astounding number of victories in endurance racing, an intense form of motorsport. Throughout his career, Haywood secured a total of 10 wins across the Ro-

lex24 at Daytona, 24 Hours of Le Mans and 12 Hours of Sebring. An icon of The Brumos Collection, he illustrates the legacy of Brumos Racing still today.

Highway to Help Heroes will kick-off at the Ring Power Corporation headquarters located in St. Augustine with a morning meet-and-greet with K9s for Warriors veteran and service dog teams and officers.

Supercar drivers will then depart from Ring Power to participate in the approximately 45-mile Charity Drive course, trailing parts of Florida's historic A1A highway before concluding at downtown Jacksonville's Cowford Chop-house for an exclusive Studio 54-themed event, complete with food, beverages and entertainment.

"We are pleased to have Hurley Haywood lead the Highway to Help Heroes drive," said Greg Leeb of the Leeb Family Foundation and co-creator of Highway to Help Heroes. "His participation represents a rare and nostalgic time in history that creates more excitement for Northeast Florida residents and participants on June 5th."

To register for the post-race event or learn more about Highway to Help Heroes, go to [highway2helpheroes.com](http://highway2helpheroes.com).



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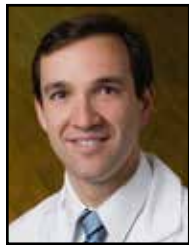
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# How can AFib cause a stroke? May is Stroke Awareness Month



**Dr. Anthony Magnano**  
Ascension St.  
Vincent's Riverside

Most people don't realize that heart health has a lot to do with your risk of suffering a stroke. Traditional risk factors for stroke include high blood pressure, high cholesterol, smoking and diabetes. However, one of the major risk factors is a common heart rhythm disorder known as atrial fibrillation (AFib). It's estimated that the lifetime risk for AFib is one in four for adults over the age of 40, and patients with AFib have a five-fold increased risk of stroke. For this reason, if you or a loved one has AFib, understanding stroke symptoms and prevention is essential.

Stroke is the second most common cause of death worldwide, and one in six of us will experience stroke in our lifetime. Unfortunately, recent research from the American Heart Association shows stroke deaths are rising in certain counties across the country, like here in St. Johns County. From 2010 to 2016, stroke deaths among individuals over age 65 increased 19 percent in St. Johns County. These numbers show a tremendous need for stroke prevention and care. There's no better time than now, May is Stroke Awareness Month.

## HOW AFIB CAN CAUSE A STROKE

When the heart is in AFib, the upper chambers of the heart, or atria, do not contract properly. This can lead to stagnation of blood flow through the upper chamber of the heart and cause blood to pool in a cavity known as the left atrial appendage. The pooled blood can form a clot that travels (or "embolizes") to the tiny arteries bringing blood supply to the brain, interrupting blood flow to the brain (cerebral perfusion) and leading to a stroke.

When a clot becomes lodged, it prevents normal blood flow to the brain. This will eventually lead to a small part of the brain tissue becoming damaged or dying, a syndrome we refer to as a stroke. This brain damage can continue long term, leaving a patient with permanent disabilities that can sometimes be severe. It's important to know that strokes stemming from AFib-related clots carry a higher risk of more severe brain damage than strokes stemming from other conditions. This is because the clots can be large in comparison to the small arteries of the brain. That's why the sooner you recognize signs of a stroke and seek medical attention, the better your chances of recovering and avoiding serious brain damage or disability.

## REDUCING RISK OF STROKE FOR PATIENTS WITH AFIB

Fortunately, many strokes can be avoided through detection and treatment of AFib. The most important thing is to find the right treatment plan for you. For many patients,

this means medication. Others will choose procedures to treat their condition.

Oral medications like blood thinners, also known as oral anticoagulation therapy (OAC), can be used to treat AFib. Blood thinners can help prevent blood clots from forming and they can treat existing clots, which lowers your risk for stroke. Oral medications are a popular choice because they are cost effective and non-invasive. Warfarin (or Coumadin) is the traditional anticoagulant used to treat atrial fibrillation, but there are now four newer anticoagulants available that do not require serial blood testing to monitor levels or adjust dose. In addition, the new anticoagulants are not impacted by variation in the amount of vitamin K or leafy green vegetables consumed. It is important to be mindful that OAC is associated with a small risk of bleeding. For patients who do not tolerate anticoagulation due to bleeding or other factors, removal or occlusion of the left atrial appendage is an excellent option. While this can be done surgically, minimally invasive options such as the WATCHMAN procedure are excellent options. The WATCHMAN implantation is typically done in under 30 minutes with same day discharge for most patients with a low procedure risk of around one percent.

Another option, catheter ablation, is a nonsurgical procedure during which a cardiologist blocks abnormal signals that are causing the irregular heart rhythm. This is done to help maintain a normal rhythm and decrease symptoms related to atrial fibrillation. Ablation has a higher success rate than medications in keeping the rhythm normal. After a successful ablation, it is important to discuss whether a continued stroke protection strategy is needed in your case. This largely depends on a stroke risk factor score we call the "CHADS-VASC" score.

## KNOW THE SIGNS OF STROKE

It cannot be overemphasized—know the signs of stroke. Nearly 800,000 Americans experience a stroke every year, and roughly one in four of these cases are a second, or recurrent, stroke. The important acronym to remember for identifying a stroke is F.A.S.T. That stands for face drooping, arm weakness, speech difficulty, time to call 911.

When someone has a stroke, they may experience sudden numbness or weakness in the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body. Sudden confusion, trouble speaking, seeing or walking are also common symptoms.

It's common to mistake or minimize signs of stroke, but don't delay treatment. Go directly to an emergency room or dial 911. When it comes to stroke treatment, or any health emergency, every second counts.

**Dr. Anthony Magnano is a Ponte Vedra resident and cardiologist at Ascension St. Vincent's Riverside. For more information on Dr. Magnano and his specialty treating Atrial fibrillation, visit [Healthcare.ascension.org](http://Healthcare.ascension.org).**

## OBITUARIES

### Maurice J. "Bud" Dalton

Maurice J. "Bud" Dalton passed away peacefully in his sleep on May 19, 2021. Bud was born on August 4, 1928 in Beloit, Wisconsin to Maurice and Edith Dalton and had one sibling, Patricia.

The family moved to Illinois when Bud was in high school. He graduated from New Trier East in 1946. Following in his father's footsteps with a love of sports, Bud went on to play football at Lake Forest College where he earned his BA degree. While there he met the love of his life, Lorie Pieters, who would become his wife of 64 years until her passing in 2017. They were blessed with four children – Diane, Linda, Sue and Jim, who were his pride and joy, as well as 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Bud was a proud member of the U.S. Marine Corps serving as a 2nd lieutenant. He also had a successful career as a salesman for Fairchild Camera & Instrument and Bell & Howell.

Bud and Lorie raised their children in Northbrook, Illinois where he was an active member of the Northbrook Civic Organization and influenced many young men as a favorite Little League Baseball Coach.

Retirement found Bud and Lorie headed south to sunny skies and warmer temps in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. He spent the last several years at The Palms at Ponte Vedra where he had many friends and was an ambassador that welcomed new residents.

Bud was a living example of his faith



**Maurice J. "Bud" Dalton**

Bud was in high school. He graduated from New Trier East in 1946. Following in his father's footsteps with a love of sports, Bud went on to play football at Lake Forest College where he earned his BA degree. While

there he met the love of his life, Lorie Pieters, who would become his wife of 64 years until her passing in 2017. They were blessed with four children – Diane, Linda, Sue and Jim, who were his pride and joy, as well as 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Bud was a proud member of the U.S. Marine Corps serving as a 2nd lieutenant. He also had a successful career as a salesman for Fairchild Camera & Instrument and Bell & Howell.

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Bud was a living example of his faith

to his family and all who were blessed to know him. He was described by many as a sweet, kindhearted, gentle man and he will be greatly missed.

A private service will be held for family members. Donations may be made in Bud's name to Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital, Jacksonville, FL.

We love you dad – enjoy all the milkshakes and cookies you want in Heaven!

Please sign the online guestbook at [www.pontevedravally.com](http://www.pontevedravally.com).



### Edythe M. Rodgers Bantz

Edythe M. Rodgers Bantz, 84, of Jacksonville, Florida, died May 24, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com), (904) 249-1100.

### Maurice Dalton, Jr.

Maurice Dalton, Jr., 92, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died May 19, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – [www.pontevedravally.com](http://www.pontevedravally.com)

### Roberta Mae Gibbs

Roberta Mae Gibbs, 61, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died May 19, 2021. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com), (904) 249-1100.

### Kristin Jones

Kristin Jones, 56, of Palm Coast, Florida, died May 18, 2021. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – [www.pontevedravally.com](http://www.pontevedravally.com).

## Golf

Continued from 10

The organization has nearly two dozen locations in North Florida alone, with many other locations in cities across the country. Participants are children ages 5-18 who progress through the program over time, deepening their understanding of life skills and golf development. The organization often partners with

schools and other organizations to offer scholarships and outreach programs for children.

The funds raised at the Taste of Golf event went directly towards bringing a positive youth development approach to students from all backgrounds in the North Florida area. This one-of-a-kind golf and cuisine tournament was a success, with dozens of participants out on the course ready to play golf and enjoy supporting a good cause at the same time.

## Re-opening

Continued from 12

painting and other children's activities. In addition, precinct and club leaders were on hand to offer information about their groups and introduce guests to one another. In between eating hot dogs and sipping lemonade, guests were assisted

in registering to vote, offered information on area clubs and introduced to local Democratic candidates for office. SJC Democratic Chair Robin Dion presided, offering brief announcements and welcoming visitors. Funds raised at the event along with a donation match by a Ponte Vedra resident, will support the 2022 election initiatives. For more information, go to [www.stjohnsdemocrats.org](http://www.stjohnsdemocrats.org)

# Sand Castles

LUXURY \* LIFESTYLE \* REAL ESTATE



## *Inside this section:*

- Market Watch: Ponte Vedra housing & mortgage update
- Recipe Spotlight: Summer food vibes
- Sports Spotlight: Jaguars can build on QB Lawrence
- An evening with Sarah Huckabee Sanders
- Travel Spotlight: Taking a trip to Asia
- A look at some amazing local listings

**SPRING INTO  
SUMMER ISSUE**

MAY 27, 2021

Your Community Voice for 50 Years  
**PONTE VEDRA**

# Recorder

Photo provided by Janet Westling

# Welcome to Sand Castles: Spring into Summer issue



**Janet Westling**  
Contributing Editor

Welcome to our Spring into Summer issue as we remember and honor those who have served our country on Memorial Day.

This spring, the weather has been one of the most pleasant springtimes and such a welcome from spring 2020.

Not only has the weather been wonderful, but our real estate market has

been the best sellers' market we have seen in an awfully long time. In fact, 99.85% of properties on the market sold for list price and 36.8% sold over the list price.

The influx of buyers from many lockdown states has been one of the main drivers in this market, along with an inventory that remains extremely low.

David Johnson, mortgage broker with Ameris bank gives insight to the current market with rising interest rates, multiple offers and over-the-listing price conditions affecting lenders.

I used to say that Ponte Vedra Beach is Florida's best-kept secret; that is until now.

Financial Times journalist Alastair Gray wrote about, "Florida's Hidden Gem for prime homes, Ponte Vedra Beach."

He went on to say, "The area known as 'Jacksonville's Malibu' can offer country clubs, gated communities and golf courses."

Miami city planner Melissa Hage vacationed here with her family in 2019 and wrote about her stay in her blog,"

Ponte Vedra: The allure of the beach

town." According to Ms. Hage, "Ponte Vedra is a charming beach town that figured out how to make comfortable roadways with space for everyone with lush landscaping, bright green colors, wide sidewalks, bike lanes, narrow lanes for moving traffic and large homes up and front alongside the roads and it shows."

"The last leg of our summer road trip," wrote Hage, "was a sleepy beach town, (Ponte Vedra) with an unbelievable wow factor."

In this issue, nine Realtors share their stories about their amazing new listings, each with their own wow factor from the oceanfront to the Intracoastal and in between!

Travel explorer Alex Wulbern, who is in Thailand on a wonderful adventure, writes about his "Journey to Asia," in the first of a three-part series.

With the football season almost upon us, a column by the Jaguars' Brian Sexton covers the recent draft with insight into where the franchise is headed into the future.

Food expert Alice Hickox, with Lettuce Do Dinner, offers some great healthy ideas on cuisine with her recipe for tequila lime shrimp with zoodles, perfect for summer entertaining.

Speaking of entertaining, this spring, my husband Dale and I hosted "An evening with Sarah Huckabee Sanders" in our Sawgrass Country Club home, catered by Alice Hickox and Lettuce do Dinner.

With a nod to making everyone comfortable, we dined outside in a perfect setting with our special guest who is running for governor of Arkansas.

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

**Janet Westling, REALTOR, GRI, CIPS**  
**Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices**  
**Florida Network Realty**  
**Sand Castles creator and contributing editor**  
**Award-winning section**  
[www.janetwestling.com](http://www.janetwestling.com)

## MARKET WATCH

# Ponte Vedra housing and mortgage market update

By David Johnson

Mortgage Banker, Ameris Bank

### FLORIDA HOUSING MARKET

The Florida home and condo market is on fire. Housing prices have increased for 112 consecutive months — the greatest rise happening the past two years.\* Two factors are the cause for the recent improvement: Low interest rates and freedom-favorable state and local pandemic restrictions combined to attract migrating rust belt and Northeast residents, many who are fleeing restrictive rules for them, their business and children.

**Interest rate concern.** Mortgage interest rates remain historically low. They were lower in April than March. The average 30-year fixed-rate mortgage rate is 3.18%. A 15-year fixed rate is 2.44%.\*\*\* This level is expected to continue into June. Moving into fall, the overall trend points to a steady increase. Although forecasts vary between 3.3% to 3.6% by summer's end, the general consensus among analysts is for increasing rates. Locking in a rate now might help you avoid missing out on the current low rates.

### LOCAL HOUSING MARKET

Can we all agree it's a seller's market? Supply does not meet demand. The Ponte Vedra Beach housing supply is 1.2 months. Six months is considered healthy. In April, 36.9% of listings sold above list price — up 134% compared



Photo provided by metrocreativeconnection.com

to April 2020. Most listings receive multiple offers.\*\* Because of multiple offer situations, and sales prices rising above original list price, buyers require professional Realtor representation.

Katie Hughes-Johnson, of RE/MAX Specialists Ponte Vedra explains it this way. "To win in a multiple offer situation you need to work with an agent equipped to position your offer to win. A strong offer will accommodate sellers' needs both financially and situationally. Potentially allowing sellers to post-occupy the home after closing."

Hughes-Johnson went on to say, "In this market, a buyer has to be aware of any terms that may help them to tip the

scale and win the house. Another reason why using a seasoned agent with a proven track record of success is important."

Listings are up year over year in Ponte Vedra Beach and the surrounding area. Nocatee listings are up 24%, South Ponte Vedra Beach 19% and Ponte Vedra Beach and North Ponte Vedra Beach 19%.\*\* The increased listings do help local buyers have more options than the year before; however, there are many more buyers this year.

Making sure you are prequalified is important. In certain situations, a local Realtor will feel more comfortable accepting a mortgage buyer with a trusted lender prequalification letter. Choose a

lender with a reputation of closing on time. In the current environment, buyers are less likely to look the other way after a mortgage contingency expires, and your binder deposit is at risk. A seasoned Realtor and mortgage banker will look out for your best buyers' interest.

### MORTGAGE MARKET

In Florida, the banking and residential mortgage industry has already begun the transition back to normal operations after the previous year of staff working from home. Branches are reopening to full capacity. Supporting services such as title companies are once again opening their doors to in-person closings with Realtors and mortgage bankers in attendance. Appraisers are booked with new home purchase and refinance inspections.

The industry is thriving.

Builders are also staying busy. Construction mortgages are becoming widely used because, in many cases, it has become easier to buy a lot and build a custom home compared to purchasing hotly contested existing homes.

The outlook is sunny for PVB and the surrounding area housing market.

**\*Article posted March 31 on Top Ten Real Estate Deals website. Home price increase is from a study commissioned by the Florida Realtors Research Department.**

**\*\* Source: Northeast Florida Association of Realtors**

**\*\*\*Bankrate.com, May 19, 2021**





Photos provided by Debi Kopp

# Spinnakers Reach condo is an oceanfront paradise

By Debi Kopp

Natural light pours into this stunning end-unit residence. Upon entering, you will be transported from the stress of everyday life to a state of relaxation.

This move-in-ready condo offers panoramic views of sunrises over the sparkling Atlantic Ocean, gorgeous sunsets over Guana Preserve and scenes of tropical landscaping with pool views. You will feel like you're on a permanent vacation!

The oceanfront lifestyle is only steps from your front door. Wake up and go for a

beach walk, paddle boarding, ocean kayaking or take your beach cruiser for a stroll. Sawgrass Village is within biking distance or only a short drive away and offers the best dining and shopping Ponte Vedra Beach has to offer. Numerous top-ranking golf courses are all within a few miles. You can lock up and feel at ease while you're off exploring other beautiful destinations.

The under-building parking and storage for all of your beach toys adds to the appeal. This special end unit offers privacy and serenity with no one above you. The split floor plan has three spacious bedrooms

with a view and three en suite bathrooms that have been beautifully updated. Neutral porcelain tile flows throughout the entire condo. The kitchen boasts a large eat-in area with a picture window, granite countertops and stainless-steel appliances, with a balcony right off the dining area where you can relax with your favorite beverage and enjoy all of the beautiful sunsets. The balcony off the living area and the master bedroom is a great spot to sit and watch dolphins, the sunrise or moonrise and spectacular fireworks during the 4th of July!

Spinnakers Reach is full concrete block

construction located within the secured gate of Sawgrass Beach Club. The Spinnakers Reach condos allow a minimum one-month rental and could be excellent income for someone who doesn't live here full time. Jacksonville and historic St. Augustine are an easy drive away.

Don't miss the opportunity to make this slice of paradise your new home. Schedule your private showing today.

This condo is represented by RE/MAX Unlimited, presented by Debi and Keely Kopp of The Kopp Group and is offered at \$1,200,000.



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Photos provided by CiCi Anderson

# Exclusive lot in Marsh Landing CC offers best of Ponte Vedra Beach

By CiCi Anderson

Anyone who has spent time in Ponte Vedra Beach knows just how special it is — a true gem with a quality of life that is hard to beat. With its perfect mix of serene coastal living, top-tier golf and tennis and upscale social options, more and more people are discovering the many benefits this special seaside community has to offer. No state income tax and no personal property tax make now the perfect time to own your very own piece of Ponte Vedra Beach.

Nestled right in the middle of the

premier gated community in Ponte Vedra Beach sits the single remaining lot in the exclusive Found Forrest inside of highly sought after Marsh Landing Country Club. This estate lot is 3.42 acres with 2.66 acres of uplands. Build your dream home and even a separate in-laws house on the property. Private, hidden space abounds to create a spectacular outdoor living escape with mature and majestic trees to surround your sanctuary or entertainment space. Surrounded by luxury estate homes that range in size from 5,000 square feet to palatial residences of 15,000-plus square feet, your own per-

sonal residence is in good company.

Take a short walk to the Marsh Landing Country Club driving range or tennis courts and finish your day with a refreshing cocktail at the neighboring clubhouse. Your guests are sure to be impressed with Marsh Landing’s careful attention to detail and focus on nature preservation. Combined with its close proximity to the beach, A-rated schools and world-class hospital systems like Mayo Clinic there is truly no other community like this one in Florida. Ponte Vedra Beach is a short 40 minutes north of St. Augustine, two hours south of Sa-

vanah, Georgia, and with access to “big city” features, including the Jacksonville Jaguars, the Broadway Artist Series and the Jacksonville Symphony, it is a location unlike any other.

With 3.42 acres of premier land in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach your options to design the home and life you always imagined is now!

200 Deer Colony Lane is available for \$1.9 million. Bring the builder of your choice or be connected with a Marsh Landing preferred builder. Represented by MLCC Realty and listed by Jenna Fisher and Cici Anderson.



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## SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

# Lawrence gives Jaguars a solid foundation to build on



**Brian Sexton**  
Guest Columnist

2020, it turns out, wasn't a very good year, what with a global pandemic and all, but it was a very good year to be a bad NFL team. Last month in Cleveland, the Jaguars converted their woeful 1-15 record from 2020 into getting the best quarterback college football has seen in a generation and a haul of football talent that promises to transform their team — and maybe even their town.

Trevor Lawrence isn't just the quarterback the NFL has been watching and waiting for since January of 2019 when, as a freshman, he took down mighty Alabama for the National Championship. The folks at Cartersville, Georgia High watched him in middle school and waited for him to take their program to new heights. His phenomenal talent and incredible leadership helped Clemson go 34-2 and win a championship and finish second in another national title game. Lawrence is a revelation on and off the field where he has already graduated and

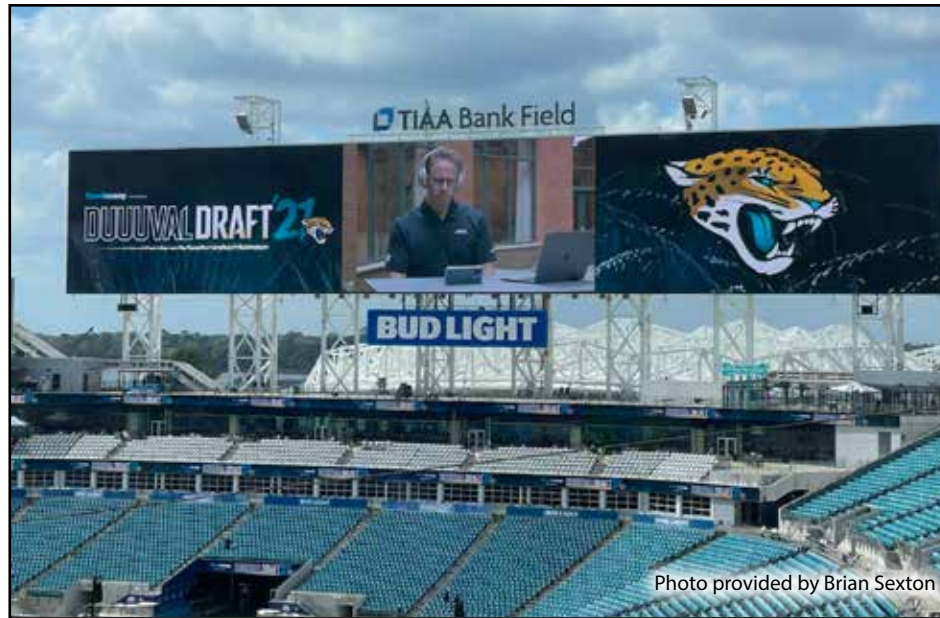


Photo provided by Brian Sexton

married his middle school sweetheart. His strong Christian faith figures to translate as well in North Florida, as will his famously flowing locks and that Southern college football pedigree. In short, the man asked to revitalize the Jaguars is more than up to the task.

Since new head coach Urban Meyer arrived on the scene in Jacksonville in January, everything is different. There is

no mention of what happened in the past, only a strong focus on where the franchise is headed into the future. Lawrence is obviously the lynchpin; Meyer wouldn't have brought his College Football Hall of Fame resume out of retirement and away from a comfortable television job had it not been for the chance to work with Lawrence. Meyer's approach to the 2021 NFL Draft was all about the future. The

Jaguars have the benefit of thinking long-term coming off a one-win season. No one expects them to win the Super Bowl in 2021 or even make the playoffs. They expect better and that seems certain.

The selection of Stanford offensive tackle Walker Little in the second round and Syracuse safety Andre Cisco in the third are perhaps the best indicators of Meyer's long-term approach. Little is a massive athlete who was highly regarded before a 2019 knee injury shelved him and the Pac-12's decision to not play football cost him 2020. The Jaguars have two talented offensive tackles ready to play in the fall and don't need Little this season, but the value of a potential starting tackle at that point of the draft was too great to pass up and, if he's as good when he does return to the field as he was when he left it two years ago, the Jaguars will have a steal. Same with Cisco, who looked like a first-round pick at Syracuse in 2020 before tearing ligaments in his knee. He's a big safety who can run and hit but has the instincts and change of direction skills of a cornerback as evidenced by his 13 take-aways in just 20 games for the

**JAGUARS** continues on **Page 32**

## Atlantic Beach lifestyle and only a block to the ocean



Enjoy the ultimate beach lifestyle, only one block to the sand! If you're an early riser, you can grab your coffee and experience a magnificent sunrise. Or, if you feel like browsing or a bite to eat, you're only six blocks away from the Beaches Town Center! You can't blame local residents who would rather keep this special place a secret.

Arriving at 698 Beach Avenue in Atlantic Beach, you'll find a spectacular two story cedar shake home situated on a corner double lot; truly a rarity here. Upon entry, expect a thoroughly refined yet relaxed interior that blends the finest of today's finishes with Florida mid-century flair. Built originally in 1926, this down-to-the-studs renovation is spectacular.

The 3,729 square foot interior begins on the main floor, as you enter into a spacious foyer that blends seamlessly with the formal dining area and beyond, to an expansive kitchen with

custom white cabinetry and stainless steel appliances. The pantry with barn door closures is an especially thoughtful design feature as it allows for all the necessities but also the ability to close it off when entertaining. An informal dining area has french doors leading to a charming patio herb garden.

To call this dwelling an absolute retreat would not be an understatement. Space and privacy are at a premium but you wouldn't know anyone else exists as you step through the front door where your eyes are immediately drawn to the outdoor living area.



There's a serene feeling of seclusion created by a zen-inspired pool area nestled in a surrounding landscape that is unmatched; you'll think you've arrived at a spa resort.

Upstairs, the second level contains a spacious owner's suite with large walk-in closet and bath area complete with His & Hers sinks, a luxurious soaking tub, and glassed in shower. It has its own east facing balcony as well. Also on the second floor is the laundry room and three additional bedrooms and bathrooms. It should be noted that on the main floor, a large flex space could be used as an additional entertainment area or could be turned into a ground floor owner's suite. There is nothing left to be desired here and could be the dream home you've always imagined.

This property is presented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, listed by Elizabeth Hudgins and Sarah Alexander.



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Photos provided by Lisa Barton



# Harbour Island home features thoughtful design, natural beauty

**By Lisa Barton**

When Susan and John Ryzewic were selecting locations for their new home, this magnificent lot on Admirals Way in Marsh Landing’s Harbour Island, stood out. The location at 189 Admirals Way in Harbour Island, Ponte Vedra Beach, offers 140 feet of Intracoastal Waterway frontage and unobstructed views of water, beauty, and nature as well as a 60-foot boat slip directly across the street.

The home they built there has an elegant, traditional floor plan, which incorporates the natural light and boasts spectacular views of the Intracoastal Waterway. The

sweeping, floating staircase and lovely living room with a soaring two-story ceiling showcases these views perfectly. Designed for entertaining, the spacious formal dining room opens to the foyer, living room, kitchen and a large wet bar and wine closet.

The layout of the home was thoughtfully designed with five bedrooms (including two master suites, one upstairs and one down). The floor plan includes a “children’s suite” with two en-suite bedrooms and a family room upstairs on the south side. The Ryzewics knew they wanted to work from home, so they incorporated two private studies and a reception area on the north side. This decision was fortuitous

since today, home offices are particularly appealing to the many buyers needing ample space to work remotely. A guest suite downstairs is perfect for the in-laws or a nanny.

The outdoor living spaces are stunning with a large, screened balcony overlooking the lagoon where the 60-foot floating boat slip awaits. An oversized screened porch with a summer kitchen and outdoor fireplace faces the Intracoastal Waterway. This outdoor living area opens to the recently updated swimming pool and spa. Outside, the Ryzewics enjoy a lovely sitting area and fire pit overlooking the beautiful water.

This custom home includes ample storage space as well as four garage bays. The circular driveway provides plenty of parking for both family and guests. The private boat slip is directly across the street, affording quick access to deep water boating.

The Ryzewics have had many memorable moments over the years and know that this home and boating lifestyle will be much enjoyed by a new family.

This property is listed by the Lisa Barton Team, represented by Keller Williams Atlantic Partners, Luxury International Specialists and offered for \$3,600,000. Contact the Lisa Barton Team at (904) 705-1382 for more information.

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\*Source: Keller Williams Multi-Trend Report & MLS

# RECIPE SPOTLIGHT

## Summer food vibes: Tequila lime shrimp with zoodles



**Alice Hickox**  
Lettuce Do Dinner

Few recipes scream “bring on summer” quite like a refreshing and satisfying seafood dish, especially one where shrimp takes center stage. Shrimp is not just a nutrient-dense superstar (packed with protein, selenium, B12, choline, iodine and zinc, while being light in calories and fat), it’s incredibly versatile and mild in flavor, making it the perfect dance partner for a good marinade or sauce. If you want to treat your taste buds and your health to a dance they won’t soon forget, give my tequila lime shrimp with zoodles a try. It combines shrimp with

refreshing citrus, fresh herbs and spices over zoodles; a light satisfying food swap that takes the place of traditional noodles. If you don’t love the idea of swapping zoodles for traditional pasta, I promise I won’t judge! This recipe is equally delicious using traditional or gluten-free pasta.

In addition to nutrition, this recipe is quick and easy; all while weighing in with a whopping 33 grams of protein and only eight carbs and 300 calories per serving! With Memorial Day right around the corner, it makes a wonderful addition to your party, as well as a perfect and light weekday meal. Be sure to check out my incredibly delicious margarita recipe as well with no mixers or refined sugar, that won’t let the rest of that tequila go to waste!

When I cook with alcohol, I always use something I would drink personally in a beverage. But your favorite (or any) tequila you may already have on hand should work for this recipe. Pure agave tequila (100% agave) is low in sugar. With only 69 calories per ounce and no carbohydrates (thanks to the distillation process), this is a solid choice for health-conscious individuals. This tequila is Teremana Tequila. If you can’t find it, my next recommendation and favorite is Resposado.

So, crank up a little salsa music and let’s get this cooking party going!

### TEQUILA LIME SHRIMP WITH ZOODLES

(Servings 4)

#### Ingredients

- 3 Tbsp. grass-fed butter or real butter
- 2 shallots, minced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- ¼ cup tequila
- 2 tsp or zest of one lime
- 3 Tbsp. lime juice
- 1-pound uncooked shrimp, peeled and deveined (recommend fresh local Mayport)
- 2 medium zucchini spiralized (or store-bought pre-spiraled)
- ¼ cup fresh parsley
- Salt and pepper to taste

#### Instructions

Heat 1 Tbsp. of butter in a skillet over medium heat.



Add shallots and cook for 1 minute until semi-translucent. Add garlic and cook for another 60 seconds being careful not to overcook or it will burn.

Remove from heat; stir in tequila, lime zest and lime juice.

Cook until the liquid is evaporated.

Add remaining butter, shrimp and zucchini noodles

Continue cooking over medium heat until liquid is almost evaporated (2-3 minutes).

When all shrimp are pink in color, it is ready to go.

Garnish with parsley and lime zest, and additional lime wedges if desired.

And let’s not forget that margarita!

### TEREMANA OR RESPOSADO MARGARITA

#### Ingredients

- 2 oz. Teremana Blanco
- 1 oz. fresh squeezed lime juice
- ½ oz. agave nectar
- 1 oz. fresh pineapple or orange juice

#### Instructions

Shake with ice in a cocktail shaker. Strain into your favorite margarita glass over fresh ice. Garnish with a lime wheel, pineapple leaves and sea salt as desired.

Bon appetit!

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Photos provided by Mike Rolewicz

# Roscoe Boulevard home offers plenty of space, amazing views

By Mike Rolewicz

What's better than a great day on the boat with friends and family? Coming home to this waterfront beauty on the Intracoastal. We are excited to share this luxurious, yet comfortable, home at 5 North Roscoe Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Custom built in 2014 with no detail overlooked, this gorgeous pool home with almost 5,000 square feet of living space situated on a 1-acre lot is the perfect place to call home and enjoy all that Ponte Vedra Beach has to offer — A-rated schools, several restaurants within walking or paddle-

boarding distance. Sip your morning coffee on the dock or balcony, watching birds forage on the shoreline with an occasional visit from dolphin and/or manatee.

Enjoy afternoons tubing or wakeboarding or a lazy day by the pool watching boats go by with friends. Enjoy a sunset cruise or jump in the boat for dinner at several award-winning waterfront restaurants nearby.

When you enter this open and airy stunner with 12-foot ceilings, your eyes are drawn to the water views from every angle. Thoughtfully designed to take advantage of the 100 feet of water front-

age, direct water views are enjoyed from three of the four bedrooms, each with an en suite bath, as well as the office, living and dining and, of course, the state-of-the-art kitchen with two islands that opens to a large gathering space with pocketing sliders that bring the outside in.

Upstairs a flex room opens to a 12-seat theater room complete with small wet bar area for all the drinks and snacks needed for movie night or to watch your favorite team on a 10-foot screen along with two large bedrooms and a balcony with breathtaking views of the backyard and Intracoastal. It's a great place to catch the

amazing sunsets over the water.

The expansive outdoor space includes several covered seating areas as well as a large summer kitchen with beverage fridge. The dock features a 10,000-pound covered lift and another 1,500-pound lift perfect for a kayak, jet ski or small flats boat. The commercial-grade concrete and steel bulkhead will provide peace of mind for years to come.

Move-in ready. Call today for a private showing.

This property is exclusively listed by Mike Rolewicz of the 904 Home Guide Team and brokered by eXp Realty.

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Sarah Huckabee Sanders holds a party favor at the event.



Katie Johnson, David Johnson, Janet Westling, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Vernon Jones, Allison Ferebee, Dale Westling, Drew Westling and Greg Westling



Sarah Huckabee Sanders and Monica Jacoby



Pam Shore, Drew Westling, Vernon Jones and Patsy Shields



ABOVE: Patsy Shields, Dr. Gary Lee, Sarah Huckabee Sanders and John Shields



Kay and Steve Carn



LEFT: Sarah Huckabee Sanders and Lauri Odom

Photos provided by Janet Westling

# An evening with Sarah Huckabee Sanders

By Janet Westling

On March 13, my husband Dale and I hosted a dinner at our home in Sawgrass Country Club with Sarah Huckabee Sanders, former press secretary to President Donald Trump from 2017-2019, author of “Speaking for Myself” and candidate for governor of Arkansas.

Huckabee Sanders has been an ardent supporter of President Trump and his MAGA agenda, and this event was filled within days of sending out invitations to friends in our community. Over 50 friends attended and had the opportunity to dine with Huckabee Sanders and pose for photos.

The springtime temperatures made the perfect garden setting for an open-air venue with outdoor dining on the terrace under the trees. The alfresco dinner catered by Alice Hickox of Lettuce Do Dinner included a wonderful menu of cast-iron seared beef tenderloin, baked parmesan-and-sundried-tomato-crust salmon and shrimp scampi with risotto. A special dessert of Arkansas possum pie was served along with a signature cookie with the logo of “Sarah for Governor” as a party favor.

Huckabee Sanders is a genuine and natural speaker and made quite a connection to all who attended. She was the third woman and first mother to hold the position of White House press secretary. Huckabee Sanders lives in Little Rock, Arkansas, with her husband Bryan, their three children, Scarlett, Huck and George, and their golden retriever, Traveler.

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**VILLAGES OF VILANO BEACH CONDO**

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**SEASCAPE - JAX BEACH**

Summer is almost here! This wonderful 5th floor condo with sweeping oceanfront views with balcony access from every room is awaiting you! With both family & adult-only pools, you can choose how to spend your days once the beach sand and ocean waves have worn you out! Reserved parking spot & guest parking available. Come enjoy the perks of quiet south Jax Beach!

Offered for \$700,000.



**Call Julia Fattahi  
904-728-8992**



**AUSTIN PARK IN NOCATEE**

Mature, tree-lined streets greet you as you pull up to the oversized 2-car garage. This 4BR/3BA 2451sf floorplan has everything you could want in a home. Large breakfast room off the kitchen, separate dining & an office/study with French doors. Owners suite has tray ceilings & large bath w/ garden tub & separate shower. Family room w/ French doors leads to screened lanai on a lake.

Offered for \$488,900.



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**VILLAGES OF PABLO**

Beautiful 3BR/2BA 1828 sf single family home located off San Pablo Rd. in Intracoastal West area. Cul-de-sac with fenced back yard. Split floor plan, 2 car gar., sunroom/patio off the kitchen & master, living areas are tile or wood flooring, bedrooms carpeted. Master bath has garden tub, walk in shower, dual sinks & his/her closets. Kitchen updated with granite countertops. New roof. Offered for \$395,000.



**Call Wally Sears  
904-610-9771**

To be included  
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**TRAVEL SPOTLIGHT**

# Part 1: Traveling to Asia amid a pandemic

By Alex Wulbern

Preparing to travel during COVID has been no easy task. It is not as simple as packing a bag and swiping a credit card for the plane ticket.

To travel internationally, it took months of preparation along with detailed visa applications.

For my visa to Thailand, I had to prepay for my entire stay's hotel bookings, which, for me, meant three months of living accommodations prepaid even if I did not have to prepay to confirm the booking with the hotel.

I also needed to book a government-approved quarantine for 14 days. (A few days before I left, the Thai government announced the quarantine would be shortened to 10 days and I was refunded the pro-rated amount for the days I did not stay in quarantine.)

I had to purchase both travel insurance and health insurance. Despite having health insurance in the U.S., I needed to buy additional insurance from an approved provider in Thailand to cover all COVID-related expenses in the event I contracted the virus and needed to be hospitalized.

I was also required to get a background check done by my state government to prove I had no criminal record.

All of this was required before I even applied for the visa from the Thai embassy.

The Thai government provided several new visa options during the pandemic in hopes of slowing the hemorrhaging tourist industry in Thailand. I applied for the Special Tourist Visa Program, which provided me with 90 days in country with the option to extend my visa two times for 90 days each for a total possible stay of 270 days.



**ABOVE: Watching the sun set from the All Nippon Airways lounge in Tokyo's Narita airport.**

**LEFT: The plane was nearly empty from Chicago to Tokyo, making for a pretty comfortable trip.**

Photos by Alex Wulbern

The procedure to fly internationally was somewhat complicated, but due to the lack of travelers, was a rather pleasant experience. I was required to produce a negative PCR COVID test in order to get on my international flight with All Nippon Airways. The gate attendants had lists from each country with the required document travelers would need based on their destinations.

All my required documents were checked at the gate before I was allowed to board. After showing proof of a negative COVID test as well as proof of insurance and showing them the visa and my passport, I was allowed on board.

If the flight had been full, the process of checking documents would have taken ages; however, there was hardly anyone

on board. There must have been fewer than 30 passengers on the entire aircraft, including all cabins from first to economy.

On board the aircraft, we were required to keep our masks on except to eat or drink. Weird policy in my opinion because everyone on board had been tested, and since we could take the masks off during meals and snacks, there was quite a lot of time during the 13-hour flight from Chicago to Tokyo that every passenger's mask was off at the same time. The flight attendants kept their masks on the entire time and even wore gloves.

The food on board All Nippon was delicious and there was no shortage of drinks and snacks throughout the entire 13-hour journey from North America to Asia. I flew premium economy and, at 6-foot-3, it is completely worth it for a 13-hour flight.

The meals were delicious. We had several meals, not sure which was a lunch versus dinner as we flew with the sun all the way to Japan, and I found myself getting very confused about what time it was. I woke up at 3 a.m. Eastern time in Florida and landed in Japan around 3 p.m. local time almost 24 hours later. Suffice to say my body was very confused.

I was unable to sleep on the flight, perhaps from the excitement. It was a good thing too, as we flew over Canada and Alaska and were able to see some incredible mountains from the plane.

Upon arriving in Tokyo, the Narita airport was nearly deserted. There was hardly a soul in sight, and most of the shops and restaurants were closed. Luckily, I had access to the ANA lounge and was able to sit and enjoy some udon and Sapporo while waiting for the final leg of my journey.

TRAVEL continues on Page 27

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# Travel

Continued from 26

I do not remember much of my flight from Tokyo to Bangkok. I was not able to sleep much on my flight from Chicago to Tokyo, so by the time I got on my last flight, it had been almost 24 hours from when I woke up in Florida, so I fell asleep before the plane even taxied to the runway. I awoke just in time to eat a quick meal and catch a few more minutes of sleep before landing in Bangkok.

Landing in Bangkok was quite the experience. We were greeted by staff in full PPE gear from head to toe, masks with face shields and full-body Tyvek suits. Our documents were checked to verify everything was in order, and were then handed a badge which indicated where we were heading for quarantine. Once the whole plane of passengers was verified to have all documents, we went to the next station. I visited about three or four different desks, each wanting to verify a different piece of my documentation. One wanted the negative COVID test, others want to see health insurance and, one by one, each document was verified and confirmed.

After a myriad of checkpoints, we were finally directed to immigration where there were two stops. One checkpoint was verifying the declaration form we filled on the plane the final immigration desk took our photograph and fingerprints stamped



**ABOVE:** The mountain ranges of Canada and Alaska provided some incredible views on our long flight to Asia.

**LEFT:** Mealtime on board was amazing. The food was delicious. I cannot wait to fly with All Nippon again.

Photos by Alex Wulbern

our passport and sent us on our way to baggage claim.

Past baggage claim we were greeted by more Tyvek-suited personnel who directed us to the relevant transportation to take us to

our quarantines. I was the only one headed to my particular hotel, so I was taken in a small SUV with a plastic divider between me and the driver. The driver had sprayed my bags before closing the doors and setting

off for my quarantine. The hotel where I would arrive would become my home for the next 10 days, where I would have minimal contact with any humans as I awaited all clear to begin exploring the country.

All in, it would take two cars and four planes, and more than 34 hours to get me from my home in Florida to the quarantine hotel in Pattaya, Thailand. I am so happy to finally be here after all the work and time it took to get here and cannot wait to see all that Thailand has to offer and share my experiences with the world.

*Note: This is the first part of a three-part series detailing Alex Wulbern's travels to Asia. Look for the second part in the next issue of Sand Castles.*

*Alex Wulbern studied marketing and art in college and spent some time working for various boutique cannabis producers in Colorado as well as a specialty liquor distiller out West before returning home to Florida during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the aftermath of the pandemic, he decided to leave his work and pursue his passions of investing, travel and photography. He currently is starting a new website for digital nomads interested in stocks and investing called [GlobetrotCapital.com](http://GlobetrotCapital.com) and is publishing his photography on his Instagram [@Wulbern\\_Photo](https://www.instagram.com/Wulbern_Photo) and will soon be providing more of his photos through [AlexWulbern.com](http://AlexWulbern.com) Alex is currently traveling around Southeast Asia working to navigate the complicated world of pandemic travel and will be spending the next few months living in Thailand. For work inquiries and potential collaboration, you can reach him directly at [Alex@GlobetrotCapital.com](mailto:Alex@GlobetrotCapital.com).*

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# Peaceful oceanfront condo that lives like a home

By Gwinn Volen

Spacious oceanfront condominiums in Ponte Vedra Beach are a rarity. One with 10-foot ceilings, even more so. Renovated as well? Almost never.

673-B Ponte Vedra Boulevard in the private and exclusive Whitehall building checks all of the above boxes. With approximately 2,900 square feet and three en suite bedrooms, this property lives like a home with the conveniences of a condo association.

You enter this second-floor unit and are

immediately drawn to the expansive views of the Atlantic Ocean through the floor-to-ceiling sliding doors. Look up and you'll see beautiful wood-beam work. Look around, and you will be overcome by a sense of peace that only a space one-with-nature can bring.

This peacefulness is multiplied by the calming sound of ocean waves and made inviting by the elegant coastal color palette. Soft taupe coquina tiled floors, deep blues, oyster shell grays and fun aquas — a fresh take on traditional style. In 2017, Phoebe and James Michael Howard and their team

guided the renovation of this space, encapsulating all that is peaceful and serene in their esteemed signature style.

A few highlights worth mentioning! This condo is an entertainer's delight with a Sub-Zero wine fridge in the bar area, an arm's reach from a large dining space for hosting. A kitchen with a view — outfitted with Wolf and Sub-Zero appliances. Your guests have a separate living space, some might call a TV den. Relaxing bathrooms are outfitted with Waterworks fixtures.

Escape to the beach through the backdoor, only a stairway away from a "long

walk on the beach" and only a short walk to beach clubs, the closest being The Lodge & Club.

Beach chairs, beach bikes, beach umbrellas! Surfboards, kayaks, fishing gear and more! All have a place in the separate and spacious two-car garage. Again, a rarity for Ponte Vedra condos.

A timeless treasure, 673-B Ponte Vedra Boulevard, listed by The Volen Group, is offered at \$2,995,000. Furniture may be purchased as part of a separate agreement.

For a private tour, contact your real estate agent.




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## Meet Lisa Ann Loiacono

Lisa Ann has always focused her career on helping others. She is hard-working, dedicated, and a great listener. She has an approachable demeanor that makes everyone feel comfortable. Your goals become her goals, with customer service as a top priority. She understands that searching for a new home or selling your current home can be a complicated and exhausting experience. It is essential to find a real estate agent that is deeply involved in the business and loves what they do to show you the way. She will do her best to find a place for you to call home and to hang your heart. Family and home are the two very most important things to her, and if they are to you, then she is the realtor for you.



Originally from New Jersey, Lisa Ann has lived here in Jacksonville Beach with her husband and two kids for over 20 years. When she is not assisting clients, Lisa Ann, is either at a Jaguar game, or as the owner of a mobile disc jockey business, performing as her alter ego "Mrs. Bubbles."

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Photos provided by Michelle Mousin Anderson

# Oceanfront condo boasts updated features, numerous amenities

By Michelle Mousin Anderson

Welcome to a very special oceanfront condominium home in Jacksonville Beach. The Oceania has an ideal location, a bike ride from the Atlantic Beach Town Center and walking distance to restaurants and shops. Built in 2001, the complex has been meticulously maintained. Three years ago, the building was painted and waterproofed and the railings and balcony surfaces were redone. An elevator-modernization project is also

about to start. A full oceanfront fitness center, including a sauna, is located on the second floor along with a resort-style pool. A key point of this building is the ability to have a one-week minimum rental. The building has strict rental guidelines as to provide for a peaceful residence, as there are many full-time residents. The ability to rent is available though, for an exceptional return income.

The condominium located at 1415 1st St. N, #502, has a perfect vantage point on the fifth floor to enjoy privacy and

take in the direct view and breeze from the 260-square-foot balcony that runs the entire width of the condo. There is access from the living and master bedroom from the balcony. The view from inside is just as nice due to the oversized sliders. Cook in the kitchen and you can enjoy the ocean, which can also be appreciated while relaxing in the master bedroom. The master is oversized with a walk-in closet, bath with double sinks and a large seamless glass shower. The floor plan is extremely efficient with the

guest room, which includes a full bath, located away from the master. The guest room enjoys the brilliant sunsets to the West. The kitchen, dining and living rooms feel open and airy. The home is freshly painted and has a new HVAC and water heater.

This beach residence is ready to enjoy!

This property is listed by Michelle Mousin Anderson and represented by Engel and Volkers. For more information, go to [www.mmousin.com](http://www.mmousin.com), call (904) 616-5757 or email [mousinsellsre@gmail.com](mailto:mousinsellsre@gmail.com).

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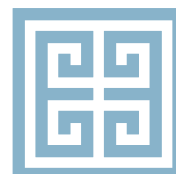
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**HUGO'S**  
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Photos provided by Janet Westling

# A villa in Ponte Vedra Beach... a European-inspired retreat

By Janet Westling

Marsh Landing has an abundance of homes with beautiful architecture and design. Unfortunately, in this current real estate market, many are not for sale.

It has been a journey for my buyers searching for the perfect home for over a year until recently. The moment they stepped inside 105 Palm Forrest Place they knew this home was special.

I personally know the architect and builder John Shackelford, and his reputation stretches from Sea Island, Georgia, to Ponte Vedra Beach and beyond.

In a 1999 issue of Southern Accents Magazine, Shackelford was named as one of its top “Four Under Forty.” His work in design and execution of a well-built home set him apart among his peers. His design is timeless, not trendy. In its praise of Shackelford, Southern Accents Magazine described his scale of designs as “classical, austere, exuberant and baroque.” He relates his buildings to their setting, which is one of the features that my buyers were drawn to. With only six homes gracing the Marsh Landing golf course on Palm Forest Place, the large properties, their landscape design with their unique placement among the

trees, water, golf course and marsh views create the perfect retreat to call home. This beautiful setting is not only private but tranquil and protected and offers spectacular views from every room.

With over 5,787 square feet of space, four bedrooms and five bathrooms across two floors with separate wings and two staircases, this stunning home exudes a traditional European style, from its stone balcony and stucco exterior to its relaxed elegant interiors and exquisite upgrades.

With a Shackelford home, it is always the details that stand out, from the clay tile roof, details around the eaves, case-

ment windows, stone floors, Juliet balcony and grand staircase. The seashell carved out of stone above the front door entrance welcomes you to the Ponte Vedra lifestyle in Marsh Landing Country Club. The community was created in 1985 by Ponte Vedra Beach’s own “property brothers,” Jerome and Paul Fletcher. The brothers placed a huge emphasis on the conservation and preservation of the environment that included tidal marshes, natural lakes and a wide variety of native trees. They executed their plan beautifully and today, 36

VILLA continues on Page 32

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Photos provided by Jennifer Sexton



## Condo vs. single-family house in Ponte Vedra Beach ... which is for you?

**By Jennifer Sexton**

There's no "one-size-fits-all" when it comes to real estate. Your home should meet your needs and preferences, depending on what phase of life you are in.

There are advantages and disadvantages to condos vs. single-family homes. What's great is that you can choose whichever works best for you and your family. Even more specifically, you may find that each provides special benefits at different times in your life.

The oceanfront location of 621 Ponte Vedra Blvd., Unit 621C at The Breakers

V Condominiums. is unbeatable. Glorious sunrises, fresh breezes, salty air, panoramic ocean views ... this is what you'll experience living in this low-maintenance, single-level three-bedroom, three-bathroom, 2,202-square-foot condo on the ocean. This fully updated condo is a dream! It's an end unit located on the top floor with both a front door and a back door that puts you in the sand in seconds. The open kitchen, dining, living-room layout lends itself to family gatherings and the custom banquette seating is perfect for the younger generations. The owner's suite offers fantastic ocean views and has access to

an air-conditioned sunroom, which spans the entire eastside of the condo. An indoor laundry room, two assigned garage parking spaces and an air-conditioned, large storage unit for your beach toys will seal the deal for any buyer.

One of the primary advantages of living in a condo is the fact that most of the exterior maintenance is taken care of by an HOA. While single family homeowners are busy mowing their lawns, painting the house, trimming hedge and cleaning gutters, condo owners are simply relaxing at home. Another difference is the social aspect. Because condo living has a

density factor, it creates a level of intimacy that you don't typically see in the larger subdivisions.

Is a single-family house a better idea? One of the primary advantages of owning a house is having land. Yes, the property needs to be maintained, but you can make unique exterior improvements like a pool, garden or just have a little extra room to roam in your fenced yard. A single-family house can typically be easily customized or added on to for additional living space.

The perfect example is my three bed-

HOMES continues on Page 32

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# Jaguars

Continued from 19

Orangemen. The Jaguars don't need him right away, but if he returns to form they found a top-shelf defensive back in the third round.

Teams that win one game don't have much to work with in a normal year. Fans are unhappy and don't want to hear about how things are going to be better next season, and casual observers are largely uninterested. This isn't a normal year. A franchise quarterback and a Hall of Fame coach have completely transformed the outlook in Jacksonville and trust me, it's really, really hard to wash away the stink of a 1-15 season, but it's gone. Ticket sales are strong, national media attention hasn't been

this keen since Mark Brunell was throwing to Jimmy Smith and Keenan McCardell more than 20 years ago and the future doesn't just look bright, it looks stable, which isn't something we've always been able to say about the NFL franchise in one of the smallest markets in the league. Expect the renaissance of downtown Jacksonville that has been on the drawing board for years to finally rise from the banks of the St. Johns River, powered by a winning team that creates a sense of incredible possibilities thanks to a bad team which gave way to a great quarterback. Football is a team game but one player, at the game's most important position, can change everything.

**Brian Sexton is the senior correspondent for the Jacksonville Jaguars and has served more than 20 years as the voice of Jacksonville's NFL franchise.**



Jaguars coach Urban Meyer waits to address the draft party crowd on April 29 at TIAA Bank Field. The Jaguars had the No. 1 pick in the draft and selected quarterback Trevor Lawrence out of Clemson, giving the team a young franchise QB to build the future on.  
Photo by Nancy Beecher

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# Villa

Continued from 30

years later, this pristine environment is host to wildlife such as ospreys, egrets, herons, deer and, of course, residents! Believed by many to be "the best neighborhood connecting Jacksonville to the Atlantic Ocean," Marsh Landing Country Club features a private 18-hole golf course designed by Ed Seay of Arnold Palmer Course design. The par-72 course winds through some of the most scenic marshes and groves, connecting sport to nature in a nod to the biodiversity of the environment. A beautiful, enclosed lanai overlooks the heated pool and terraced private lawn, with sweeping vistas in a tranquil setting.

This property is represented by Elite Realty Group, listed by Patricia Bush and offered for \$2,650,000. It is currently under contract by Janet Westling of Berkshire Hathaway.

# Homes

Continued from 31

room, two-and-a-half-bathroom, 2,874-square-foot listing at 473 Golf View Circle, Old Ponte Vedra Beach with a 126-foot-deep lot. The previous owners, a family of three, had plenty of room in the backyard to add a spacious sunroom to enjoy the bright Florida sunshine. They also added multiple decks and patios to the exterior.

In the end, neither of these two housing types is necessarily better than the other. It ultimately comes down to where you are in life, and what your preferences are.

These properties are represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, listed by Jennifer Sexton. 621 Ponte Vedra Blvd, #621C is offered at \$1,885,000, 473 Golf View Circle, Ponte Vedra Beach is offered at \$1,495,000.

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# Move-in ready home features ideal location, great amenities

**By Wally Sears**

Step inside 2795 Chesterbrook Court and experience a move-in ready home just minutes to the beach, shopping and the Mayo Clinic.

Villages of Pablo is a single-family home community located off San Pablo Road in the Intracoastal West area of Jacksonville. It is conveniently located between Atlantic Boulevard and Beach Boulevard, just west of the Intracoastal

Waterway. This is an ideal location which is very close to the beaches without the high cost, and is also a great investment property.

People come from around the world to visit and stay at Mayo Clinic, and often need a furnished home nearby. Schools in this area have a high A rating. Amenities in this well-kept neighborhood include a basketball court, community pool, tennis court and volleyball court.

The low HOA fees of \$36 a month

make this an affordable family neighborhood that is very well kept. This home is on a quiet cul-de-sac and has a large fenced-in backyard. This three bedroom, two bath home has a split floor plan, a two-car garage and also offers a parking pad for an RV or boat complete with electric hook up.

Special features of this home include a beautiful sunroom/patio overlooking large back yard. The living areas feature tile or wood floors, and the bedrooms are

carpeted. The updated master bath has a garden tub, walk-in shower, dual sinks and his-and-her closets. The kitchen is updated with granite countertops and new stainless steel appliances. The laundry room has lots of added shelving, great for storage. An added bonus is the roof, which was replaced in 2021 and is a must see!

This property is listed by Wally Sears, represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty and Offered at \$395,000.



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# Nominations begin May 21



The Ponte Vedra Recorder, celebrating 52 years of community news excellence, will launch our third annual **BEST OF THE BEST of Ponte Vedra, 32082 and 32081.**

YOU, our valued readers, now have the chance to nominate your favorite businesses in various categories online. Online voting begins on June 15th after nominations are complete. **HURRY, last day to nominate is June 14th!**

[www.pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2021](http://www.pontevedrarecorder.com/bestof2021)

# Business Weekly

PAGE 35 THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021

Legal Eagles: Helpful tips for finding the right attorney

Page 36

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Photos by Susan Griffin

Ian Barlett and Capt. Glen Davis of Sabrage Charters interact with guests during the St. Johns County Tourism and Hospitality Council and Chamber of Commerce event May 20.

## SJC Tourism and Hospitality Council, Chamber hold networking event aboard catamaran in St. Augustine

Sabrage Charters in St. Augustine hosted members of the Tourism and Hospitality Council as well as St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce members for a cruise along the Matanzas Bay.

The May 20 event featured food and the opportunity to network while on the water among the scenery of historic St. Augustine.

Sabrage is a 2017 63-foot custom Cooper catamaran that specializes in daily excursions for individuals and group charter events. For more information, go to [sabrageaugustine.com](http://sabrageaugustine.com).



Jennifer Jenkins and William McBroom



Clare Berry and Gloria Dongara



Mark Berman and Tim Iley



Kristin Thomas and Trudy Toche

## Claim your missing money now!



Harry Pappas  
Columnist

Did you know that one in 10 people have money that is sitting in their state coffers? Stated more simply, you have a 10% chance of finding money that you might have lost. It

is waiting for you to claim it, so read this dispatch carefully! Psst. Let me tell you the best news ... it's free! It is estimated that the United States has about \$50 billion in unclaimed property locked away waiting for its owner to claim the funds. Frankly, there is no excuse for you or me to not make sure we are not among the 10%, especially when our search is free. OK, let's stop here and define exactly what unclaimed property is.

Unclaimed property is any financial asset that has been abandoned by the owner for a specific period. After a designated time, which is called the dormancy period, the property becomes "unclaimed" and by law must be turned over to the state. The unclaimed money is lawfully protected and kept by the state to be returned to the owner and not back to the party who initially distributed the money. Common forms of unclaimed money can come from more places than we think.

Some examples include:

- Checking accounts
- Saving accounts
- Dividends
- Payroll checks
- Investment accounts
- Customer overpayments
- Utility security deposits
- Life insurance payouts

Each state has laws and an unclaimed property program that make locating our money a relatively simple and straightforward process (see examples on page 39). Please keep in mind third-party "finders" may offer

## Florida Coastal School of Law disputes Department of Education's findings, appealing Title IV program denial

Florida Coast School of Law (FCSL) is disputing the findings released May 13 by the office of Federal Student Aid in the U.S. Department of Education in a letter and press release denying the school's reinstatement into the Title IV program.

FCSL believes the Department of Education was in error in its decision not

to reinstate the school to the federal aid program and is appealing the decision.

"I was perplexed by the ED's decisions and disagree on many points they made in the letter and press release," said Peter Goplerud, president and dean of FCSL.

"In quotes released by the ED, they called us reckless and irresponsible with

the students' futures, which could not be further from the truth. Our students are the sole focus of everything we are doing and always have been. We are putting together the factual evidence of the successes of our graduates and will be going point by

LAW SCHOOL continues on Page 38

PAPPAS continues on Page 39

# Things to consider when seeking an attorney

Attorneys can help people at various times in their lives. Much like doctors specialize in particular types of medicine, attorneys also tend to focus on one area of the law. For example, some lawyers might specialize in criminal law, while others may help their clients with estate planning.

Choosing an attorney is an important decision, and one that many people will need to make at least once during their lifetimes. The following tips can help people find an attorney to help them with whatever legal advice they need.

■ **Book an initial consultation.** Initial consultations are typically free of charge and these meetings often give people a first impression of an attorney before they have to spend any money. Initial consultations are a great opportunity to gauge an attorney's personality and demeanor, determine his or her experience and even his or her outlook for your particular case. Book consultations with as many attorneys as necessary until you feel comfortable making a decision.

■ **Be ready to ask questions.** Attorneys should not be the only ones to speak during a consultation. Make a list of general questions and questions specific to your case and don't hesitate to ask them. Ask about the attorney's accessibility should he or she become your attorney,

making sure to determine if the attorney or someone else, such as a paralegal, will be your primary contact during your case. Many people are most comfortable with attorneys to whom they can speak to directly throughout their case, and that's an important point to consider for people who may never have needed an attorney in the past.

■ **Discuss costs.** Attorney fees are not immaterial, no matter how serious a case might be. Attorney fees vary widely, and professional legal advice is often expensive, especially when cases are complex and lengthy. Expect to sign a contract regarding fees before an attorney begins working on your case. Many attorneys will provide cost estimates, so get those in writing.

■ **Seek recommendations.** As noted, many people require the services of an attorney at least once in their lifetimes. So don't hesitate to ask family, friends or coworkers for recommendations. Word-of-mouth can be a great way to find a reliable, trustworthy attorney. In addition, certain organizations may be helpful. For example, AARP might recommend lawyers who specialize in estate planning.

Attorneys help people who need legal advice. Finding the right one involves careful consideration of a host of factors.




Photo provided by metrocreativeconnection.com

Finding the right attorney for your needs requires consideration of several factors.

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## Law school

Continued from 35

point to refute the ED's claims."

The ED claimed the law school failed to meet financial responsibility standards and the fiduciary standard of conduct citing audits. FCSL believes the department misread and mischaracterized critical parts of the audited financial statements. The school improved its financials between 2019 and 2020 and is on track to improve its financial position in the fiscal year 2021 as noted in the statements. The audits for the fiscal year 2019 and 2020 stated the school's plans would provide an improved financial position for the future, which it did between 2019 and 2020. The audit also states its plan will provide "an improved financial position in future reporting periods and allow the Company to settle its liabilities and commitments in the normal course of business."

The ED asserted that FCSL officials refused to sign a program participation agreement which is also not the case. The ED was asking a senior investor to sign the agreement, which it never had before and the investor could not without violating the terms of the agreement with its investors. In the original denial in March, the ED failed to give a reason for the requirement and for its belief that the investor's legal arguments were insufficient. The department also said the law school failed to inform them of accreditation

issues which the school refutes. The ABA includes the ED in all communications related to accreditation for any accredited law school.

"There have been instances over the years where compliance issues have been raised, but we have consistently rectified such matters," said Goplerud. "We are an accredited ABA school and we have adhered to the standards and regulatory requirements of the federal student financial aid programs. Our graduates are among the best and brightest attorneys and we are proud of what they have accomplished."

FCSL bar pass results in recent years have outperformed peer institutions in Florida. The February 2021 exam results released in March showed the law school graduates scored six points above the statewide pass rate and ahead of five of the 11 Florida law schools. The latest employment data also shows 93% employment for the class of 2020. FCSL graduates are among the leadership of the Jacksonville Bar Association, one is president of the Young Lawyers Division of the Florida Bar and another graduate serves on the executive committee of the Board of Governors of the Florida Bar Association. The school also has alumni who serve in the Florida House of Representatives and the South Carolina House of Representatives.

The school has been in communication with all students, faculty and staff to keep them informed of the situation.

## 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-Hubbe® 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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# Wellness center celebrates 5 years at Nocatee location

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center has been in Nocatee for five years, and this week Dr. Erika Hamer celebrated the anniversary in collaboration with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and the Ponte Vedra Division.

She opened her second location in February 2016.

Asked her reaction to the accomplishment, she said it felt “great!”

“It’s a great milestone to have,” she said, “and it’s a wonderful community to be a part of.”

The Nocatee location is at 205 Markside Ave., suite 200. The other location is 100 Corridor Road, No. 220, Ponte Vedra Beach.



ABOVE: Ponte Vedra Wellness owner Dr. Erika Hamer speaks to guests at a Chamber After Hours event and the celebration of her clinic's fifth anniversary at its Nocatee location on May 19.



Jaclyn Taylor and Gloria Dongara



Donna Guzzo and Bryannah Ford



LEFT: Elaine Raby, Raghu Misra, Blake Wise and Isabelle Renault

Photos by Susan Griffin

## Pappas

Continued from 35

to locate your unclaimed property, but proceed at your own peril, as there are a plethora of unclaimed property scams that come in many shapes and sizes. While many third party providers are legit, there are many that are not, which is why I urge you to use only your state's official unclaimed property website.

Regrettably, far too many folks get a letter, email or phone call suggesting that they have money that is unclaimed. So, the trusted person does what he or she is asked to do to get the money, which is usually paying a fee and sharing personal information. Ouch! This is someone who just fell prey to a con artist.

To show you how easy it is to search and claim abandoned money in Florida for free ... below is a six-step easy to understand brief tutorial.

**Step 1:** Logon to [www.myfloridacfp.com](http://www.myfloridacfp.com). You will likely see the following page appear on your screen.

**Step 2:** Click on the white tab labeled “\$ Unclaimed Property.” You should then see the following page.



**Step 3:** Click on the green tab that says, “Start Your Search.”

**Step 4:** This page will ask you to enter your name or business and to check the box to make sure you are not a robot and then click on search.



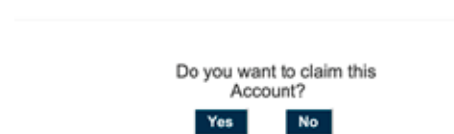
**Step 5:** This page shows the real result when I searched under my name. As you can see, there are nine “Harry Pappases” but none with my correct full name of “Harry Pappas, Jr.” Furthermore, none of the addresses match any of my former or current address. Therefore, according to the official Florida unclaimed property website, I have no unclaimed property.



**Step 6:** However, assuming that the

first line item above was me. I would then click on the account number located to the far left and the following page will appear.

Account Detail	
General Account Information	
Account Number	16589236
Property Type	UNCLAIMED DIVIDENDS
Reported By	BOEING COMPANY
Reported Owner(s) for this Account	
Reported Owner	Reported Owner Address
PAPPAS, HARRY C	5708 WESTSHORE DR NEW PORT RICHEY FL 34653037



**Step 7.** I would click “Yes” and follow the online instruction on how to claim my money.

Normally all one has to do is complete the required information and sign a one-page affidavit vouching that you are the owner of the money. To prove identity, we might have to send in a utility bill and a copy of our driver's license. While some states allow us to apply online, other states may need us to mail in our documents. The turnaround time can vary from a few weeks to a couple of months.

I hope that I have motivated you to conduct your search sooner than later, as you might just be in the 10% club. Nevertheless, as it is said, I could have all the milk in the world but if you don't have an Ore cookie, much of what I said above means nothing. In other words, the secret is not the strategy that I am sharing, but rather in your execution of it. So, please make it a priority to search for your unclaimed money now!

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# In the Arts

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



All Beaches Experimental Theatre received the Irene Lazzara "Beaches, A Celebration of the Arts" Award.

## Beaches, A Celebration of the Arts salutes artists, supporters

By Shaun Ryan

Support for a vibrant arts community was on full display during the second annual Beaches, A Celebration of the Arts, held Sunday, May 23, at The Surf Club at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

The event, which featured an awards ceremony, fashion show, live painting, dinner, hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and violin music was very well attended. In fact, according to honorary co-chair of the event Hilah Autrey, it was sold out and even had a waiting list for tickets.

The weather was perfect for the outdoor gathering, which attracted some of the area's most prominent supporters of the arts.

"I thought it was fantastic," said Autrey, a former member of the organization's board.

Husband Ron Autrey, the other honorary co-chair, called it "fabulous" and explained the importance of the arts even to those like himself who come from the world of business.

"There's so much ugliness in the world today," he said, "it's a blessing to connect community and art together and celebrate the beauty of fine art."



**ABOVE:** Jenn Peek (left) received the Emerging Artist Award, and Caelen Proctor received the Chairman's Choice Award.

**LEFT:** Anne Marie Moquin accepts the Arts Education & Advocacy Award for Beaches Go Green.

Photos by  
Shaun Ryan

## Seawalk Music Festival returns in June for ninth year

Jax Beach Festivals and Community First Credit Union have announced that the Ninth Annual Community First Seawalk Music Festival will be held on June 12 and 13. The festival features two days of free entertainment.

While it is traditionally held the last weekend of February, organizers met with Jacksonville Beach city officials and rescheduled the festival to June out of an abundance of caution related to COVID-19. The event aims to help North Florida musicians, artists, small businesses and food vendors affected by the pandemic.

"We are so pleased to be able to continue this Jacksonville Beach tradition," said John Hirabayashi, CEO and president of Community First. "This outdoor event provides entertainment for attendees as well as economic support to all its participants as well as beaches merchants. Extending it to a two-day event gives more opportunities to get out to the Seawalk and have a great time supporting our local musicians."

Unless conditions change, the outdoor festival plans to welcome attendees without capacity restrictions or mask mandates.

Jax Beach Festivals will ensure all current COVID-19 safety protocols are used by attendees, vendors and musicians. More about the protocols for attendees will be updated at [communityfirstseawalkmusicfest.com](http://communityfirstseawalkmusicfest.com).

"I am so glad to see some of our longtime, outdoor community events come back safely for all to enjoy," said Jacksonville Beach Mayor Christine Hoffman. "The free Community First Seawalk Music Festival is a well-loved event, and we are thrilled to see it continue to lift up all-local artists, vendors and performers."

The festival is free to attend, and is family friendly, with an entertainment zone dedicated to the event's youngest attendees. It will include additional vendor and food booths.

The festival will be held 12:30 to 10 p.m. June 12 and from 1 to 8 p.m. June 13 at the Jacksonville Beach Seawalk Pavilion.

Confirmed acts include Souls of Joy, Seagate, Mandalia, A Few Miles South, Bridget Kelly Band, Curt Towne Band, Split Tone, Second Shot, Sweet Melissa and The Shine.

"We're so thankful for our title sponsor, Community First Credit Union, whose commitment to celebrating local culture has helped power this growing festival," said Sam Veal, festival director. "We couldn't do this without Community First and all of our amazing sponsor partners. They have led the way in holding this festival to Jacksonville Beach each year."



# Classical music, Impressionist art come together during 'Music at the Museum'

St. Augustine Orchestra, Lightner Museum again team up for special event

By Shaun Ryan

Area residents had an opportunity to enjoy complementary music and art recently when the Lightner Museum teamed up once again with the St. Augustine Orchestra to present "Music at the Museum: A Spring Extravaganza."

The two-day event, held Thursday and Friday, May 20 and 21, was a follow-up to "Music in the Museum: Holiday Nights at the Lightner," presented in December.

The event was structured to meet the demands imposed by the pandemic, which hasn't yet completely vanished.

The orchestra normally presents both a holiday and a spring concert each year, but COVID-19 made that impossible. So, an alternative was proposed: Have the orchestra perform in different ensembles at different places throughout the museum. That way, guests could stroll about the museum while taking in performances staggered to allow audiences to see each.

The holiday event was a tremendous success, selling out each of the two nights, so it made sense to present the spring concert the same way.

"We really loved working with the St. Augustine Orchestra on our last event during the holidays, and we really wanted to partner with them again this spring," said Angela de Gregory, volunteer coordinator and events manager for the Lightner Museum.

This time, the entire museum was open to the guests, and ticket sales exceeded those of the December event. Organizers expected about 200 guests for each of the two nights.

With vaccinations becoming widely available and coronavirus cases decreasing, many guests seemed to be more than ready to begin attending cultural events again.

"People can just 'be out' and enjoy something," said de Gregory. "It's been so long. And everybody's a little more at ease, which is really great."

Guests were able to hear the brass ensemble perform in the grand lobby, the string ensemble in the former pool area and the woodwind ensemble in one of the gallery spaces.

In addition to the music, guests had another opportunity to view the museum's three impressionist art exhibitions.

These were: "American Impressionism: Treasures from the Daywood Collection," "St. Augustine in a New Light: American Impressionism from the Collection of the



"Charlotte Street, St. Augustine" by Gustave Adolph Hoffman. 1905



"Dockside" by Antwan Ramar

Lightner Museum" and "Antwan Ramar: Contemporary Impressions."

The first focused on late 19th century and early 20th century American art. The second included works from the same era but with a focus on St. Augustine. Both are on display until July 5.

In the third, Ramar presented a contemporary vision of landscape painting that embraced historic traditions and techniques. That exhibit concluded Sunday, May 23.



Photos by Shaun Ryan

The St. Augustine Orchestra brass ensemble performs at the Lightner Museum for "Music at the Museum: A Spring Extravaganza."



The St. Augustine Orchestra woodwind ensemble performs at the Lightner Museum for "Music at the Museum: A Spring Extravaganza."

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**Donna Guzzo, president and executive director for the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, speaks at the event.**



**A fashion show, presented in cooperation with fashion designer Dr. Arun Gulani, was one of the highlights of the Beaches, A Celebration of the Arts event.**

# Beaches

Continued from 40

Among those recognized during the event were three of the founders of The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, Janet Wilson, Sandy Beers and Ellen Diamond.

Wilson, an artist herself, said that when she moved to the area she felt a need for some cultural outlet. She got involved with the Cultural Center through its first holiday shop, which was held at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

She recalled the center's humble beginnings and its former home at 50 Executive Way, which once been a post office sorting facility.

"When we bought that building, you can't believe the condition that it was in," she said.

At the time, the center had almost no money in the bank and needed immediate revenue. The solution was to begin classes right away, but to do that, the building would need a thorough cleaning. Wilson recalled her husband and son bringing in various cleaning supplies and helping to transform the space.

In those early years, "we did a lot of neat things on a very, very small budget," said Beers.

But the center's founders had a vision and they kept true to it.

"When you're trying to start something like this, to get established takes years and years," said Wilson.

Persistence – and dedication – paid off. Today the Cultural Center is a centerpiece of culture and the arts on the First Coast.

"I'm quite proud of it," said Beers. "I really am."

Diamond is a master artist who said she has been painting as far back as she can remember.

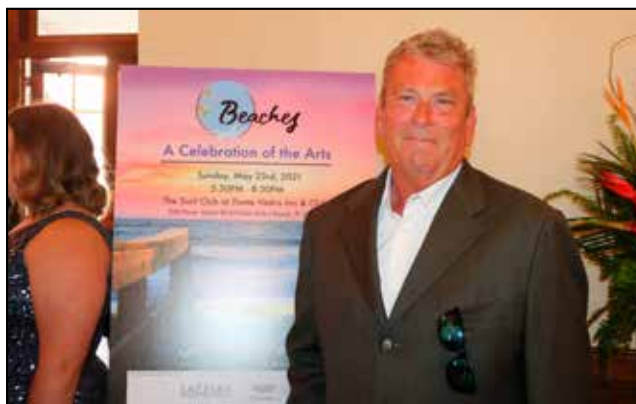
"My father was an artist," she said.

"When you grow up with the smell of paint in your house, you're just drawn to it."

She moved to the area from New York and quickly became affiliated with the Cultural Center.

"I always said New York was a wonderful place to go to museums and see art," she said. "Here, I had an opportunity to really get myself involved in the art world."

Wilson remarked on the high number of artists living here.



**ABOVE: Seated from left are Janet Wilson, Sandy Beers and Ellen Diamond, who have been with the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach since it began.**

**LEFT: Randall Coryell, with First Coast Sotheby's International Realty, stands near the entrance to Beaches, A Celebration of the Arts.**

Photos by Shaun Ryan

"It's like an artists' mecca," she said.

Of course, what's an arts event without art? Artist Mario Della Penta painted live during the celebration, decorating articles of clothing with his own unique style.

One of the highlights of Sunday's event was the "Bespoke on the Boulevard" fashion show, arranged in conjunction with Dr. Arun Gulani, also known as "Dr. GQ" and "the best dressed man in Ponte Vedra." The show featured Aaishwariya Gulani, Miss India USA 2019-20.

During the main program Donna Guzzo, president and executive director for the Cultural Center summarized the organization's activities over the past year.

It was a year in which the center sold its building to Virginia-based Roanoke Vinton Radio Inc. and moved into a new studio at 3972 Third St. South in Jacksonville Beach. The center ultimately hopes to build an arts complex on St. Johns County land near the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

The past year was also one in which a partnership was formed with the link, a 22,500-square-foot facility being con-

structed now in Nocatee Town Center. The link will be a place for entrepreneurs to launch their companies, but also a place for those entrepreneurs' families. To that end, the Cultural Center will provide programming, camps, exhibitions and more.

It was also the year that Gulani collaborated with the center to launch a "Mask-A-Rate Worldwide Challenge." People from more than 50 countries made masks to protect against coronavirus and then sent them to Guzzo at the center, which received an astounding 10,000. The center donated the masks to nursing homes and first responders and sold the rest.

The awards ceremony was one of the main focal points of the celebration.

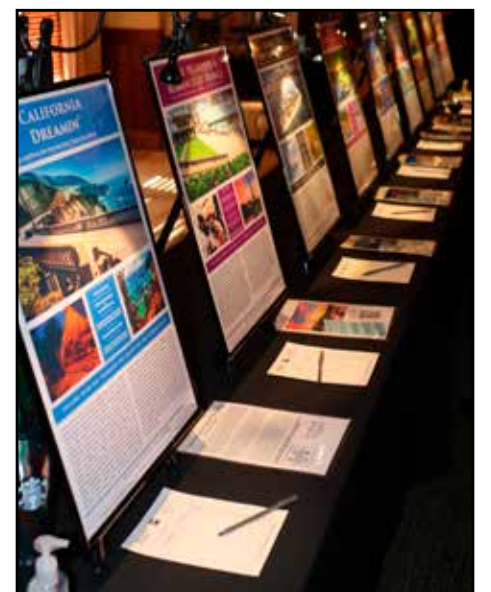
Jenn Peek won the Emerging Artist Award. The University of North Florida alumna has two works installed at the sculpture park in Jacksonville.

Caelen Proctor received the Chairman's Choice Award. She has an installation at the sculpture park and is planning an exhibition at the Beaches Museum.

Beaches Go Green, famous for its Octopus Garden at the Deck of Chairs event in



**Raghu and Gurpreet Misra are seen at Beaches, A Celebration of the Arts.**



**A table at Beaches, A Celebration of the Arts displays silent auction items.**

Jacksonville Beach, won the Arts Education & Advocacy Award.

The Art of Giving Award went to the DuBow Family Foundation, which has provided funding for arts programs throughout the region.

Word Revolt, a nonprofit studio gallery in Atlantic Beach dedicated to hosting free events that benefit artists, charities and the community, received the Community Impact Award.

All Beaches Experimental Theatre received the Irene Lazzara "Beaches, A Celebration of the Arts" Award.

In addition, David Wedow was named Volunteer of the Year.

# Concerts in the Plaza returns for its 30th season June 3

Concerts in the Plaza, St. Augustine's free summer-long music series, returns to the Plaza de la Constitución on Thursday, June 3, after the 2020 season was canceled due to COVID-19.

This year's 30th season is hosted by the City of St. Augustine. Several favorite bands will be returning to the gazebo along with many new ones who are no strangers to performing in St. Augustine.

The series includes two-hour concerts held every Thursday at 7 p.m. starting June 3 and continuing through Sept. 2. For complete information including a printable schedule, go to [www.CityStAug.com/Concerts](http://www.CityStAug.com/Concerts).

On-street parking is available near the Plaza and is free in all city-managed lots and on-street parking after 5 p.m. Parking is also available in the Historic

Downtown Parking Facility, 1 Cordova St., located at the St. Augustine Visitors Information Center, a 10-minute walk from the Plaza. The cost for parking in the facility is \$15 per entry or \$3 with a ParkNow card.

Concerts may be canceled or postponed due to weather. A cancellation or postponement will likely be a last-minute decision due to the unpredictability of Florida's summer rain showers.

If a concert is canceled, the public will be notified on the city website at [www.CityStAug.com/Concerts](http://www.CityStAug.com/Concerts) and on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/CityStAug](http://www.Facebook.com/CityStAug).

Concerts in the Plaza is produced by the City of St. Augustine as a free cultural enhancement for residents and visitors. For more information, call (904) 825-1004 or email [events@citystaug.com](mailto:events@citystaug.com).

# Local artist to hold outdoor sketching class to kick off summer

Noted Ponte Vedra Beach painter Eve Albrecht will be holding a workshop and plein air class for the public at Lord of Life Lutheran Church on Wednesday, June 2.

The "Sketching for Mindfulness" class is designed to let go of the thinking part of our brain and to focus on the creative side.

"Mindfulness has been defined as a moment-to-moment awareness of one's experience without judgment, and this is particularly true when sketching or painting," said Albrecht. "Especially when people are learning a new skill, we tend to be our own harshest critics, so the idea here is to be present, relaxed and enjoy learning how to capture the beautiful nature around us here in Ponte Vedra Beach," she added.

Albrecht has been painting since 1990, starting with watercolors in England and then attending classes in Germany in egg tempura, followed by oil. Her works are in private collections in Europe and the U.S., and her works are often seen at the Ponte Vedra Cultural Center, in the downtown CORK district or in St. Augustine.

The event is divided into a one-hour free introductory workshop, followed by a two-hour sketching class with Eve for \$20 on the grounds behind Lord of Life Church at 276 Roscoe Blvd. N. The class is payable at the event by cash, Venmo or Zelle.

Albrecht has picked out a simple starter kit for those who need supplies, that can be purchased at PV Arts and Crafts located at 288-1 Solana Road (in the Winn Dixie plaza). For those who already have supplies to sketch, check out the list on the Lord of Life Lutheran Church website. A pen, pencil and watercolors along with a



Photo provided by Lord of Life Lutheran Church

**Ponte Vedra Beach painter Eve Albrecht will lead an outdoor sketching class June 2 at the Lord of Life Lutheran Church.**

sketchbook are the basic.

"We are pleased to have Eve hold a class with us as part of the church's Community Arts and Culture Connection this year," said Sheila Kolesaire, Church Council president. "We will be having a local nature photographer, a children's book author, and already had another author of devotionals early in the spring, so we are trying to find and bring in talented locals to share insights about their crafts. We think this builds a better sense of community to love thy neighbor."

Other artists, weavers, wood workers, musicians, etc. are encouraged to reach out to the church to participate in this in-person series. Masks are encouraged for those who have not yet been vaccinated, however the pavilion is open-air.

For more information, contact Sheila Kolesaire by email at [skolesaire@gmail.com](mailto:skolesaire@gmail.com) or [info@lordofflifepvb.org](mailto:info@lordofflifepvb.org).

**THEME: 1970s LYRICS**

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**ACROSS**

- 1. \*Carole King: "But you're \_\_\_\_\_ away"
- 6. "I Thee \_\_\_\_\_"
- 9. Ring practice
- 13. Hacienda brick
- 14. \*Billy Joel: "I love you just the way you \_\_\_\_\_"
- 15. What speakers do
- 16. Leg of lamb
- 17. Styling goo
- 18. Spooky
- 19. \*Rod Stewart: "Oh, Maggie, I couldn't have tried \_\_\_\_\_"
- 21. \*Stevie Wonder: "Very superstitious, writing's on \_\_\_\_\_"
- 23. Type of constrictor
- 24. Can of worms
- 25. \*"\_\_\_\_\_ Cola, what a beautiful drink"
- 28. Capital of Peru
- 30. \*Carly Simon: "I had some dreams, they were \_\_\_\_\_ in my coffee"
- 35. Bad luck precursor
- 37. Swing seat, possibly
- 39. Macaroni shape
- 40. Capital on the Baltic Sea
- 41. Figure with vertex and rays
- 43. Venetian magistrate
- 44. Not fitting
- 46. Sealed with a handshake
- 47. Wise man
- 48. Annotator and commentator
- 50. Facts and figures
- 52. Bambino
- 53. Chinese monetary unit
- 55. International Labor Organization
- 57. \*The Knack: "M M M My \_\_\_\_\_"
- 61. \*Sister Sledge: "We are family, get up everybody \_\_\_\_\_"
- 65. Last European colony in China
- 66. Pastrami's partner
- 68. Sheikh's bevy
- 69. Movie premiere, e.g.
- 70. Gunk
- 71. Ancient assembly area
- 72. Used to be wild?
- 73. Attila, e.g.
- 74. Part of mortise joint
- 24. Enter uninvited (2 words)
- 25. \*Bruce Springsteen: "Tramps like us, baby we were born \_\_\_\_\_"
- 26. \_\_\_\_\_ acid
- 27. "And Seth.... \_\_\_\_\_ Enos"
- 29. \*Eric Clapton: "Darling, won't you ease my worried \_\_\_\_\_"
- 31. Oldsmobile founder
- 32. Lusitania's destroyer
- 33. Grown-up pupper, in social media
- 34. \*ABBA: "Dancing queen, young and \_\_\_\_\_, only seventeen"
- 36. Back of the neck
- 38. Dashing style
- 42. Spritelike
- 45. Test (2 words)
- 49. \*Terry Jacks: "We had seasons in the \_\_\_\_\_"
- 51. One tritely familiar
- 54. Frustration, in print
- 56. Missouri River tributary
- 57. Old World duck
- 58. \*Creedence Clearwater Revival: "\_\_\_\_\_ you ever seen the rain?"
- 59. They're hidden up a sleeve?
- 60. Goes with rave
- 61. Eon, alt. sp.
- 62. \*Black Sabbath: "I am \_\_\_\_\_ man"
- 63. Infamous Roman emperor
- 64. J. Edgar Hoover's man
- 67. \*Queen: "Scaramouch, Scaramouch, will \_\_\_\_\_ do the Fandango"

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

**DOWN**

- 1. Long story
- 2. War god in Norse mythology
- 3. Same as fogey
- 4. J. Robert Oppenheimer's project
- 5. Reorganize or modify
- 6. \$.75/hour, e.g.
- 7. Old fashioned 'before'
- 8. Nile's mouth
- 9. Boatload
- 10. What paralegal and parachute have in common
- 11. Seed covering
- 12. Angler's spool
- 15. Punch buggy car
- 20. Indian cuisine yogurt staple
- 22. Drunkard's sound?

# Sports

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021 · PAGE 44

Send your sports news to  
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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

## Mosley ends Sharks' season at regional final

By Jim Moyes

Special to the Recorder

Ponte Vedra's baseball season came to a crushing end Wednesday, May 19, when the surprising Sharks ran into a buzz saw in the Dolphins of Mosley High. The hard-hitting nine from Lynn Haven were even better than advertised as they pounded a trio of Shark pitchers for 11 hits, five of them extra base blows in the 13-1 triumph over the outmanned Sharks.

In addition to those 11 blows, a jittery Sharks pitching staff didn't help their cause as they allowed seven opposing batters to reach base without having to swing a bat on a pair of walks and five hit batters.

Despite the loss, veteran Ponte Vedra head coach Tom Stanton was more than pleased with the 2021 season.

"This was one of the most enjoyable seasons that I have ever coached," Stanton said. "The regional final obviously did not turn out the way any of our dreams wanted it to turn out, but it was a program building experience nonetheless.

"We were unable to get secondary pitches over the plate and we allowed too many free base runners. That is not the best formula for a regional final. We knew that Mosley was a solid hitting



A Ponte Vedra batter prepares to hit against Mosley during the regional final on May 19.

team, but we felt confident in our staff to compete well and keep us in the game. We just happened to have a game that was not what was expected. That happens," added the only head baseball coach in the 13 years of PVHS baseball.

Right from the outset it was apparent that senior Scott Griesemer, the ace of the Sharks pitching staff, was having

difficulty locating his breaking ball. The visiting Dolphins scratched out a pair of runs in their opening at bats by capitalizing on a pair of hit batters, a walk and just one base hit that set the tempo for the rest of the game.

Stanton quickly went to bat for his veteran pitcher.

"Scott is our ace and he has been amaz-



Photos by John Noell

Ponte Vedra's Matt Hoag prepares to throw a pitch during the regional final against Mosley.

ing all year and especially throughout the playoffs. He is our guy. He loves this program and his work and passion for PV baseball is obvious. We all know he wanted the best for us and us for him.

"That is just how baseball works out sometimes."

BASEBALL continues on Page 45

## YOUTH BASKETBALL TEAM WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



Photo provided by Ponte Vedra Family YMCA

St. Johns County's Third Grade Junior Pros Academy Basketball team won the Amateur Athletic Union State Championship last weekend, May 14-16, with a score of 32-30. The team is made up of eight local youth. The head coach is Phil Tensley. The team practices at the Ponte Vedra Beach YMCA and will continue training and preparing for the AAU World Championships at the ESPN Wide World of Sports, to be held July 4-6.

## PALMER CATHOLIC GIRLS WIN 4TH CONSECUTIVE CHAMPIONSHIP



Photo provided by Will Mayer

The Palmer Catholic Academy girls basketball team won the league tournament championship with a 29-16 win over Assumption on May 20 at Bishop Kenny. It is the fourth consecutive year Palmer Catholic has won the league championship, improving to a 53-2 record over the four-year span. Reese Mayer (No. 4) led the team with 17 points, six rebounds and five steals, and was named tournament MVP.

# Spencer birdies final 2 holes to win JAGA Match Play title

Having only recently recommitted himself to playing high-level amateur golf, 50-year-old Mark Spencer enjoyed the spoils of victory last Sunday when he canned birdie putts of 12 and 17 feet, respectively, on the 17th and 18th holes at Queen's Harbour Yacht & Country Club to capture a 1-up victory over Marcus Reynolds of Watkinsville, Georgia, in the 11th Jacksonville Amateur Golf Association Match Play Championship.

In the third- vs. fourth-place match, Scott Blackshear of Jacksonville, prevailed over Gregg Carrier of Jacksonville Beach, 3&2.

Spencer, who moved from Oklahoma to Jacksonville in 1988, never led in the championship match until the final putt dropped on No. 18.

Reynolds, just 18 years old, had the upper hand for most of the match, cruising to a 3-up lead through the first nine holes with wins on Nos. 1, 8 and 9. He was out in 36 to Spencer's 39.

The tide turned in Spencer's favor on the par-4 11th when he caressed a pitching wedge from 115 yards to 8 feet and converted the birdie putt.

Reynolds' undoing came on the greens on the next four holes, all of which he three-putted. Walking off the 15th green his lead had evaporated and the match was tied.

But the College of Coastal Georgia freshman hung tough and reclaimed the lead with a par 4 on No. 16, only to feel



Photo provided by JAGA

2021 JAGA Match Play Championship semifinalists (left to right): Gregg Carrier (4th), Scott Blackshear (3rd), Mark Spencer (champion) and Marcus Reynolds (runner-up).

the dagger of Spencer's birdie-birdie finish on the par-5 and par-4 finishing holes.

When the final putt dropped, Spencer's thoughts immediately turned to his life-long friend and golf buddy, Chris Askew, who lost a battle with cancer two years ago.

"It was all I could do to not break down afterward," the champion said. "I cried into my towel but pulled it together so my eyes weren't too red in the pictures. This was for him."

Walking every step of the championship match was another Spencer friend, Chris Watson, who gave the Askew eulogy. Askew was a fire captain in Austin, Texas.

Born in Minnesota, Spencer grew up in Dallas and Putnam City, Okla. He played golf for one semester while attending Florida State College at Jacksonville. He is familiar to many people on the Northeast Florida golf scene. For four years he serviced area golf accounts for Nike Golf. Currently, he is manager of technology for

True Temper Sports' baseball division. He also founded Sports 4N6, a sports analytics company.

In getting to the finale, the 16 see Spencer defeated 2020 and '21 Underwood Cup Amateur team captain Andy Purnell, 2020 Match Play runner-up Jacob Posze of Jacksonville (3&2) and Nate Moseby of Jacksonville (4&3). Spencer's semi-final match was conceded by Scott Blackshear, who had back problems but returned to win the consolation match on Sunday.

Reynolds was the 26th seed and he ousted Jim Loftin of St. Augustine, John Lobb of Jacksonville, and Matt Kleinrock of Jacksonville by identical scores of 2&1, before soundly defeating Gregg Carrier, 5&3 in their semi-final meeting.

The championship began on May 21 with 32 seeds based on the results of the May 16th qualifier at Queen's Harbour.

The top finishers will be awarded World Amateur Golf Ranking points. The JAGA Match Play is one of three JAGA tournaments recognized by WAGR, joined by the First Coast Amateur and the Jacksonville Amateur.

In addition to becoming the 11th name engraved on the JAGA Match Play Championship trophy, Spencer was presented with a sterling silver engraved money clip from Underwood Jewelers and a \$450 certificate to the Queen's Harbour golf shop.

Complete tournament results may be found at [jax.bluegolf.com](http://jax.bluegolf.com) or [www.jaxareagolf.org](http://www.jaxareagolf.org).

## PALM VALLEY 8TH GRADER EARNS STATE RECORDS



Contributed photo

Alexandra Bohanon competed in the FLYRA Middle School State Track and Field Championships, held at IMG Academy in Bradenton. She took home first place in both the javelin and the aero javelin competitions, throwing 117 feet, 7 inches in the javelin and 128 feet, 9 inches in the aero javelin. She now holds the state meet record in both events. She had to compete in the meet without either of her parents there to watch, as her mother was undergoing cancer surgery at the Mayo Clinic the same weekend and insisted that she compete. Alexandra is a Nocatee resident, an eighth grader at Palm Valley Academy, and a member of the St. Johns Striders Track and Field Club.



Photo by John Noell

A Mosley batter swings at a pitch during the regional final against Ponte Vedra on Wednesday, May 19.

## Baseball

Continued from 44

With the breaking pitches not finding the plate for all three Sharks pitchers utilized in the contest, Mosley's hitters were sitting on fastballs as they coasted to victory and their fourth trip to the state final four in their last five seasons.

The loss marked the end of their high school careers for four graduating seniors, all starters on the 2021 squad. In addition to Griesemer, the Sharks will lose Sam Gabet, Will Hynes and

Corey Udell and Stanton emphasized that they will be missed.

"They were amazing," he said. "From their work ethic to their comradery, they all had a great impact on how we finished the year in an upward trend. We are so proud of all of them and their accomplishments while playing at PV."

With just the above mentioned four seniors departing the program, Stanton believes the future bodes well for continued success.

"We had a very young program this year," he said. "Throughout the program I believe we had 15 freshman and a bunch of talent in our sophomore and junior classes as well."

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