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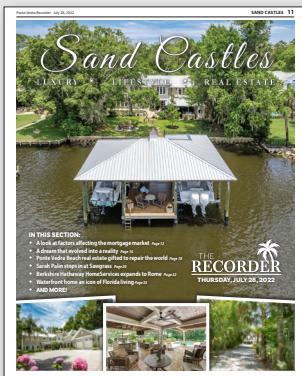


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July 28, 2022
Volume 53, No. 39
75 cents

Covering Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine, and Greater St. Johns County

PonteVedraRecorder.com



Sand Castles
Page 11



Best Of Ponte Vedra
Find out the winners on Aug. 18th!



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

SIBLING BOND BEATS CANCER, TWICE

Isabella Brinson stands with her brother Jude, who helped save his sister's life during both her battles with cancer by providing bone marrow and stem cell transplants. See story on page 8.



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INSIDE

One of Us

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BRIEFS

School Board candidates forum is Monday, Aug. 1

The Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition will host a question-and-answer forum with the School Board candidates of Districts 1, 3 and 4 from 10 a.m. to noon Monday, Aug. 1, at the Ponte Vedra Library, 101 Library Blvd.

Traditionally, the coalition hosts a meeting and opens up the floor for the voters to get to know the candidates in anticipation of the upcoming elections. Each candidate will be asked the same question and allowed a certain time frame to answer. The questions will be pre-decided and based on current county issues. After the Q&A session, the floor will be open to questions from the audience.

Invited candidates are:

School Board, District 1

- Racheal Marie Hand
- Beverly Slough
- Nancy Tray

School Board, District 3

- Lauren Townsend
- Rita Baldwin
- Jenifer Collins
- Douglas Anthony Russo

School Board, District 4

- Kelly D. Barrera
- Yvonne Marianne Lockbaum

Parkinson's is focus of program

In conjunction with Jax Hope and the St. Johns County Council On Aging, the public is invited to "Parkinson's Meet, Greet & Learn!" to be held from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 3.

The discussion will focus on advanced treatment options for Parkinson's disease. It will be led by **Alaine Keebaugh Ph.D.** of Boston Scientific and will be conducted at the COA Center at Flagler Health+ at Nocatee, 351 Town Plaza Ave., Suite 205.



Alaine Keebaugh

Keebaugh received her Ph.D. in neurogenetics at Emory University. Her graduate work was centered on the use of whole genome sequencing to develop better animal models of human disease, such as Lesch-Nyhan disease, Parkinson's

and dystonia.

After graduating, she continued this work as a fellow at the Yerkes Primate Center in Atlanta, Georgia, where her research dialed in to movement disorders. She moved out of academia and into industry so she could help translate these advancements to the people who would benefit from them.

During the program, attendees will learn about how advancements in deep brain stimulation can treat the motor symptoms associated with Parkinson's disease and essential tremor.

To attend, RSVP to Pam Brunell at pbrunell@stjohnscoa.com. Or call 904-819-3234.

Racy Point Bridge to temporarily close for repairs

St. Johns County Public Works will close Racy Point Bridge, located 3.7 miles south of County Road 214, to complete repairs. The closure will occur from Aug. 3 through Oct. 14, weather permitting. This project is intended to stabilize traffic-bearing concrete slabs approaching the bridge, replace and reset the bridge guardrail, and resurface additional pavement approaching the bridge.

BRIEFS continues on Page 3

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Covering Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine, and Greater St. Johns County

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Briefs

Continued from 2

Detour signage will be posted during construction.

Open house planned for Treaty Park Improvement Project

St. Johns County is hosting an open house for the planned Treaty Park Improvement Project. St. Johns County Public Works and St. Johns County Parks and Recreation staff will be available to answer questions and share details about this future asset to our community.

The open house will be held 5-6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 4, at the Solomon Calhoun Community Center, 1300 Duval St., St. Augustine.

Surveying underway for Shore Drive Trail Project

The Shore Drive Trail Project is a county initiative to improve the existing trail and provide residents with a 3.25-mile multi-use paved trail along Shore Drive Waterfront Park. As part of the pre-planning, a team of consultants, county staff and engineers are conducting a preliminary survey for the trail. Survey crews will be onsite evaluating the area

and the underground infrastructure; markers will be placed throughout Shore Drive as reference points for an upcoming project design.

St. Augustine seeks public input for redevelopment area

The City of St. Augustine will host an open-house style public workshop from 2 to 7 p.m. Thursday, July 28, to discuss the status of the Historic Area Community Redevelopment Area and a vision for its future. This includes identifying and discussing areas in need of improvement.

The city's consultant, S&ME Inc., created a dedicated website, bit.ly/

StAugHACRA, which includes an interactive map and online survey. Anyone who goes to the website can click on the interactive map to identify a specific location where a problem or concern exists and provide a detailed comment.

The survey is currently open and will be available on the project website through Sept. 27.

The meeting will be held in The Alcazar Room of City Hall, 75 King St. For those who cannot attend in person, a link is provided on the project website to join the meeting virtually.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

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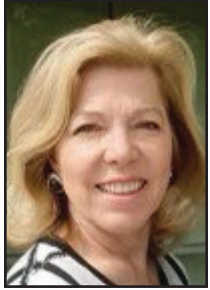


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OBITUARIES

**Carol Burns**

Carol Ann Burns, a longtime resident of Ponte Vedra Beach, age 75, passed away on July 18, 2022, surrounded by her loving

friends and family in Jacksonville. She was born on May 22, 1947, to John and Eleanor Morgiewicz in Port Jervis, N.Y. She is survived by one child, Rebecca (Travis), as well as three stepchildren, Diana Derivan (Steve), Donna Charlton (William) and Greg Burns (Lisa), seven step-grandchildren and three step-great

grandchildren, whom she adored. She is also survived by her two siblings, sister Ann Dilger (Richard), brother John Morgiewicz (Debbie), and her beloved nieces, nephews, great niece and nephew. She was predeceased by Ronald J. Burns, her husband of over 30 years, as well as her parents, brother Frank Morgiewicz and godson Jerry Dilger.

Carol grew up in Sparrow Bush, N.Y., and after graduating high school in 1964, attended the Laboratory Institute of Merchandising in New York City. She was a professional buyer at such notable stores as B. Altman and Co., Stern's and Bloomingdale's. She also worked in advertising sales at New York magazine.

While living in the city, Carol would frequently travel to Boston, where she met her husband. In 1985, they moved to Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., where Carol became a licensed realtor. She joined Berry & Co. Real Estate as part of the Ponte Vedra Carlyle sales team. When that project sold out, she stayed on to help buyers and sellers with real estate in Northeast Florida. After Rebecca was born, Carol took a break from real estate to pursue her passion for design and co-founded the retail home décor and gift shop Mineral City in 1997 with Laura Howson, who still owns and operates the store today.

Carol was a devout Catholic, proud to have served as an active member of her

previous church, Our Lady Star of The Sea, and most recently Holy Family Catholic Church. The lives she impacted will continue to influence those in her community for generations to come. A funeral Mass was held at Holy Family Catholic Church, 9800 Baymeadows Road, Jacksonville, at 1:00 pm on Saturday, July 23, followed by the family's reception of friends. Funeral arrangements by Naugle Funeral Home, 1203 Hendricks Avenue, Jacksonville, Fla., 32207, (904) 396-1611.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in her memory to the Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation at netrf.org/get-involved/give-now/ or to Catholic Charities, 134 E Church St., Jacksonville.

DEATH NOTICES

Lyle Edward Harper

Lyle Edward Harper, 89, of Jacksonville, Florida, died July 21, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

James Daniel Hogg

James Daniel Hogg, 79, of Jacksonville, Florida, died July 12, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home &

Cremation Centre www.quinn-shalz.com 904-249-1100

Christopher Kramer

Christopher Kramer, 65, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died July 17, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Bob Manis

Bob Manis, 71, of Jackson-

ville, Florida, died July 15, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Folasade Medehue-Olushola

Folasade Medehue-Olushola, 43, of St. Augustine, Florida, died July 19, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Ellis Rowe Morris

Ellis Rowe Morris, 86, of Jacksonville, Florida, died July 20, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. 904-249-1100 www.quinn-shalz.com

Ronald Dale Munz

Ronald Dale Munz, 64, of Jacksonville, Florida, died July 9, 2022. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home &

Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Stephanie Snow

Stephanie Snow, 22, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died July 9, 2022. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – 904-285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

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KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

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

Heavy rain is not always helpful!

"I believe a leaf of grass is no less than the journey-work of the stars." — Walt Whitman

By Kathy Esfahani



Kathy Esfahani

Mother Nature has been overly generous with water lately! Local reports note upwards of 4 inches of rain in the Jacksonville area during the first two weeks of this month. This

level is high considering that the July average rainfall is 6.77 inches.

What does this mean for your landscape?

High levels of rain and humidity can cause an increase of insects and fungus in lawns as well as on flowers and plants. There are many products on the market to help control fungus and garden pests. It can be overwhelming when you see all

of the options, but keep in mind a general rule of thumb: one chemical product can be used for each category of pests:

- **Insecticide:** Malathion — used on fruits, vegetables, landscaping and shrubs to control pests
- **Fungicide:** Daconil — used to treat more than 75 diseases on flowers, landscaping and trees (fruit and shade)
- **Neem oil is an organic option** — be

sure to apply it more frequently than the chemical alternatives.

There are more natural ways to treat pests and fungus in the garden, but they require extra attention and continuous effort. This home remedy is beneficial short term if you are waiting on professional help. You may need to be apply this solution weekly for best results:

- **DIY Organic Spray** — 1 teaspoon of vegetable oil plus 1 teaspoon of non-antibacterial liquid dishwashing detergent. Mix with one gallon of water and spray on affected plants.

Because overwatering and high humidity can cause the growth of fungus in lawns, consider limiting your irrigation system during periods of frequent heavy rains. It is recommended to seek

professional advice if your lawn needs treatment. There are several types of sod used in our area, and treatments can be specific to certain types of sod. You want to be sure that the treatment you choose is most effective for your lawn.

After the rainy season, the appearance of fungus and pests will naturally decline, and you can return to more enjoyment and less treatment in your landscape. Hang in there! Happy gardening!

Flower of the Week: Penta

Please email Kathy at kcg.pvr@gmail.com for any questions or gardening tips you would like to see in the future. For more information & ideas, visit Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery, 196 N. Roscoe Blvd. The phone number is 904-655-7373.



Lawn fungus



Flower of the Week

Pentas

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

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Edwards & Ragatz, P.A.

Michael Smith won a state golf championship at Nease in 2007 and played college golf at James Madison. He now works locally to help aspiring young golfers achieve their goals of advancing their own golfing careers by earning college scholarships as founder and CEO of ForeCollegeGolf.

Michael Smith

As told to Anthony Richards

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

I grew up in Ponte Vedra Beach at TPC Sawgrass, which was very fortunate for a kid.

I have a wife now and we have a baby boy on the way and set to be born in the next couple of days.

Most of my family is around Jacksonville, but I also have a little bit of the Northeast in me with some ties to New York and with my wife being from Boston.

I went to Nease High School and graduated in 2008 after we won the state champion on the golf team.

Where did the idea for ForeCollegeGolf come from and when did it get started?

My business is very much a niche business, but it helps players through a challenge and obstacle that many just don't know how to navigate.

I graduated from James Madison in 2013 after having a great experience and a successful career up there.

ForeCollegeGolf came about from a deep-rooted passion in helping people. I have always been one to gather information and not form an opinion until I had all the information, and it all got started in 2014.

We started off really slow with eight to 10 clients a year, but now I'm rocking and rolling with anywhere from 30 to 35 at any given time and 15 to 20 signees from Division I, Division II, Division III and the NAIA levels every year.

I work with a wide range of guys and girls, after making the decision to start working on the female side in 2020 after getting some interest from that side as well.

Have you always had a passion for golf?

I don't think I've always had a passion for golf, but I always enjoyed being outdoors, and still do. I've always enjoyed competition and the pressure that it brings.

I played a lot of Y ball and a lot of travel soccer for many years, and my passion for golf came from that deep-rooted competitiveness and an urge to be great at something.

Once I turned 13 or 14, I started to play North Florida Junior Tour events and saw myself competing against guys like Tyler McCumber, Julian Suri and Bud Cauley, all of which have tried their hand at the PGA Tour.

Once I knew I could compete with those guys, that's where my fire was lit.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love having flexibility for one, but I also love being in the golf industry and doing something that I still love doing.

I still love competing, as I played the last two U.S. Four-Balls and the U.S. Amateur, U.S. Mid-Amateur and U.S. Open Sectionals a few times, along with many other state events around here.

I enjoy showing my guys that I can still do it at 32 years old.

Taking a family in and understanding their wants and desires for their kid, and then working hard toward a common goal.



Photo courtesy of Jacksonville Amateur Golf Association

Michael Smith won the Jacksonville Men's Amateur Championship in 2021.

What are some of the aspects that are more challenging?

In the nicest way possible I would say, parents and just the expectations.

Golf's a game where we can do so much in practice and change things technically with our swing coach, but it doesn't always result with the proper outcomes.

It's all about having to navigate those expectations with families, players and even the coaches I work with sometimes.

What are the primary goals/services provided by the business?

Our primary goal is to guide players forward and make them better by allowing families to see the landscape of college golf in a different way that they may not have understood before.

I really set out to make better young men and women in this world. That means self-sufficient, self-confident and self-driven people.

I train my players to be mature with how they are

setting up conversations and relationships, just like they would in the real world.

What do you enjoy most about living in the North Florida area?

This is an easy answer. My wife and I love the beach and our pup Luna loves it as well.

We enjoy a lot of time on the water or just sitting at the beach and being close to the water, especially now during the summer.

We live about a half a mile from the beach and my wife, and I love walking to see the sunrise at least two or three times a week.

However, I would be remiss if I didn't also say that the golf is also really good.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Even with as little of it as there seemingly is these days, I still love practicing my game and still do compete a lot.

I also love hanging out with my buddies. Anything from pickleball to basketball.

St. Johns County school tax rate reduced from 2021-22

By Shaun Ryan

The school district tax rate is going down for the 13th consecutive time in FY 2022-23 to a historic low of \$5.48 per \$1,000 of a property's assessed taxable value.

Though the district's discretionary and capital outlay rates have remained unchanged over that time, the state's required local effort has been shrinking annually since 2011-12. The required local effort is the tax funding that districts must turn over to the state for redistribution across Florida to ensure equitable financial support for the poorer districts.

The required local effort is the largest share of the tax rate. This year it stands at \$3.24. Added to that is the district's basic discretionary rate of 75 cents and \$1.50 for capital improvement.

The 2022-23 tentative millage rate represents a 33-cent reduction from last year when the rate was \$5.81.

The St. Johns County School Board unanimously adopted the tentative budget Tuesday, following the first public hearing on the proposal. A final vote will be held Sept. 13 following the second public hearing.

Helping to offset the reduced tax

revenue is the county's surging increase in property value, which is estimated at \$45,659,707,648, a 22.91% increase over this year and a record high for St. Johns County. That figure is calculated using the homestead exemptions specific to school taxes.

The 2022-23 rate is expected to bring in \$250,352,177. Last year's rate brought in \$215,902,623.

The amount of the full budget is \$1,081,095,579. The general operating fund is \$474,312,662. Salaries and benefits comprise 79.49% of the general fund expenditures.

With 50,198 students in St. Johns County Schools, funding per student is about \$8,139, though that will change as the student population continues to grow with the influx of new families.

The rolled-back rate is \$4.91 per \$1,000 of taxable value. The rolled-back rate is the tax rate that would generate the same amount of revenue as the previous year should it be applied to the district's current property value.

Under the tentative rate, the owner of a \$400,000 home with a \$25,000 homestead exemption would pay \$2,056 in school taxes next year.

County mulls wharf ownership

By Shaun Ryan

Three years after completion of Mickler's Wharf, the county is considering assumption of its ownership.

An initiative of the Ponte Vedra Greenway Alliance, the wharf was constructed at the end of Canal Boulevard where it extends into the Intracoastal Waterway and was completed in November 2019. Owned and maintained by the alliance, the recreation area has been open to the public.

But the alliance is in the process of dissolution, so the county was approached about taking the wharf over. In May, the County Commission directed staff to provide an analysis of the costs of doing so.

Tuesday, July 19, those figures came back. Repairs were estimated at about

\$7,945, though county Director of Facilities Management Katie Diaz cautioned that repair costs could turn out to be significantly higher, particularly if a structural analysis reveals that the entire wharf needs replaced.

In addition, the county would have to make parking ADA compatible and add signage, which would account for another \$7,420.

The total cost of annual maintenance and repairs was estimated at \$5,584.

At the meeting, commissioners Jeremiah Blocker and Henry Dean both spoke in support of the wharf. Should the county pass on ownership, the property could be purchased by a private interest.

The commission is expected to take up the issue at a future meeting.

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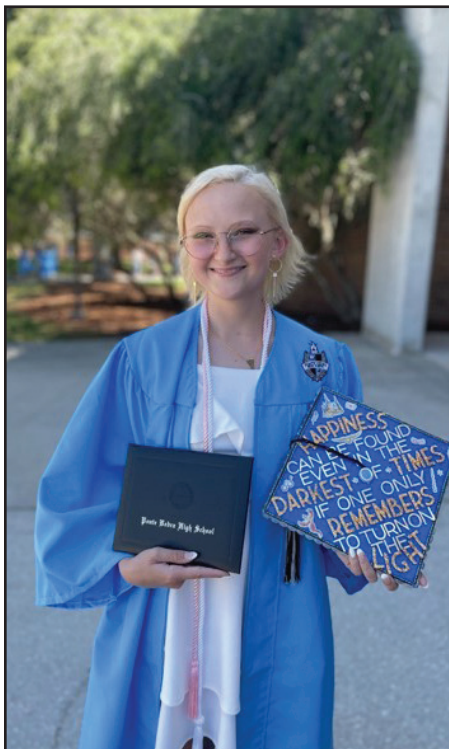
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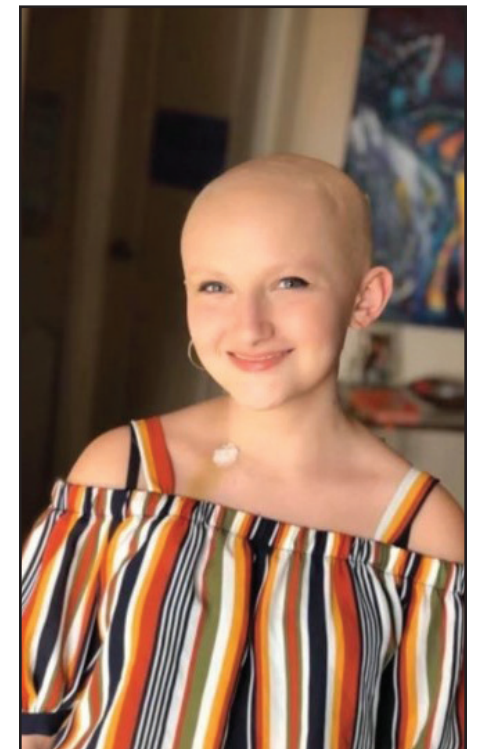
Isabella Brinson graduated from Ponte Vedra High School and will be attending Flagler College this fall.



The Jay Fund provided support for Isabella Brinson and her family during her two battles with cancer and continues to help her through their scholarship program.



Playing trumpet in the band was one of Isabella Brinson's fondest high school memories.



Photos courtesy of Isabella Brinson
Despite two battles with cancer, Isabella Brinson maintained a positive attitude and outlook on life throughout.

Brinson turns attention to college after battling cancer twice

Jay Fund continues support by awarding scholarship

By Anthony Richards

The Jay Fund was there to provide support for Isabella Brinson and her family throughout her two battles with cancer and now they continue to be there for the Ponte Vedra High graduate as she prepares for college.

She first found out that she had cancer when she was 12 years old and in seventh grade after feeling pain in her chest.

At first the doctors thought it was just her body dealing with the stresses of middle school, but then after further tests, she was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia, which resulted in her receiving four rounds of intensive chemotherapy

and spending five months in a hospital.

"It was definitely tough on me, as a 12-year-old," Brinson said.

Fortunately, her younger brother Jude was a perfect match and was able to provide her with a bone marrow transplant.

Everything appeared to be going well, until one day as she started feeling similar symptoms during her sophomore year of high school.

Blood tests showed that she had cancer once again, leading to five more rounds of chemotherapy and six-month hospital stay.

Jude proved to be a match once again and successfully provided his sister with a stem cell transplant.

"I was pretty much at the brink of death," Brinson said. "I don't even remember a lot about what happened at the end of the second time. All I know is that the doctors told me that I had a 37% chance of survival."

Brinson thanked her brother for all that

he has done to help her throughout her fight.

"He was young, but so excited to help me," Brinson said. "I would not be here without him."

She has now been two years cancer-free since her last bout, and she is ready to look to the future.

"I'm feeling good and getting ready for the next stage of my life," Brinson said.

Brinson was chosen from a large pool of applicants to receive a Jay Fund scholarship, and it is something that she considers a great honor.

"We've been through a lot as a family, but we continued to stay positive throughout," Brinson said. "I was so grateful that I got the chance to meet the folks at the Jay Fund. I don't even have cancer anymore, but they are still here doing what it takes to help."

She will be attending Flagler College next month and will work towards a major in criminology and a minor in

psychology with the hopes of one day having a career that deals with crime scene investigation.

"I feel like I've always been interested in that stuff," Brinson said. "I've always liked watching true crime documentaries and podcasts."

What she is looking forward to most is the opportunity to just be a college student and all the experiences that go along with that.

"I'm very excited about being independent and on my own, because for a long time I've had to rely on the help of others," Brinson said. "It's very liberating." The fondest memory she has from her time at Ponte Vedra High School is playing trumpet as a member of the Ponte Vedra High marching band.

"Joining band was one of the best decisions I ever made," Brinson said. "It was just such a welcoming and tightknit group."

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County property appraiser earns prestigious certification

The St. Johns County Property Appraiser's Office has announced its reception of the Certificate of Excellence in Assessment Administration (CEAA) from the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO). Recognition from IAAO is the highest professional honor an assessment jurisdiction can obtain.

The certification was granted to the appraiser's office following a rigorous application and review process. Criteria for earning the award centers on the use of best appraisal and assessment practices and a strong emphasis on teamwork and group achievement.

Property appraiser offices earning the certificate demonstrate the highest level of proficiency in the assessment and appraisal disciplines to both their constituents and their peers.

IAAO is based in Kansas City, Missouri. It is a nonprofit, educational and research association of government assessment officials and others interested in the administration of the property tax. It was founded in 1934, and now has a membership of more than 8,000 worldwide from governmental, business and academic communities. It is the preeminent authority on assessment administration—there is no other organization that can independently and objectively determine whether an assessment jurisdiction is meeting standards and best practices in the appraisal profession.

"The process of applying for the CEAA was quite rigorous," said Eddie



Eddie Creamer

Creamer, St. Johns County property appraiser. "We were asked to document our standards and processes in mapping, data collection, communications, technology, management and staffing, among other areas. I am very proud of our entire team for the superior quality of their day-to-day work and the care they put into the application process. Our office has been recognized for excellence by our profession's highest authority. It is a great honor."

The certificate will be presented during a ceremony at the IAAO 88th annual International Conference on Assessment Administration at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston, Massachusetts, on Aug. 30.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re-elect Kelly Barrera to St. Johns County School Board

to ensure that success continues by returning her to office.

Jennifer Logue
Ponte Vedra

To the Editor:

When our family relocated to Florida several years ago, one of the factors that helped us select St. Johns County was the quality of the public school system. St. Johns County was well known for having the best schools in the state — and since then, I have learned that District 4 School Board member Kelly Barrera has been instrumental in both fostering and maintaining the academic success of the St. Johns County schools.

During Ms. Barrera's tenure on the School Board, she has championed the issues that were of concern to me as a parent. At a time when schools were becoming overcrowded (as families like mine relocated here), she advocated for opening seven new schools and expanding several others. When school shootings in other parts of Florida made headlines, she worked with local officials to implement critical safety improvements to secure our school campuses. She also worked to reduce high-stakes testing — all while ensuring that St. Johns County schools maintained their A rating.

Most recently, Ms. Barrera was one of just two School Board members to vote to remove sexually explicit and offensive materials from school libraries. Strangely, this has engendered criticism from those who wanted such materials removed. Shouldn't their ire be directed at the School Board members who didn't vote to remove them?

The role of School Board member is not an easy one. With nearly 50,000 students and a \$440+ million operating budget, the St. Johns County Schools is a complex operation that has a profound and lasting impact on our most valuable resource: our children. Kelly Barrera's leadership has been a key factor in the success the St. Johns County Schools have enjoyed, and I urge local residents

◆◆◆

Reader responds to letter

To the Editor:

In last week's LTE, a former member of the board of directors of the Trump Club of St. Johns County complained about the actions of the current board of directors. He was outraged that they denied candidate Krista Keating-Joseph the opportunity to join and address that group. He even asked the public to join him in demanding the resignation of the board.

This brings to mind the old adage "we are judged by the company we keep" and makes me question the candidate's judgement. Why would a school board candidate want to address, much less join, a group that idolizes former President Trump, a man who tried his best to overturn a presidential election?

Ray Kenny

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Ponte Vedra Women's Club hosts summer social

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra Women's Club held its annual summer social event at Pusser's Bar and Grill in Ponte Vedra Beach July 20.

It was a well-attended event that featured women from throughout the community and the surrounding areas.

"Our club year is September through May, but we started having these socials just to keep people engaged," club president Lori Marjerison said. "We end up meeting a lot of potential members."

"What we've found is that the people coming to these events are relatively new in town or they're working, and

their life may be changing in some way," Marjerison said.

The club is a mix of both retired and working women and is open to all ages.

Since its inception in 1970, it has sought to raise money to help a certain cause within the community.

At first, it held social events for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, which it still does today, but the charities and initiatives have grown over the years.

The club has a social meet every month, with the next one scheduled for Aug. 11 from 6-8 p.m. for new and prospective members. It will be held at a

member's home in Sawgrass.

"We have anywhere from 20 to 25 people for the meetings," Marjerison said.

Several rules have changed over the years as the club continues to adapt and expand its membership.

As an example, the meetings used to be held in the mornings and membership to the club was only allowed for those who lived in Ponte Vedra.

However, changes were made over time to better accommodate working women and expand its footprint to the surrounding areas.

"I've been told that people like our

meetings, because there is not a ton of structure," Marjerison said. "We just have more of a casual and very conversational approach."

The club's big fall charity fundraiser or "fun"raiser as the members like to say will be Diamonds and Denim at the Ribault Garden Club Oct. 1 from 6-10 p.m., as the club will partner with Underwood Jewelers to put on the event.

Highlights of the night will include a silent auction, as well as entertainment, food and drinks for all those in attendance to enjoy.

Photos by Anthony Richards



Heather Howard and Dr. Erica Joy Siegel.



Kelley Bost, Debra Smith and Susan Knapp.



Edie Williams, Carly Jewell and Anna Chattaway.



Kelly Barrera, Parker Alter, Ellie Cuthrell and Martha Gleason.



Ponte Vedra Women's Club President Lori Marjerison (standing on a chair) speaks to the crowd in attendance.



Plenty of laughs were had during the event.

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IN THIS SECTION:

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- ◆ A dream that evolved into a reality *Page 16*
- ◆ Ponte Vedra Beach real estate gifted to repair the world *Page 18*
- ◆ Sarah Palin stops in at Sawgrass *Page 20*
- ◆ Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices expands to Rome *Page 22*
- ◆ Waterfront home an icon of Florida living *Page 35*
- ◆ **AND MORE!**

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Home pictured is 127 S. Roscoe Blvd, Ponte Vedra Beach.
See more on page 35.



Welcome to Sand Castles!



Janet Westling
Contributing Editor

By Janet Westling

Welcome to the summer issue of Sand Castles, a luxury, lifestyle and real estate seasonal section. A year ago, I wrote about the dog days of summer that begin July 3 and run until Aug. 11. Webster defines those days as “a period marked with lethargy, inactivity or indolence.”

This year, summertime, while still very hot is not inactive! Alice Hickox shares some wonderful recipes for summertime living with her blueberry spinach salad and fresh blueberry basil margaritas to make special for any occasion.

Travel Updates

Brian Sexton of the Jaguars organization gives an update on the recent Hall of Fame inductee Tony Boselli and his journey to Canton, Ohio, from the first draft selection of the Jacksonville Jaguars in 1995.

Whether you are planning a trip to Europe or Portland, Oregon, you can get a few insights from Realtor Jim Ross’s visit to France and Realtor Rob Kearney’s visit to the Northwest Coast. They share their stories of recent travels through wonderful towns, cities, wineries and the D-Day Remembrance in Normandy, France.

On to Rome

Berkshire Hathaway’s CEO Christy Budnick traveled to Italy on a Rome adventure of a business nature, with an expansion of our global presence following Milan-based Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices MAGGI Properties Agency’s acquisition of

Roma Immobiliare. Stay tuned for more exciting expansions to come!

Tournament for a cause

On Oct. 4-10, 2022, SenioRITAS will celebrate 22 years serving the community.

Twenty-two years ago, a local article about the RITAS Women’s Doubles Tennis Tournament benefitting breast cancer research caught the attention of Ponte Vedra resident and Sawgrass tennis player Mary Pappas. Pappas thought Sawgrass would be the perfect place to hold this event. She contacted the RITA director and, as they say, the rest is history: SenioRITA’s (players 40 and over) at Sawgrass was born.

The Florida Ballet

For more than four decades, the Florida Ballet has been a leader in dance education and performance in Jacksonville. During the 2022-23 season beginning in October the ballet will present more than 25 performances. Season highlights include the “Classics from Carman,” “Don Quixote” and “Swan Lake” to the Christmas holiday classic “The Nutcracker.” Tickets go on sale Aug. 15.

Volunteers like Marsh Landing resident Silvia Nett Fisher help the ballet stay connected to our community.

Speakers and Receptions

Sarah Palin, candidate for Congress in Alaska, stopped at Sawgrass to meet with a receptive audience on a recent visit to our area. Greeted by friends and neighbors, Palin shared her decision

to get back in the political arena representing the state she clearly loves.

Real Estate update

Here on our First Coast, David Johnson, mortgage broker with Ameris Bank, gives us an update on the local market watch with some insights on the current market.

We still have an active market with wonderful properties for sale and, in this issue, we hear from seven seasoned First Coast Realtors who share their listings from ocean to the Intracoastal, the golf course and everywhere in between.

A Special Gift

In closing, a story that is truly remarkable involves a gift of real estate to benefit the Jewish Federation and Foundation of Northeast Florida, written by Kellie Kellerher-Smith.

This unique donation of real estate, once sold, will be a major donation that will benefit the people of our community who receive the services the foundation provides from seniors to children and families and programs locally and across the globe.

Our home is our castle, and at the beach it is our castle in the sand. From palm trees to sand dunes, golf courses to resort living, Ponte Vedra Beach and the Beaches communities offer the most desirable real estate in Northeast Florida!

**Janet Westling, Realtor, CIPS, GRI
Luxury Collection Specialist
Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR
Sand Castles creator and contributing editor
www.janetwestling.com**

MORTGAGE MARKET UPDATE

A look at factors affecting the mortgage market

By David Johnson,
Ameris Bank

The Ponte Vedra Beach housing market is a desirable location for permanent residents, part-time vacationers buying second homes and investors looking for rental properties.

The good news is that the available housing inventory is increasing for buyers. Current active listings in ZIP Code 32082 is 68 units, up from 10 in January 2022, according to the North-East Florida Real Estate Association. These include single-family detached homes, town homes and condos.

Mortgage interest rates are still much lower than historical highs, and lenders offer different types of mortgages to fit most qualifying buyer needs.

Today, we will talk about one of the

factors affecting the mortgage market, interest rates and a nice mortgage option to discuss with your local lender to offset rising fixed mortgage interest rates.

Interest rate update

The two-year trend of lower interest rates began shifting upward in Q3 2021 and accelerated this year. In 2022, inflation concerns materialized into a long-awaited Federal Reserve monetary policy directly affecting mortgage interest rates.

The Federal Reserve does not control residential mortgage interest rates, but it does impact them with monetary policy it sets for banks and lending institutions. Housing is an important economic sector the Fed is concerned about monitoring. Fed monetary policy related to interest rates has a direct effect on housing. Currently, the effect is increasing interest

rates.

One weapon in the Fed’s arsenal affecting housing is the Federal Funds Rate, a target rate set by the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC). The committee meets eight times a year. The most recent meeting was Tuesday, July 26 (source:

Investopedia.com, “How The Federal Reserve Affects Mortgage Rates,” by Poonkulali Thangavelu).

The meeting was anxiously anticipated as most economists were expect-



Singing The Blues



Alice Hickox
Lettuce Do Dinner

By Alice Hickox,

Lettuce Do Dinner, Personal chef/ wellness and nutrition coach

Does anyone else remember the song, “I Found My Thrill on Blueberry Hill”? When I was little, my Dad used to play this song a lot, and I always loved it. Multiple artists sang it, but he particularly loved Elvis’s version. It was and still is, a timeless, fun and happy song. The other day it hit my brain on the “repeat” cycle as I thought about some of my favorite summer recipes with none other than blueberries!

I am a huge fan of all berries, and all berries are great superfoods for everyone to eat, but blueberries are particularly beneficial. Not only are they one

BLUES continues on **Page 37**



Photo provided by Alice Hickox.

Blueberry Spinach Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette

BLUEBERRY SPINACH SALAD WITH BALSAMIC VINAIGRETTE

(Serves 4)

- Four cups loosely packed baby spinach (preferably organic), washed
- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- 1 cup fresh sliced strawberries
- ¼ cup thinly sliced red onion
- ½ cup roasted pecans, walnuts or slivered almonds - go with your fave
- 1 small block of feta cheese, crumbled by hand

Balsamic Vinaigrette

- ¼ cup good quality Balsamic vinegar
- ½ tsp both salt and fresh cracked pepper
- 1 large garlic clove, crushed and mashed into a paste with back of spoon
- 1 Tbsp honey
- ½ cup good quality olive oil

Directions:

In your favorite salad bowl, add baby spinach. Sprinkle red onion, blueberries and strawberries all around on top. Finish with crumbled feta cheese and pecans.

For dressing:

In a small bowl with a whisk, or in a mason jar, add balsamic dressing first, then salt, pepper and fresh garlic. Shake or whisk to infuse salt and garlic into the balsamic. Add honey and whisk/shake, then finally add olive oil and give it another good shake. Just before serving, drizzle about half of the dressing over salad and toss, toss, then taste. Add the rest if you like. A little of this dressing goes a long way.



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Sawgrass invades Omaha Beach

By Jim Ross

Late in May, a group of Sawgrass Country Club residents traveled to France with our very capable travel director, Sara Gomez, and her husband, Roland. Sara planned our trip to arrive in Normandy just a few days before the 78th anniversary of D-Day plus time in Paris along with a seven-day river cruise on the Seine River and three days in the walled city of St. Malo on the Brittany Coast.

We first arrived in Paris a few days prior to our AMA Waterways River Cruise, so we could explore the wonderful city on our own. Some walked for hours, some went to the Galleries Lafayette and the Eiffel Tower for fantastic views, and some attended the Opera Garnier. Paris was very busy with a World Soccer Match, and the French Open Tennis Event.

My daughter Jaime and I were “lucky” to reserve seats at the bar on Friday evening at L’Atelier de Joel Robuchon. Chef Robuchon was named “Chef of the Century” by the Gault et Millau in 1989. His restaurants have tallied 32 Michelin Stars as of 2019, the most in the world. Chef Robuchon has taught and influenced many of our coveted chefs in the United States. His legacy is his mashed potatoes, and they are worth flying to France to savor. Upon Jaime’s return home and back to work as head bartender and beverage director at Hanger One Bistro at the St. Augustine Airport, their executive chef, Christina Conde, recreated some of Chef Robuchon’s iconic, classic dishes in their fall menu for all to enjoy. Chef Conde was formerly executive chef at Gather, a market and restaurant in downtown Atlanta.

Next, we transferred to our riverboat, The AMA Dante, and the staff did an amazing job. We traveled the Seine River



A group from Sawgrass Country Club and Brooklyn travels to France.



A chance to shop in Paris.

through the locks to Mantes-la-Jolie and visited the renowned gardens of Monet’s home and the gardens in Giverny. We visited the cities of Vernon and the medieval city of Rouen where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake. Then on to Le Havre on the coast.

The highlight of our trip was our time in Normandy, where we walked the beaches, each in solemn thought, writing names in the sand of loved ones who



The Joan of Arc Memorial Cross in Rouen, France.

Photos provided by Jim Ross

fought for freedom and trying to imagine how they could survive. Jaime wrote “BOCCARDO” in the sand, signifying two members of her husband Chris’s family, who were lost on that day during the invasion. Very, very moving. Sud-

denly there was a U.S. military flyover of three C-130 aircraft directly over our heads and heading down the beach to the south. Such a moment in time. Today, the

SAWGRASS continues on Page 23



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JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Boselli enjoys the journey to Canton



Photo provided by Brian Sexton

By Brian Sexton

Tony Boselli's smile radiated as he strolled through the lobby of the Delano Hotel in Las Vegas, absolutely, entirely without a doubt radiated like the heat up and off the nearby Strip.

"That's Tony Boselli," said one member of a USC delegation, who were huddled around wide receiver Drake London. The soon-to-be-inducted member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame acknowledged them as he walked past what was his past and into a conversation about the Jaguars and Jacksonville, which long ago became his future.

"It's been crazy," he said of the whirlwind that's been his life since the announcement in Los Angeles in February. "You go through the process, and I did for a long time, and you hope it happens and you think it's going to happen and when it does happen it's like 'holy cow!' Being a part of that group, the Hall of Fame and the history of the game I love is truly amazing and humbling. It's been fun, it's been a lot of fun and it's really interesting now to get introduced as a Hall of Famer and I have to tell you that's different. Different but awesome."

The Jaguars first-ever draft pick is not surprisingly the first member of the franchise to be elevated to Hall of Fame status. Tom Coughlin's pursuit of Boselli (OT 1995-2001) began in the fall of 1994 when the

then-expansion coach put his coaches and scouts through the draft process even though they weren't picking until 1995. He saw the potential on the college tape and at USC's 1995 Pro Day and on every Sunday for Boselli's entire career.

"His will to win, his will to prepare and his desire to compete was at the very highest level," explained Coughlin, whose time with Hall of Famers Lawrence Taylor and Harry Carson from his days with the Giants gave him a good measuring stick. "He had everything else, the height, the length, the feet, the strength and technique but it was all of those things in combination with his desire to win on every play that made Tony Boselli not only a great football player but a cornerstone on which we could build an entire franchise."

There is a strong sense of nostalgia among those who lived those first six seasons and Boselli has heard from many former teammates, which has been a consistent source of gratitude for him the last few months.

"It's been great," he said. "It's been amazing. We had a great locker room and great guys, and they were so supportive throughout the entire process even when I didn't make it, they were so very supportive. I love the guys I played with and hopefully a number of them will be able to join us in Canton in August so we can celebrate together."

Boselli and the Jaguars are planning a very special celebration

in Canton in August and on Legends Weekend in Jacksonville in October. Boselli's impact on the field and in the community both while he was playing and since returning to North Florida in 2006 has turned what was a very strong bond between player and fans into the kind of relationship that takes you back to Bart Starr in Green Bay, Joe Greene in Pittsburgh and all the old Colts in Baltimore. It's a relationship that Boselli treasures.

"I wish my shoulder would have let me keep playing; I would have loved to play seven or eight more years in Jacksonville," he said. "Jacksonville is our home. I love this city. It's where my kids feel at home and the people are simply amazing to us. We're just so blessed to have been drafted by the Jaguars and to have played in North Florida. I can't imagine living anywhere else. I can't imagine being a part of any other franchise."

Boselli is special, and not just as a player. Not every first-round draft pick turns out to be a Hall of Fame player and a Hall of Fame quality person who builds his life and his family in a city and gives back something equal to what was given of him. He is the best left tackle this game has ever seen, and the chances of drafting another like him are infinitesimally small. Finding another player who as a person who means as much to Jacksonville and to North Florida seems equally remote.

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A dream that evolved into a reality

By Mary Pappas and
Beverly Roman

Helping cancer patients in the community

Early in 2000, an article appeared in a newsletter regarding a women's doubles tennis tournament to benefit breast cancer research sponsored by The RITA Foundation.

RITA stands for "Research Is The Answer."

This article caught the attention of Mary Pappas, a member of the Sawgrass Country Club Tennis Committee. The tournament was to be held at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club. Pappas contacted the RITA director, Chuck Jantz, and suggested the tournament be held at Sawgrass Country Club. Jantz checked with his committee, and they did not want to change the tournament location.

Meanwhile, Jantz, being ever resourceful, came up with a plan to have a separate tournament for players 40 and over called the SenioRITAs and to be played at Sawgrass Country Club. He offered this to Pappas, and she reported back to the tennis committee. They approved it and submitted the plan to the Sawgrass Board of Governors. The plan was approved, and thus SenioRITA was born.

A SenioRITA Committee was formed. It was decided that proceeds from the event go to Mayo Clinic and Baptist Medical Center Beaches for their breast-cancer research programs.

The tennis scheduling was handled by Sawgrass Tennis Director, Chuck Saacke. The dates were set: Oct. 21 and 22, 2000. The auction party was on Oct. 19 at Atlantic Restaurant and Bar in Jax Beach with many in attendance.

The tennis tournament was a big success. The money raised was \$26,000. The amount of \$13,000 was donated to Dr. Edith Perez of Mayo Clinic. Perez was



Pink flags line the walk to the courts.

grateful because it was to go towards a refrigerator to store the cancer samples.

Baptist Beaches was pleased because the amount of \$13,000 was to go towards their mammography program. Everyone was happy with the results of the first SenioRITA.

In 2000, the money raised was \$26,000; in 2021 the money raised was \$240,000.

Wow, what an incredible effort for a cause dear to our hearts.

— Submitted by Mary Pappas

Fast forward to 2022 and SenioRITAs' amazing progress:

Currently SenioRITAs at Sawgrass provides funding for cancer research, education, equipment and patient care programs. It is the largest charity tennis event in Jacksonville, supporting cancer care and research in the community for more than 23 years.

Organizers have raised more than \$2 million for the cause, and last year was the recordbreaking year, raising \$240,000. A hundred percent of the profits go directly to the cause since the committee is all-volunteer.

SenioRITAs supports cancer research and care at Mayo and Baptist hospitals, plus the Dignicap at MD Anderson (a recent technology to prevent hair loss for cancer patients) and, last but not least, the Buddy Bus, a mobile mammogram unit for the underserved.

The Buddy Bus, pictured at the launching is a joint effort between SenioRITAs and Jeannie Blaylock, First Coast News, who referred to SenioRITAs as her "angels" who came through for her during the pandemic to help fund the bus. SenioRITAs has given \$50,000 toward the Buddy Bus and the sister tournament, Mixed Rita, has given \$50,000, for a total of \$100,000 from the RITA Foundation.

Baptist received \$183,000 in 2021: \$10,000 for the fourth Buddy Bus payment, \$45,000 to existing endowments that support Baptist MD Anderson programs and \$128,000 to five new endowments to provide ongoing funds for additional programs.

In 2021, a \$55,000 grant was provided to Dr. Al Copland and his breast cancer lab. The group also added \$2,000 to one of the Mayo endowments.

Each year, 222,000 women and men in the United States are diagnosed with breast cancer and 45,000 die. SenioRITA's efforts, and those of faithful friends and businesses are working hard to help find a cure. The 2022 three-day tennis tournament will feature nearly 300



Contributed photos

The SenioRITA committee was formed in 2000.



Each year, the tournament raises funds for worthy causes. Here, checks are bestowed on Mayo Clinic and Dr. Al Copland.



The Buddy Bus is a mobile mammogram unit.

women participants from Jacksonville, Southeast Georgia and several other states. The Buddy Bus will be displayed at the tennis tournament Oct. 14-16, 2022, for everyone to see the state-of-the-art equipment.

In addition to the tennis tournament, the annual kick-off party will be held at Pussers Caribbean Grill on Oct. 4 and the live and silent auction party on Oct. 10 at the Sawgrass Country Golf Club. The auction party is well attended with 250 guests and more than 200 items.

There are several ways a person can become involved and support this worthy

cause. One can be an active committee member, help out at the tennis events, make online donations at the website mentioned below, be a sponsor or purchase a pink flag for a loved one who was stricken with cancer. The pink flags are displayed along the walk to the courts, and written on each flag is a memorable message to a loved one.

For more information about tickets or events, contact Jantz at chuckjantz@gmail.com or go to the-rita-foundation.org/senioritas.

— Submitted by Beverly Roman

Selling Ponte Vedra Beach - 32082 Florida's Best Kept Secret



SOLD

Step inside 213 Sea Island Drive and come home to a spacious and completely updated Sawgrass CC pool home east of A1A with beach access. This spectacular home sits on a large lot on a quiet street in gated community. This home is convenient to the beach, golf course & Sawgrass Village for shopping & dining. Offered for \$2,395,000.



OPEN HOUSE SAT 12-2

719 Spinnakers Reach - Spectacular 1st floor condo has the only elevator in Spinnakers 1 from the garage to the first floor! Completely renovated with stunning details & designer finishes. Oceanfront views from every room. 2523sf, 3 BR, 3BA with the upstairs master & ocean views! Spectacular kitchen overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Offered for \$2,985,100.



SOLD

826 Ponte Vedra Blvd. - French colonial beauty in PVB with deeded beach access on the Boulevard! Designed to capture the ocean breezes with French doors in every room that open to the ocean in the front & Guana preserve & Sawgrass Golf course in the back. 4260sf, the kitchen, living areas & master suite upstairs all open to verandas. Sold for \$2,935,000.



SOLD

2375 Ponte Vedra Blvd - This oceanfront beauty could grace the cover of Coastal Living magazine! Perfectly located along the shores of the Atlantic Ocean this 4BR/3.5BA coastal contemporary features two sweeping oceanfront porches, private beach walkover and a 21' x 21' rooftop deck with panoramic water and preserve views. Sold for \$3,600,000



SOLD

188 Sea Hammock Way - Stunning oceanfront condo located in the gated seaside community of Sea Hammock in Ponte Vedra Beach. This 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo is completely updated and furnished with designer finishes and details. Sold for \$1,404,000.



SOLD

962 Ponte Vedra Blvd. - Exquisite estate home located on a waterfront lot that measures greater than a half-acre. This 6 bedroom, 5 full and one-half bath home offers stunning sunset and nature views as well as private, deeded beach access across the street. Sold for \$2,400,000.



SOLD

405 Ponte Vedra Blvd. - 100 ft lot is situated on sought-after oceanfront of Ponte Vedra Blvd. just 2 blocks south of the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and 2 blocks from The Lodge & Club. Offering 4 BR's, and 4 BA's, this charming seaside home is perfectly laid out in over 2800sf & offers the best of Ponte Vedra Beach living. Sold for \$6,500,000



SOLD

262 Pioneer Village Way - 2-story with a Farmhouse elevation and 4BR/3BA, 2299sf. Gourmet kitchen with Quartz counters, beveled glass backsplash, 30" gas range, ss appliances & a breakfast nook. Separate dining. Large 3-panel slider doors take you out to the covered patio with fenced yard that backs to the Preserve. Sold for \$720,000



SOLD

220 Sea Island Dr. - Sawgrass CC! 3BR/2BA, 1965sf house sits on a very private lot with Preserve views. Formal living & dining have high ceilings & look out at the big backyard. Open kitchen & family room create an intimate family space. Large owners suite & bath with soaking tub & walk-in shower. Covered patio adds add'l living space. Sold for \$926,000.



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Ponte Vedra Beach real estate gifted to repair the world

By Kellie Smith

It was the first week of May, as I was walking into a continuing education seminar, when my phone rang. The individual on the other end told me he wanted to donate a beachfront condominium — a donation that would become the second largest individual gift received by our organization in its 27 years here in Northeast Florida.

Founded in 1995, The Jewish Foundation was established to last in perpetuity, and we went on to merge with our Jewish Federation in 2018. Together, the Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida serves as an umbrella to provide consistent funding to our partner agencies and nonprofit organizations that serve seniors, children and families through education, social services and programming, both locally and across the globe.

The mission and goals of our foundation center on the shared responsibility of creating permanent financial stability for our greater Northeast Florida Jewish community. We achieve this primarily by working with individuals and families to create endowment funds, donor advised funds or other legacy gifts that serve to preserve a thriving Jewish life in our community and continue the important Jewish tradition of giving back and repairing the

world.

With more Jewish people relocating into the area, the need for sustainable funding for our local synagogues, schools, agencies and other Jewish organizations, is rapidly increasing in demand, making the work of our organization more vital than ever.

Although admittedly not a common occurrence, our foundation is well-equipped to accept and sell real estate donations of this kind. Through the guidance and support of a top-notch list of dedicated board members and community volunteer leaders, we are able to seamlessly process even the most complex charitable gifts, providing the greatest tax-advantageous return to our donors.

For instance, the benefits of gifting real estate can go far beyond the good it does in providing for the nonprofit community, allowing the owner to avoid paying capital gains tax on the sale of the real estate and receive a charitable income tax deduction based on the value of the gift.

Providing customization and versatility in giving is one of the many ways we remain committed to the privilege of assisting individuals in curating their unique legacies. We are honored to have helped families for more than two decades execute their philanthropic visions for today, tomorrow and generations to come.



Contributed photo

The Jewish Federation & Foundation of Northeast Florida provides funding to help seniors, children and families through education, social services and programming.

In the words of Sol Goldman, of blessed memory, who established our foundation's single largest endowment fund to date, "When I look back upon my childhood, I sincerely believe that some of us need that one helping hand to assist us. [My wife] and I feel that the greatest contributions we can make to Judaism and to mankind is offering educational opportunities to children and young adults and caring about and providing for the sick and the needy. We are pleased and

thankful to be able to help those in need."

The Sol and Hilda Goldman Early Childhood and Summer Camp Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to children in need, regardless of race or religion, who seek access to the highly recognized Michele Block Gan Yeladim Preschool and summer camp programs of the Jewish Community Alliance. Sol's generosity and commitment to our

GIFTED continues on **Page 34**



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A visit to Willamette Valley, Oregon

By Rob Kearney

My wife Pam and I, along with PVB new residents (but longtime Jax residents) Sam and Linda Kouvaris, got to travel to Oregon to enjoy some wine.

That we did extremely well.

We heard about the Willamette (pronounced: Wil-AM-it) Valley through Sawgrass CC's Bo Cure. Bo is the wine and beverage manager at the club and is connected to just about every winery in the U.S.

Willamette Valley is home to more than 700 wineries and is recognized as one of the premier Pinot Noir-producing areas in the world. Protected from the cold Pacific air and rain on the west by the Coast Range mountains and the Cascade Range to the east, this valley follows the Willamette River through the valley of very rich soil that helps produce the beautiful pinot grapes for these delicious wines.

We spent our first night in Portland at the Nines Hotel, a Marriot Bonvoy property. Driving approximately 90 minutes, we were in The Valley.

The first stop to get a little refreshment and an introduction into wine tasting in Oregon was the Lemelson Winery, located in the Yamhill-Carleton AVA. On a beautiful, sun-filled day with tem-



Sampling the local wines.

peratures in the low 70s, we were at an outside table enjoying the weather with a variety of wines to taste. Not being wine savants, we were in the hands of their wine maker, Ben Kaehler, who navigated us through their wines, rose, Pinot Gris, Riesling and their award-winning Pinot Noirs. He explained how the tastes differ



Photos provided by Rob Kearney

Two local couples had an opportunity to learn about wines produced in Willamette Valley, Oregon, during a recent trip.

from one slope to another on their properties because of the makeup of the soil and the nutrients that the soil contains. And how that affects what we were tasting. Wine 101 for the Kearneys and Kouvarises.

On to Carleton, Oregon, and the home of Ken Wright Cellars (KWC). This

quaint Pacific Northwest town is everything you'd see in a Norman Rockwell painting. KWC has their tasting room in an old train depot. Absolutely beautiful!

We set out with our wonderful guide, J'Amie du Mauriee, to the actual vine-

OREGON continues on Page 26

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SIMPLY WHERE LIFE FLOWS

Sarah Palin stops in at Sawgrass

Photos provided by Janet Westling

By Janet Westling

On Saturday, May 21, my husband Dale and I hosted an afternoon reception and talk with Sarah Palin, candidate for Congress in Alaska, at our Sawgrass Country Club home to neighbors and friends.

Palin announced her run for the U.S. Congress from Alaska on April 1.

Palin a former mayor, city council member, chair of the oil and gas commission that oversaw the supply of Alaska's natural resources to the rest of the United States and, last but not least, former governor of Alaska and candidate for vice president of the United States has a resume that is long and very impressive.

Since her days in political office, this mother of five has served as a Fox News contributor, hosted several outdoor lifestyle shows on the Sportsman Channel and written her memoir, "Going Rogue: An American Life."

Palin gave a wonderful talk, posed for photos and spoke about her decision to get back in the political arena.

"When I announced," said Palin, "I said, 'Alaskans, if you hire me, I would love to work for you. I will go to Washington, D.C., and I will represent you.'"



Bill Haft and Sarah Palin



Pictured from left: Gary Ball, Sarah Palin and Judy Ball.



Sarah Palin and Monica Jacoby



Kelly Barrera and Sarah Palin



Sarah Palin and Patsy Shields



Silvia and Derrick Fisher and Martha Gleason listen as Sarah Palin speaks.



Sarah Palin and Toni Crawford

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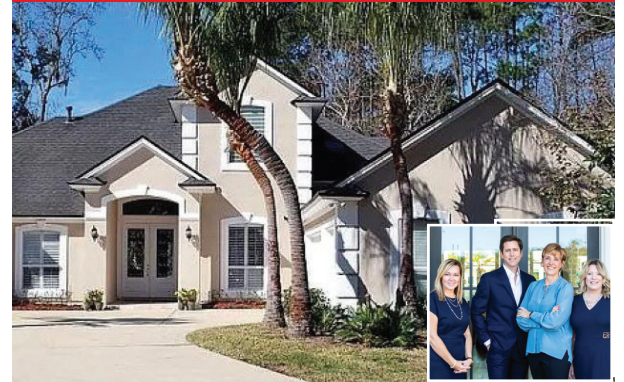
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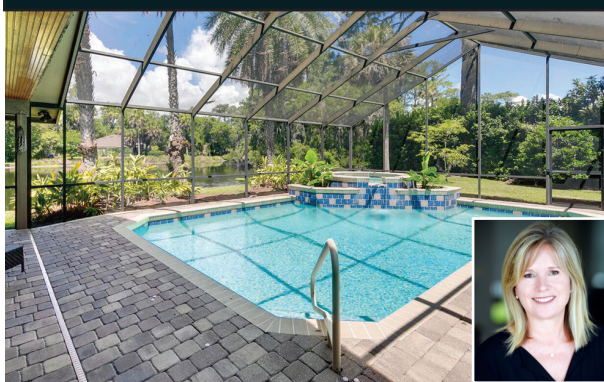
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Executives from the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Global Headquarters and Italian offices speak with the Italian media.



Contributed photos

Francesco Minervini, CEO of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Roma Immobiliare, is interviewed by local media.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices expands to Rome

By Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Global Marketing Department

Across the Atlantic in beautiful Rome, Italy, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices further expanded its global presence after Milan-based Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices MAGGI Properties Agency acquired a leader in the Italian real estate industry, ROMA Immobiliare.

Now trading as Berkshire Hathaway

HomeServices ROMA Immobiliare, the operation has been active in the Capitoline market for more than 15 years, serving homebuyers and sellers in Rome's historic center with three strategically located offices.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices MAGGI Properties Agency itself joined the global network in 2019. Its recent acquisition confirms the considerable interest from international investors in Italy and Rome. As markets worldwide have

sprung back into life after travel restrictions started to ease, Italy has become one of the top destinations for overseas buyers looking to buy property.

And Rome in particular is enjoying a resurgence in activity that places the latest brokerage to join the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices global network in an exciting position.

"Milan had a boom during and after EXPO; now Rome's turn has come," explained Berkshire Hathaway Ho-

meServices ROMA Immobiliare CEO Francesco Minervini. "All indicators confirm that right now the capital is the most important bet for national and international investment funds and entrepreneurs. The growing attention is also confirmed by the flow of capital from the global product, service and hospitality chains. Our extensive experience in real estate in the central areas of the city will

ROME continues on **Page 26**

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Sawgrass

Continued from 14

tide was not as low as for our soldiers' landing on D-Day and you could just imagine how difficult it must have been with German guns firing at them.

One of the travelers in our group, Ellen Walsh, brought a letter presented to her father from General Eisenhower just prior to his landing on D-Day plus 1. It's recreated below:

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of the Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1040-41. The United Nations inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open

battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The Tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together in Victory!

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory!

Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

- Signed by Dwight D. Eisenhower

Once we left Omaha Beach, we went to the American Cemetery — again, a very moving experience. We found the grave of Brigadier General Ted Roosevelt, Jr. He was assistant division commander of the 4th infantry. On D-Day, Roosevelt landed in one of the first waves at Utah Beach. For his bravery at the beach, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. The general died of a heart attack two weeks after the D-Day invasion. His brother, Quinton is buried alongside and was shot down in WWI.

This cruise and land adventure is sure to leave lasting, beautiful memories along with a special comradery among those traveling together for years to come.



Chef Robuchon is known for his exceptional dishes.



Photos provided by Jim Ross

The travelers visited Omaha Beach a few days before the 78th anniversary of D-Day.



Jim Ross' daughter Jaime wrote "BOCCARDO" in the sand at Normandy to recognize two members of her husband's family who were lost in the D-Day invasion.



The final resting place for many courageous soldiers who landed in Normandy on D-Day.

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OCEANWALK ATLANTIC BEACH
 Beautiful brick home in Oceanwalk in Atlantic Beach with private beach access. This 3 bedroom, 2½ bathroom, 2538sf home is on a peaceful lot which backs up to Hanna Park. Plenty of room for a pool too! Offered for \$1,250,000.



Call Beverly Hecht
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BARTRAM SPRINGS
 Enter this beautiful community and enjoy the tree lined streets past the amenities back to Alamosa Circle. This neighborhood offers a resort-style pool, fitness center, tennis courts, pickleball, kids programs, & regular community events. 4BR/3BA 2330 sf. Paved patio with firepit in the backyard facing the preserve. Offered for \$470,000.



Call Cyndi King
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 This entertainer's delight is a decorator's dream home. Amazing indoor/outdoor living including 5BR/5BA with separate office, bar/game room that surrounds the pool area, upstairs bonus room, exercise room, bunk room & basketball court. Sit by your pool & enjoy views of the lagoon & 8th fairway. Tall ceilings throughout the home really set the stage for the custom features throughout. Offered for \$3,349,000



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719 SPINNAKERS REACH
 Spectacular 1st floor condo that has the only elevator in Spinnakers 1 from the garage to the first floor! Completely renovated with stunning details & designer finishes. 2523sf, 3 BR, 3BA. Magnificent ocean views from every room including upstairs master and kitchen. Offered for \$2,985,100.



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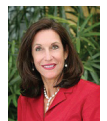
ATLANTIC BEACH COUNTRY CLUB
 Located on the 4th tee, this 4 bed, 3.5 bath executive home on an oversized lot with club membership and room for a pool! First floor primary suite, open floorplan, 3 car garage, outdoor living with a covered lanai, summer kitchen, firepit area, garden boxes, lush landscaping. Offered for \$2,100,000.



Call Lee Elmore
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357 12th ST, ATLANTIC BEACH
 Just a few blocks to the beach, this 4 bed, 5.5 bath luxury home PLUS pool has it all! Ground level primary suite, sunroom, pool/spa, summer kitchen, and pool house currently outfitted as a wine cellar. Offered for \$3,750,000.



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PONTE VEDRA BOULEVARD
 Ocean views from almost every room, with an enormous wrap-around deck completes this 4BR, 4BA, 2520 SF, 2 car garage home that has been recently renovated! Offered for \$2,250,000.



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PONTE VEDRA BOULEVARD
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2375 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD.
This oceanfront beauty could grace the cover of Coastal Living magazine! Located along the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, this 4BR/3.5BA coastal contemporary features two sweeping oceanfront porches, private beach walkover and a 21' x 21' rooftop deck with panoramic views. Sold for \$3,600,000.



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Welcome to this elegant 1-story ranch home with water-to-preserve views. On the most sought-after road in Marsh Landing CC. Fully renovated, this will be your forever home. Fully equipped with 5BR, 4BA & open floorplan. Spacious screened porch off of formal LR provides nice space for casual entertaining & perfect spot to watch the wildlife in the backyard lagoon sanctuary. Offered for \$1,775,000.



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Christy Budnick, CEO of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, with Martin Bikhit, CEO of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices London.



Contributed photos

Christy Budnick, CEO of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, with Francesco Minervini, CEO of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Roma Immobiliare.

Rome

Continued from 22

be crucial.”

Commenting on the acquisition, Marcus Benussi, managing partner and general counsel of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices MAGGI Properties Agency, emphasized, “We have found the best partner in the Rome market, and we are confident that this expansion will be preparatory to further growth of our network towards the south, which attracts the international audience of investors. We have great ambitions.”

Luxury residences in Italy and across the globe are enjoying high activity right

now, as luxury markets are less beholden to fluctuations that can affect the rest of the property market. And affluent buyers and sellers alike are keen to work with the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices network members due to their proven track record of representing clients in high-end transactions.

“Our network’s specialists have demonstrated that they conduct their business the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices way — powered by a brand that stands for trust, stability, longevity and integrity,” Christy Budnick, CEO of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices said. “They are able to utilize a global network of powerful relationships in order to deliver best-in-class results to our clients. The global

connectivity of our brand really makes us stand out above our competitors, and specialists can utilize this strong network in order to bring buyers and sellers together from all corners of the world.”

This recent expansion in the Italian market is just one of many developments confirmed by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices in 2022. Alongside significant growth in the U.S. market, the company’s Spanish operation has just added two offices on the island of Mallorca, taking the total number of locations in Spain to seven.

The immediate future looks bright and busy for the real estate franchisor, too. The company is currently also pursuing expansion in France, Monaco, Czech

Republic, Romania, Italy, Switzerland and Aruba.

“It is an incredibly exciting time for the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices brand,” said Michael Jalbert, EVP of business development at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices. “As part of our strategic growth plan, we have been working hard to identify new relationships with highly valued names in local markets to further expand our global presence. The Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices brand is respected worldwide — brokerages are eager to join our network and benefit from our vast global connections, advanced technology and unparalleled marketing resources.”

Oregon

Continued from 19

yards on the slopes in this region. Talk about breathtaking views and smells. J’Amiee was able to explain to our four-some the differences the sun, soil and the tasks the workers go through to get the optimum flavors out of each sections. Amazing blend of chemistry and art. From our sampling later that day and night, they are very successful.

Ken Wright personally hosted us to dinner in McMinnville at the great Italian restaurant Nick’s. Nick was kind enough to come by for a glass of wine and share some of his grandmother’s recipes from Italy. A grand evening.

Our next day of reconning was back in McMinnville, R Stuart & Co. Casee Stone was our guide here. This was a little different in that we got to do our tasting directly from the barrels. A different perspective and quite good.

A few days of this and then finding the

best local spot for lunch, brunch or early dinner was extremely fun but taxing. Afternoon naps are a must in this “business trip.”

We were able to manage a few days before heading out to drive up the Oregon coast with stops in Cannon Beach, Astoria Oregon at the mouth of the Columbia River and then cross over to Washington the enjoy more of the Pacific Northwest. In fact, don’t forget to stop in South Bend Washington for Oysters and a beer at The Chester & Social Club. Biggest and best oysters you’ll ever taste.



Photos provided by Rob Kearney

A beautiful day in Oregon.



The Kearneys and the Kouvarises enjoyed dining at an Italian restaurant called Nick’s.



Winery experts were happy to talk about their products.

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Contributed images

These artist renderings show views of Ocean 10.

Where 10th Avenue South meets the ocean

By Katie Hughes Johnson

Oceanfront luxury in South Jacksonville Beach, the residences of Ocean 10 will amaze you with their clean, coastal architectural style. Brand new with completion this fall, Ocean 10 consists of five four-story townhomes. Each townhome offers unparalleled Ocean Views and has more than 4,000 gross square footage with three bedrooms, three and a half bathrooms plus multiple balconies.

The fourth level is a rooftop deck with private summer kitchen and splash pool. From the deck, residents will be able to watch the sunrise off the ocean and enjoy the most stunning sunsets over the quaint coastal town. The first level has an oversized garage and large storage area for all your beach gear and bikes. The building was designed to showcase views with open family spaces and oversized balconies so that you can “take in” the beauty of the Atlantic Ocean.

Coastal construction to meet the latest oceanfront building standards and code consists of auger pilings, impact glass and concrete-block construction.

High-end interior finishes include wide-plank wood flooring, solid core doors, coastal trim and baseboards, upscale bathrooms and more. The gourmet kitchen boasts custom wood cabinetry, wood flooring, quartz counters and stainless steel Sub-Zero/Wolf appliances.

Residents can walk to restaurants and

shops consisting of some of the favorite Jax Beach spots like 11th Avenue South, So Napa Grill, Whole Foods, Cruisers Grill and more.

This incredible location and unique opportunity in premium South Jax Beach is the epitome of “Living the Beach Lifestyle.”

Ocean 10 residents start at \$2,950,000 and are presented by Katie Hughes Johnson and Mike McAfee, RE/MAX Specialists PV.

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Contributed photos



The house at 8230 Merganser Drive.



The arrow points to the house at 8230 Merganser Drive.



A view of the pool at 8230 Merganser Drive.

Attractive home sits on large waterfront lot

By Lisa Barton

This gorgeous, custom-built Marsh Landing pool home is ready for new owners. The large waterfront lot is unique. Because it is located on a tidal creek leading to the Intracoastal, one can fish from the dock or kayak out to the ICW. The back yard is completely fenced, and the large sparkling swimming pool is the perfect place to relax and enjoy the natural beauty around. Also, for an additional cost, this house includes a floating slip in the Harbour Island yacht

basin. The yacht basin provides quick access to the Intracoastal Waterway and is only a 30-minute boat ride to the ocean.

The main floor of this house has soaring ceilings in the family room with views of the pool, marsh and golf course. The gourmet kitchen offers custom cabinets, granite counters and high-end stainless appliances. Those working from home will appreciate the sunny, private office with custom shelving and lots of workspace. Downstairs, there's also an ensuite bedroom which makes a delightful guest bedroom.

Upstairs, there are four more bedrooms and three bathrooms. The owners' suite enjoys wonderful views over the pool to the marsh and golf course. The wrap-around balcony is a tranquil spot for sipping that morning coffee and appreciating the views. The luxurious owners' bathroom has been completely renovated with double vanities, a walk-in shower and soaking tub.

The third bedroom also has its own bathroom and easy access to the balcony. The two remaining bedrooms share a bathroom and have spacious closets. A

bonus room is equipped with a home theater and large closets.

This home has lots of storage and a new roof. An oversized three-car garage and large driveway provides plenty of room for car and golfcart storage. Located in the heart of Marsh Landing Country Club, you'll be close to great schools, fine dining and boutique shops.

This is the Ponte Vedra Beach lifestyle! 8230 Merganser Drive in Marsh Landing Country Club is listed for \$1,748,000 and presented by The Lisa Barton Team, Keller Williams Atlantic Partners.



JUST LISTED

91 SAN JUAN DRIVE #E7 // PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL
 \$925,000 // MLS#1181783 // LISTED BY STEPHEN MARTINEZ
 THE POINTE AT PONTE VEDRA



300 BOARDWALK DR. #114 // PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL
 \$315,000 // MLS#1180631 // LISTED BY BRENT SEAMAN
 BELLEZA AT PONTE VEDRA



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Contributed photos



A great place to sit and relax at 708 Spinnakers Reach.



The interior of 708 Spinnakers Reach is warm and inviting.



A view of Spinnakers Reach from the air.

Spinnakers Reach living is a dream come true

By Karen Franklin

What's in a dream? For as many people as there are, there are dreams that occupy their nights. Those dreams can become wishes, prayers and a purpose in life.

Fortunately, we live in an area that allows many of those dreams, wishes, prayers and purposes to come true. The rhythm of the waves, the smell of the ocean and the peace and tranquility of walking on the beach is available here in Ponte Vedra Beach.

It can be one's own playground and paradise. It can be a dream come true. Resort living in a relaxed and elegant set-

ting is what Sawgrass Country Club has to offer.

708 Spinnakers Reach condominium offers resort living at its best and with all the extras. Amenities at the club include 27 Holes of Champion golf shop, the Women's Golf Association, the racquet club, a fitness center and year-round social activities — and that doesn't cover the many fabulous dining venues that are available.

Sawgrass offers something for every taste and the ambiance of each facility is perfect for any occasion.

708 Spinnakers Reach villa has much sought-after ocean views. Sit on the balcony; the palms waving in the breeze and the

sound and rhythm of the Atlantic Ocean offer relaxation from the stress of everyday life. Sunsets over Guana Preserve only make the sunrise over the sparkling Atlantic Ocean even more anticipated. Plan a day of paddle boarding or kayaking or just dipping your toes into the ocean. It is all here.

This villa on the ocean is move-in ready with open and updated kitchen, wood flooring and new carpet, vaulted ceiling with built in bookshelves. The electric fireplace will keep things warm and cozy should there be a rare cool evening on the ocean.

The villa includes a recent tankless wa-

ter heater and AC handler. Two convenient, covered, ground-level garage spaces offer easy access to the villa.

One thousand seven-hundred and eighty-four feet of beach living includes three bedrooms and three baths. Outside the door is the private luxury pool, and beyond the pool area is a private access to the stunning beach. Take a shower at the shower station after playing all day in this paradise. The dream can be real. Wishes, prayers and a purpose of lifestyle is here at 708 Spinnakers Reach Villa.

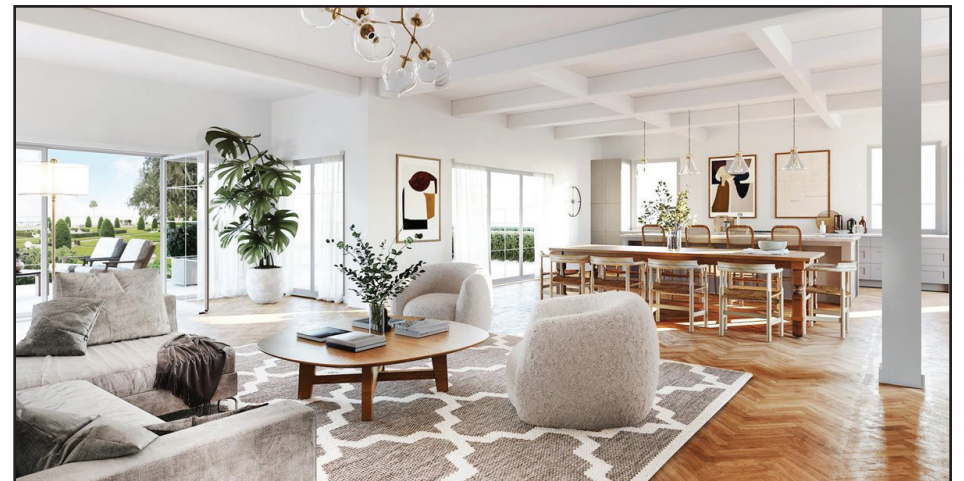
Sweet Dreams.

708 Spinnakers Reach is under contract and the price is \$1,292,000.

Contributed photos



The arrow points to the lot at 704 Gaines Court in this photo looking toward the river.



This artist rendering reveals a potential interior design for a home that might be built on the lot.

A rare opportunity to build that dream home

By Jennifer White

Welcome to a rare riverfront lot in prestigious Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club: 704 Gaines Court.

Flanked by the former duPont Mansion (now the Epping Forest Country Club) and majestic oaks draped with Spanish moss, this lot offers an amazing homesite overlooking the widest point of the St. Johns River, the yacht basin, lush English gardens and breathtaking sunsets.

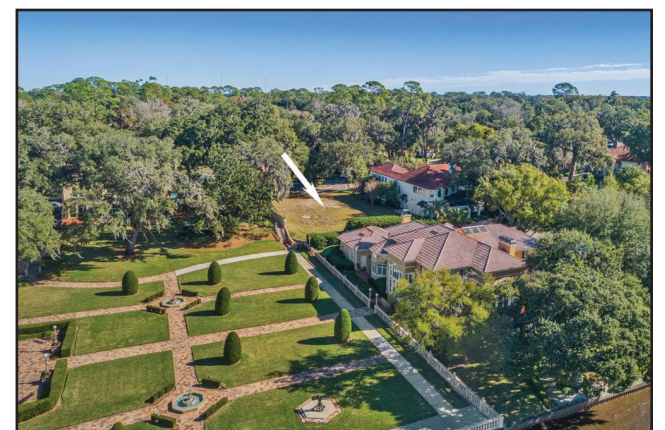
Build that dream home on this cul-de-sac lot and enjoy endless days and nights of gentle breezes, meandering through the impressive gardens or strolling along the riverfront in this private, gated community that is close to everything. Dining, golf, shopping, grocery stores, world-

renowned hospitals, museums, top schools and more are right here.

There is plenty of room on this 0.32-acre homesite for a beautiful 6,500-square-foot-plus home, three-car garage and pool. Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club offers fine dining and social events in the former mansion, in addition to a large, state-of-the-art fitness facility, several pools, six Har-tru tennis courts, a 70-slip yacht basin and numerous youth activities per separate membership.

Interested people can see artist renderings of a possible home designed specifically for this lot.

704 Gaines Court is listed for \$1,099,000 and offered by Jennifer White, Remax Specialists PV. Phone: 904-446-0495.



Another view of the lot.



RE/MAX SPECIALISTS PV



BRAND NEW CONSTRUCTION

IN SOUTH JAX BEACH. Enjoy amazing ocean views and cool breezes from the 2nd and 3rd floor balconies and walk to the beach access just steps away. Coastal designed 3 story home with 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, study and elevator for easy access. Offered for \$3,000,000

Call Katie Hughes Johnson (904) 237-6083




BRAND NEW OCEANFRONT

IN JAX BEACH. Brand new oceanfront construction in South Jax Beach, the upscale residences of Ocean 10 will be complete this fall! 5 Luxury townhomes that have been elegantly designed with coastal modern finishes and premium structural elements. Starting at \$2,950,000.

Call Katie Hughes Johnson (904) 237-6083 & Mike McAfee (904) 626-2888





PENDING TO CLOSE

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IN SAWGRASS COUNTRY CLUB. Renovated by BCH in 2022 to be finished by June, this stunning POOL home is situated on a private preserve lot in desirable Sawgrass CC East of A1A. 3200 + SF, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, plus office or 5th bedroom. Offered at \$2,250,000.

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Call Katie Hughes Johnson (904) 237-6083 & Kelley Cressman (904) 553-8405





RARE RIVER VIEW LOT

Welcome to a rare river view lot in prestigious Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club! Flanked by the former DuPont mansion & majestic oaks, this lot offers an amazing homesite overlooking the widest point of the St. Johns River, the Yacht basin, lush English gardens and breathtaking sunsets! Lot offered for \$1,099,000

Call Jennifer White (904) 446-0495




LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION!

Walk, bike, jog to EVERYTHING! This 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with attached 2 car garage is in the middle of it all- shops, restaurants, beach, St. Johns Town Center, downtown, Mayo Clinic, schools, you name it! It's close by! Offered for \$529,000

Call Jennifer White (904) 446-0495




PENDING

PRIME LOCATION

Amazing, not even 2-year-old fabulous custom home built by Arthur Rutenberg Homes. This 3-bedroom (4th bedroom can easily be converted back) 3-bathroom, plus office, saltwater pool home has an incredible layout, top of the line appointments & storage galore! Offered for \$2,698,000

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SOLD

KENSINGTON ST. AUGUSTINE

Welcome home to this spacious 4/3 home with an open floorplan. Large BONUS ROOM upstairs, complete with new carpet and full bath, makes a great 5th bedroom. Relax on the screened lanai that overlooks the outdoor patio and lush landscaping. SOLD for \$550,000.

Tracy Sobiecki (904) 233-9141




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Fabulous Pool Home. 4 BR/BA, Office/5th BR. Spacious kitchen with huge island. Incredible outdoor space w/ covered lanai, Lagoon Pool, fire pit & summer kitchen. 1st floor owners suite & spa. Theater w/ stadium seating. Game Room with kitchenette and adjacent covered, screened balcony. 4,233 SF. MLS #1181077. Offered for \$2,025,000


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Waterfront home on .47 acre site overlooking wide area of the Harbor. Gorgeous Limestone Brick Exterior. 30' concrete dock & floating jet ski platform. Designer kitchen. New pool & summer kitchen. 5BR/4.5BA. New windows. 4628 SF. MLS# 1180827. Offered for \$2,250,000.


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Live the dream! 60' Boat Slip with this .41 acre Harbour Island Lot. Harbour Island is the premier location in Marsh Landing featuring multi-million dollar estates surrounding the majestic marina. Enjoy easy access to the Intracoastal Waterway for a fascinating day on the water. MLS #1181026. Offered for \$900,000

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Photos provided by The Florida Ballet

The Florida Ballet company gathers in downtown Jacksonville.

Florida Ballet prepares for another big season

By Silvia Nett Fisher

The Florida Ballet has been a leader in dance education and performance for more than four decades. Founded in 1978 by Laurie Picinich-Byrd and Michael Byrd, the nonprofit organization serves the community through quality dance education, accessible community outreach opportunities, collaborative projects and a season of professional performances.

Located within the Arlington corridor of Jacksonville, the organization's 30,000-square-foot facility at 10131 Atlantic Blvd., is home to its professional company, training center and conservatory. The training offered at The Florida Ballet is considered the finest in North-

east Florida, including comprehensive, age-appropriate, outcome-based programming incorporating the ABT National Curriculum. Programming is available for all ages, abilities and personal goals from novice to pre-professional, ages 3 to adult.

In addition to dance education, The Florida Ballet exposes thousands of community members annually to the art of dance through free community outreach initiatives, including workshops, lectures and demonstrations held throughout numerous area counties and region.

Besides the organization's work within the community, The Florida Ballet's professional company, under the direction of Roberto Forleo, presents a season

of performances featuring a mixture of classics, contemporary works and world premieres from well-known masters of ballet to internationally acclaimed choreographers.

During the 2022-23 season, the company will present more than 25 performances from October through May. Performances are held at a variety of venues from the organization's own Picinich-Byrd Black Box Theatre to several other performing arts venues, including UNF

Fine Arts Center, Thrasher-Horne Center for the Performing Arts, The Florida Theatre and the Jacksonville Symphony's Jacoby Hall.

Season highlights will include world premieres choreographed by Christophe Garcia and Roberto Forleo. Balanchine's Valse-Fantasia and Mauro Bigonzetti's Songs will mark exciting milestones for the company to present these classical

BALLET continues on Page 34

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Classical masterpieces are among the company's repertoire.



The Florida Ballet offers a variety of programs for local audiences.

Contributed photos



This home at 205 Gnarled Oaks Drive offers a sense of serenity and privacy.



The Grove is secluded but near a growing and vibrant community.



The Grove and The Grove North lie near the Atlantic Ocean.

A welcoming home in The Grove

By Jennifer Sexton

Old Florida is waiting beneath the gnarled oaks just beyond the dunes of Ponte Vedra Beach and only a whisper away from the crashing waves of the Atlantic Ocean.

There is something different about this beach community, something that is old like the oaks that dominate the landscape but new like the crisp breeze that blows in from the east.

The Grove and The Grove North are both secluded and serene and yet, since they are situated in the heart of Ponte

Vedra, a growing and vibrant community awaits with all the benefits and amenities a person could ask for.

This gorgeous home with a one-story, open-floor plan on a broad lot welcomes you with the sun and the shade, which make North Florida so special.

There is a sense of privacy created by the beautiful oaks and the split-bedroom design home. Upon opening the front door, 10-foot-plus ceilings invite visitors in and carries the sunshine in as well, which makes everything feel open and bright.

A recent renovation created a stunning chef's kitchen with floor-to-ceiling

cabinetry and solid-surface countertops for a more formal affair, or the chance to entertain al fresco exists while relaxing around the shimmering waters of a brilliant blue pool and utilizing a summer kitchen and oversized lanai.

One finds oneself absorbed by the elegant and luxurious finishes throughout, which complement the beach lifestyle perfectly.

Abundant light reaches around every corner and fills the home with a warmth that is beyond description. The generous outdoor living spaces that make Florida such a perfect place to call home are

enhanced by preserve views and century-old live oak trees that capture the essence of what Florida has always been with what is possible in the 21st century. Since this homesite has generous setbacks, its owners can add to the artistry with their own vision if expanding is in their future plans.

This is a chance to find a home with deep roots among the history of Florida's First Coast but with all the modern touches that make living near the ocean a cool summer breeze all year long.

205 Gnarled Oaks Drive is listed for \$1,395,000 and presented by Compass FL, Jennifer Sexton and Wes Mock.



205 Gnarled Oaks Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach
\$1,395,000 4 Beds 3 Baths 2,549' SF



2200 Ocean Drive South, PH2, Jacksonville Beach
\$1,299,000 3 Beds 2 Baths 1 Half Baths 1,754 SF



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320 9th Street, Atlantic Beach
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Your dream home is our mission.



Jennifer Sexton and Wes Mock

904.463.3326

jennifer.sexton@compass.com

wes.mock@compass.com

Gifted

Continued from 18

community is an exemplary story of legacy, and we are so honored to have been entrusted with his bequest.

Spacious and sophisticated, the donated condominium is a rare find directly fronting Ponte Vedra Beach.

This once-in-a-lifetime custom home is completely renovated with stunning details and designer finishes and boasts the only private elevator in the building.

At 2,523 square feet, with three bedrooms and three baths, the open floor plan is warm and inviting and includes spectacular views of the Atlantic Ocean from every room. Located within Sawgrass, this unique community offers championship golf, a world-class racquet club with 13 tennis courts, fitness center and oceanfront dining and pools.

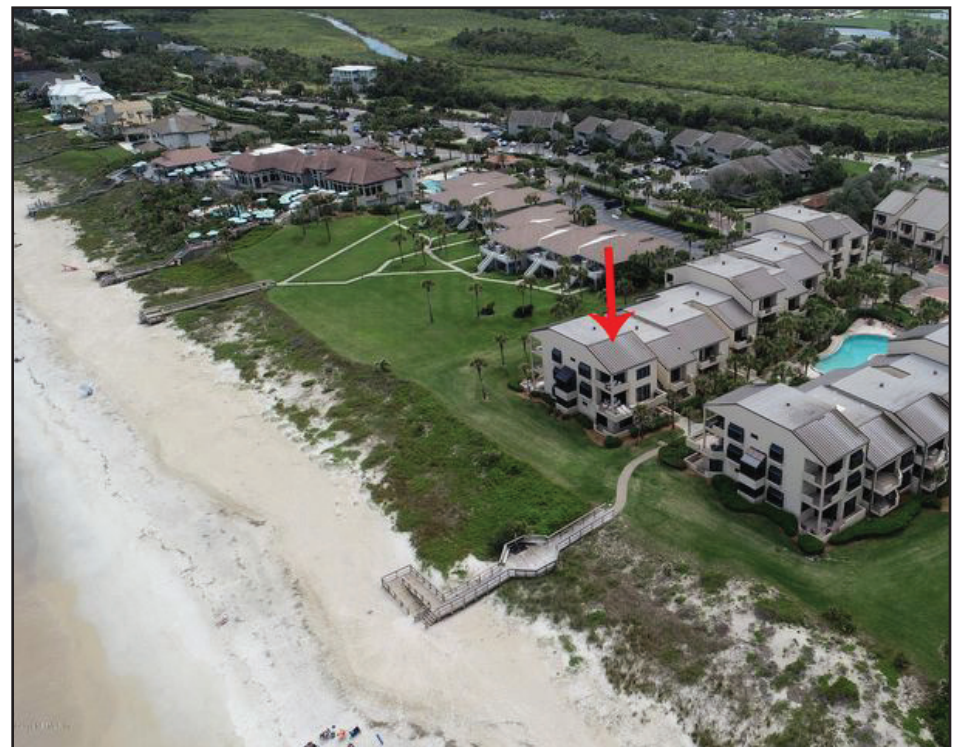
For more on our organization, go to

jewishjacksonville.org/foundation. To learn more about how you can begin creating your unique philanthropic legacy, contact Kellie Smith, foundation director at 904-512-3796.

The condo is listed by Janet Westling, at Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR for \$2,985,100. She can be contacted for an appointment at 904-813-1913 or janet.westling@floridanetworkrealty.com.



The Sol and Hilda Goldman Early Childhood and Summer Camp Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to children in need seeking access to the Michele Block Gan Yeladim Preschool and summer camp programs of the Jewish Community Alliance.



Contributed photos

The donated condominium is directly fronting Ponte Vedra Beach.

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Ballet

Continued from 32

master works.

“Carmen,” “Don Quixote” and “Swan Lake” will be presented, as well as the beloved holiday classic “The Nutcracker,” bringing the magic and excitement of the holidays to audiences in the month of December.

Along with the mainstage season, The Florida Ballet will continue its Family Series performances with the annual staging of “Nutcracker in a Nutshell” and the premiere of “The Ant and the Grasshopper,” based upon the Aesop’s Fables classic. Both performances are designed to introduce children to the art of classical ballet.

With classic revivals, world-premieres and contemporary masterpieces, the 2022-23 season has something for everyone.



Photo provided by The Florida Ballet

The Florida Ballet programs feature highly trained dancers.



15 Years Locally Owned

Contributed photos



The home at 127 S. Roscoe Blvd.



The gated driveway leads into this peaceful oasis at 127 S. Roscoe Blvd.



The outdoor area under a roof is a great place to relax or entertain.

Waterfront home an icon of Florida living

By Clare Berry

The home you see today at 127 S. Roscoe Blvd. is the brainchild of longtime Ponte Vedra Beach residents who capitalized on their beautiful 100 feet on the Intracoastal Waterway and the lifestyle it afforded. The owners envisioned the new house plan and garage and hired Tom Trout for the construction, and Pratt Guys Dream Backyards designed the under-roof outdoor entertaining area, with the two-boat dock and relaxation deck being the icing on this cake.

The bamboo-lined gated driveway leads into this peaceful oasis. The home's

porches, wooden eaves and architectural sensitivity recall the Florida Vernacular style of days gone by.

Constructed for easy maintenance, outside is Hardie Board with cedar trim. Windows and exterior doors are Andersen Impact. There is no carpeting; floors are stone on the ground floor and wood above.

The "summer kitchen" area is something to see. The large dining/party area is covered by a standing seam metal roof and cedar ceilings, accented by a fireplace and a cement-topped island with cool custom features. It's a cook's dream: Twin Eagle gas grill (three burners/roaster), XL Big Green Egg, custom Texas Pitts Spitts

smoker and a burner for frying turkeys or blackening fish. The firepit and pool add to the ambience, and then there's the dock. It has two boat lifts, a Killer Dock fish cleaning station and shaded and sunny lounging areas. The owners thought of everything.

Don't miss the reclaimed wood beams in the family room and wood-burning fireplace. French doors with remote shades lead to the pool. The lighted wet bar includes an ice maker and a wine fridge.

The chef's kitchen features a Thermador gas cooktop, two ovens, a large column refrigerator and freezer and custom cabinetry with pull-out shelving, a microwave and a warming drawer. The granite island houses

Kitchen Aid dishwashers and accommodates seating. A butler's pantry has another oven, bar sink and storage.

The huge dining room has the third fireplace and is perfect for hosting family dinners and parties. The 11-by-5-foot dining table was made in Idaho for this room and is available for purchase.

The wine room holds approximately 1,700 bottles. Pecky Cypress ceiling and beautiful custom storage built-ins offer display and serving spaces. All bedrooms have beautiful water views and terrific bathrooms.

Contact Clare Berry at Berry & Co. Real Estate for more details.



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Contributed photos



The great room of the condo at 1126 1st St., Jacksonville Beach.



The Northshore building at 1126 1st St., Jacksonville Beach.

Condo is steps from the ocean at Jacksonville Beach

By Cici Anderson

This contemporary condo is maintenance-free living at its best and just steps to the Atlantic Ocean, restaurants and shops. The beach is literally your backyard and playground, yet this is a comfortable condo with three bedrooms and two bathrooms in an upscale boutique building in North Jacksonville Beach.

Located in the Northshore building

with only 35 residences and built in 2006 to the higher standard of building requirements, this third-floor condo was recently completely renovated with wide plank flooring and an upscale kitchen with quartz countertops and stunning cabinetry.

Both bathrooms were designed with a contemporary vibe, including the primary bath with a deep tub and large shower.

The Northshore community features

a coastal updated entry lobby, access-controlled building, two elevators, gated outdoor pool and hot tub, locked storage area for bikes and beach cruisers and covered garage parking.

The Northshore also offers low condo dues of \$595/month, which includes water and sewer in addition to insurance on the building and many other things. This condo also has two assigned parking spaces and a large storage closet, but

most of all: location, location, location. Live the beach lifestyle you've always dreamed of.

This 1,572-square-foot, three-bedroom, two-bathroom condo is offered for \$799,000. This residence also includes a full golf membership to Marsh Landing Country Club if so desired. (It is a short drive away). This property is represented by MLCC Realty and listed by Cici Anderson and Jenna Fisher.



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Update

Continued from 12

ing another 0.75% increase to the funds rate based on Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell's inflation concerns. The funds rate is what banks charge one another, and it impacts what banks charge mortgage customers. When the Fed makes it more expensive for banks to borrow money, the banks pass on the expense to their mortgage customers by raising interest rates.

Adjustable-rate mortgage update

As fixed mortgage interest rates increase, hybrid adjustable-rate mortgages (ARM) become popular. A hybrid ARM is fixed for a certain timeframe, normally five, seven or 10 years, and adjusts afterwards. The adjustment happens once or multiple times annually based on a pre-determined index rate.

ARM rates are lower than fixed rates because lenders offer a lower upfront interest rate compared to fixed-rate mortgages. This is possible because the lenders realize the mortgage payment adjusts to the market rate after the upfront fixed timeframe ends. Lenders do not take a

15- or 30-year risk of having a lower-than-market return on their money with the ARM. A common ARM misconception is when the adjustments happen the interest rate increases. On the contrary. The rate and mortgage payment will decrease if your five-, seven- or 10-year ARM begins adjusting in a lower interest rate environment compared to when you originally took the mortgage.

In conclusion, the mortgage market is going through a transition from low to higher rates. However, as noted in the attached chart this increase is still much lower than historical rate increases over the past 40 years (source: Freddie Mac), and one the United States economy has weathered before, and able to navigate now. Especially for Ponte Vedra Beach, a desirable destination for different types of home buyers.

— Article written by David Johnson, Ameris Bank, Mortgage Banker, NMLS #1446956

Editor's note: This article was written prior to the FOMC meeting on July 26 and, therefore, the results of that meeting could not be reported here.



FRESH BLUEBERRY-BASIL MARGARITAS

(Serves 2)

- 4 ounces 100% agave silver or Resposado tequila
- 3 ounces fresh orange juice
- 1 ounce (2 Tbsp) fresh squeezed lime juice
- 1 tsp agave nectar or simple syrup, more to taste
- 4-5 fresh torn basil (or mint) leaves
- ½ cup frozen or fresh blueberries

Rub the rim of two margarita glasses with a lime wedge. Dip rims of glasses in a small pile of kosher or sea salt. Add ice cubes to glasses.

In a cocktail shaker, muddle the blueberries, lime juice and a few torn mint or basil leaves if using until blueberries are crushed and infused with lime juice. Add the orange juice, tequila, simple syrup or agave nectar and a handful of ice cubes. Shake vigorously for 15-20 seconds, then strain into glasses. Garnish with a lime or orange wedge.

Blues

Continued from 13

of the foods with the highest amounts of antioxidants, but also one of the most popular superfoods to consume. Blueberries have tons of nutrients; with so many antioxidants, they are often in the top 10 superfoods lists.

They are a powerhouse in helping with anti-aging, improving your skin and hair, lowering blood pressure and cholesterol and improving mental health. These baby blues literally fight the blues! Who knew? A lot of us could use about a gallon of

them right about now. Last but not least: blueberries can proudly boast about their cancer prevention properties; they literally seek out and destroy cancer cells with their high antioxidants.

I'll stop with the nutrition class and talk about the next excellent thing about blueberries — they are super easy to add to your diet. Try to add some blueberries to your oatmeal or cereal in the morning or have a handful of them with your lunch or add them to your morning yogurt or smoothies. And why not? They are at their peak season and almost every supermarket features them as soon as you walk in. I'm pretty sure they even wave at me —

they know how much I love them!

We are all familiar with the classic blueberry recipes: muffins, cobblers and the like. But I'm going to share some more fun and up-to-date, if you will, healthy ways to get these beautiful blues in. My first recipe is a Blueberry Spinach Salad with my favorite balsamic vinaigrette. This salad is loaded with flavor, color and nutrition, and can be served as a main entree or as a side for any main dish. We have this at least once a week in the summer, often topped with grilled chicken or shrimp, or as a side to my lightened-up turkey meatloaf. You can add or swap out strawberries (I love to add them!),

or a can of drained mandarin oranges is perfect in winter when fresh berries may not be available. You can truly make it your own.

I'm also bringing back my blueberry margarita from last summer — it was a hit! As I said, everything is a little bit healthier with blueberries, right? So, grab a big salad bowl, a mason jar and put on a little Fats Domino or Elvis, and let's get our thrill on Blueberry Hill!

Alice Hickox is a personal chef and wellness and nutrition coach. Go to TheJoyfulJourneyCoach.com.



2719 S. Ponte Vedra Blvd. • \$3,195,000

Lifted from the pages of Coastal Living and perfectly positioned along the banks of the Atlantic Ocean, this exquisite 4BR/4BA home offers a stunning oceanfront setting with beautiful preserve views, peeks of the Intracoastal and no neighbors to the north for over a 1/3 of a mile! Meticulously re-designed in 2020 with quality construction materials, the idea of entertaining was forged into the design featuring well-appointed living spaces & sweeping oceanfront porches leading you to your own private beach walkway to the sand. Sea breezes and sounds of the ocean welcome you as you arrive, your days are well spent here soaking up the views while enjoying the luxurious lifestyle. Adjacent 100x148 ft. oceanfront lot is also available.



2359 Ponte Vedra Blvd. \$6,950,000

A true oceanfront masterpiece! A residence like no other, this 5 bedroom, 6 bath estate boasts 100 feet of pristine beach frontage and 6,270 SF of luxury living space. As you make your way in you are welcomed by a grand three-story rotunda and immediately struck by lavish finishes, and a 1,200 bottle wine cellar with tasting room. Take the winding staircase or elevator up to the main level and enjoy panoramic ocean views from almost every room and the floor to ceiling windows and doors embody the essence of waterfront living indoors or out. The views across the infinity pool to the ocean make for a perfect backdrop as you gather with family and friends.



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Kelly Barrera

ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As your District 4 School Board representative, I truly enjoy the opportunity to serve our students, parents, teachers, staff and community.

Since first being elected in 2014, I have fought for and championed the issues that are critical to creating a safe, supportive and successful educational environment for our children.

When our schools became overcrowded, I fought to open new schools and expand existing ones.

When schools in our state and across the nation became targets for violence, I worked to strengthen security while providing students with access to mental health resources.

I have also fought to recruit and retain talented teachers, expand vocational education programs and increase parental involvement in our schools.

Despite the challenges posed by COVID 19 and continued growth, we have achieved great success over the past four years. Our school district has expanded college credit offerings as well as workforce and career opportunities. We have raised our graduation rates. We have increased local partnerships, programs and support services.

Most importantly, we have continued to be an A-rated school district, leading the entire state of Florida in academic success.

But while we have achieved much success and overcome many challenges, much remains to be done. With the challenges of the pandemic, supply and labor shortages and continued population growth, it is imperative to have experienced leaders advocating for our students.

Make no mistake: The leadership of our school district directly affects the quality of our schools. With 48,000 students and a \$443 million budget, the St. Johns County Schools need qualified, experienced leaders who are willing to invest their time, energy, values and heart in the hard work of keeping them the best in the state. I am that leader!

I am running for re-election to continue the success we have achieved, serving as the bridge for our families, teachers and schools and to ensure their voices are heard. My personal commitment to our children is to help all students find success.

I am passionate about education and children. I believe education equals opportunity for every student and family in St. Johns County. **The stronger our educational system, the stronger our community.**

Together, we can give our students the opportunity to become the best citizens they can be!

I ask that you consider me your candidate of choice and would appreciate your vote on August 23.

Sincerely,

Kelly Barrera

www.KellyBarrera.com
(for more information and voting record)

“ Kelly Barrera is a leading advocate for parents rights and will continue to make sure their voices are heard. We support her wholeheartedly!”

- Dr. Ron Renuart and Tamara Renuart

“ I support Kelly Barrera because she supports The DeSantis Education Agenda, which is “a student-first, parent-centered” initiative focused on setting Florida’s children up for success.”

- Pam Shore

“ Kelly has been a devoted and strong advocate for our children, parents, teachers and community.”

- State Representative Paul Renner

“ I am voting to re-elect Kelly Barrera for our School Board in District 4. Kelly has kept our schools on a steady course through difficult times in the past two years. She has the knowledge and discernment to help St. Johns County continue as the number 1 school district in Florida.”

- Janet Westling



We, the undersigned, are just the beginning of the legions of KELLY BARRERA supporters in St. Johns County, Florida.

We urge you to join us and vote August 23rd for Kelly Barrera for St. Johns County School Board.

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Pam Shore | Tina Schwartz | Colin Barrera | Missy Vanover | Melissa Roland | David Logue |
| Janet Westling | Mary Ann Thomas | Harley Barrera | Gary Vanover | Larry Roland | Jennifer Logue |
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POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT PAID FOR AND APPROVED BY KELLY BARRERA FOR ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD.

Cancellation culture comes to roofing

In a time of economic ambiguity our world is spinning faster, leaving many of us with uncertainty of which assets should be priority. As homeowners, we can all guarantee that sitting atop that list is our home, and atop every home is the roof. Considering protection of our home and assets is essential, making home insurance the pinnacle. We've all had those worrisome thoughts; what if our house catches fire, appliances fail (especially A/C in these hot summer days), devastating consequences of hurricanes and other acts of nature that are out of our control.

Which leads to an internal examination of the strength or standing of our

insurance policies and the integrity of the components that protect our irreplaceable investments under our roof.

Raising the questions: Is my roof in good condition? Whom can I trust to give me an honest assessment? How old is my roof?

If you are not asking these questions, we can assure that your insurance carrier is. In 2021 and 2022 the Florida Senate has weighed in heavily on roofing/property insurance debates passing concurrent bills (Senate Bill 76 in 2021 and Senate Bills 4D, and 2D 2022), which have added further regulations and policies that have affected coverages on roofing

statewide. As a result, we have seen and heard of a massive offloading of policies from insurance carriers, and if your roof is older than 10 years old you can be assured that your policy is being reviewed. Many have received a notice of cancellation for coverage on their roof, which is often accompanied with a demand to replace the roof in order to reinstate the policy.

What's next? Seeking an honest assessment to make the most informed and prudent decision. When searching for a roofing contractor, many filter their options by selecting the one that exhibits the best online façade often to be met

with a salesman holding a hefty quote to replace their entire roof.

Our experience with this mass cancellation thus far is that not every cancelled roof needs to be replaced. Elo Roofing offers roof tune-ups, maintenance, repairs and roof replacements to fit the true needs of your roof. We want to make clear that we are not insurance brokers, adjusters or agents in any way, and we are not here to advise on policy language or coverages; our arena is roofing and construction.

— submitted by ELO Restoration

Receive alerts when there is an emergency

Receive alerts about emergencies by signing up for the St. Johns County Emergency Notification System, Alert St. Johns. This system enables us to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, water advisories, missing persons, evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods and incidents that may threaten public safety.

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To sign up, go to sjcemergencymanagement.com and click on the "Alert St. Johns" icon on the right.

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How is a hurricane different than a tropical storm?

Do you know the difference between a tropical storm and a hurricane? Here's a breakdown of the specifics.

Tropical Storm

A tropical storm is a tropical cyclone that has maximum sustained surface winds ranging from 39-73 mph (34 to 63 knots). A tropical cyclone is a low pressure system (not associated with a front) that develops over tropical, and sometimes sub-tropical, waters and has organized deep convection with a closed wind circulation around a well-defined

center.

• **Tropical Storm Watch:** An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39-73 mph) are possible in the specified area within 48 hours is issued by the National Hurricane Center.

• **Tropical Storm Warning:** An announcement that tropical storm conditions (sustained winds of 39-73 mph) are expected somewhere in the specified area within 36 hours is issued by the National Hurricane Center.

Hurricane

A hurricane is a type of storm called a tropical cyclone that forms over tropical or subtropical waters. A tropical cyclone is a rotating, low-pressure weather system that has organized thunderstorms but no fronts (a boundary separating two air masses of different densities).

Tropical cyclones with maximum sustained surface winds of less than 39 mph are called tropical depressions; those with maximum sustained winds of 39 mph or higher are called tropical storms; and when a storm's maximum sustained winds reach 74 mph, it is called a hurricane.

• **Hurricane Watch:** An announcement that sustained winds of 64 knots (74 mph or 119 km/hr) or higher are possible within the specified area in association with a tropical, subtropical or post-tropical cyclone. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical storm force winds.

• **Hurricane Warning:** An announcement that sustained winds of 64 knots (74 mph or 119 km/hr) or higher are expected somewhere within the specified area in association with a tropical, subtropical or post-tropical cyclone. Because hurricane



preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force, the warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds. The warning can remain in effect when dangerously high water or a combination of dangerously high water and waves continue, even though winds may be less than hurricane force.

— Information from St. Johns County Emergency Management

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THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022

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Underwood Jewelers, Standfast Asset Management host Rolex party

One guest likened the event to “Breakfast at Tiffany’s, only better!” Underwood’s Jewelers and Standfast Asset Management combined forces for a Rolex watch event that was quirky good fun. Excellent food and drinks and a brief talk about the history of Rolex by local storyteller Scott Grant thrilled all of those in attendance. The highlight of the evening was the watches, but it turns out you did not need a Rolex to have a good time.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Scott Grant and John Rutkowski.



Michael Dudley, Scott Grant and Justin Shiver.



Brenda Sandvoss, Susan Knapp, Debra Smith and Donna Guzzo.



Kathleen and Dan Floryan.

The Yards joins Chamber with ribbon cutting

The Yards officially joined the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce with a ribbon cutting ceremony July 22. The Yards offers golf, pickleball and tennis and is open to hosting a variety of events at its complex.

Photos by Susan Griffin



The Yards joins the Chamber with a ribbon cutting.



Karen Everett, Kelly Barrera and Anna Washington.

Embracing the next wave of office complexes

By Anthony Richards

Coastal Compass Executive Office Suites has been open for about a year and now they are official members of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce following a ribbon cutting ceremony July 20.

The complex opened in August 2021 and is located at 4210 Valley Ridge Blvd., Suite 101 in Ponte Vedra Beach and is in a prime spot to service residents in the Nocatee community.

According to Coastal Compass president Cutter Arey, he was always fascinated with how his father ran his business growing up and saw some of the issues he ran into over the years.

“He started taking me on business trips with him when I was 8 years old,” Arey said. “I saw some of the things he went through, and I saw how getting companies started is tough, but especially when they don’t have the necessary resources.”



The ceremony also served as an After Hours event for the Chamber.

As a result, after graduating from the University of Miami, he came back to his hometown of Ponte Vedra Beach and wanted to do his part to help erase some of those issues years later.

“In a nutshell, I wanted to get to know businesses and find out what I could do to give them the tools they needed to succeed,” Arey said. “Sometimes good ideas can come from wanting to correct bad experiences (he saw his father have).”

Some of the ways he strived to improve the common approach of office complexes included making the office spaces roughly 20% larger than the average. The smallest office in the building is 120 square-feet.

Another improvement was adding insulation in the walls and ceiling of each office to provide an assured sense of privacy, so that conversations could not be heard by neighboring offices.

According to Arey, this move has led to several medical institutions using the space, because they feel comfortable that their conversations with patients are able to remain private.

“We really wanted to be the place for high-end professionals to run, grow or start their businesses,” Arey said.

One of the final pieces of the puzzle was eliminating the additional costs often associated with office spaces, which Arey saw as something that can add up and create a burden on businesses, especially startups.

He responded by making sure that no



Photos by Susan Griffin

Coastal Compass Executive Suites held a ribbon cutting to join the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on July 20.

fees are required to use mailboxes or conference rooms. Instead, those services are open for use by all businesses in the complex as needed.

The current building is 10,000 square feet, but there is a plan in place to add an additional 4,000 square feet in the form of larger-scale offices that are 800 to 1,000 square feet each and designed to hold six to eight employees.

The property owned by Arey is 30,000 square feet, which allows for even more expansion as needs and interest continue to rise in the future.

“We want to be a long-term business partner, not a short-term landlord,” Arey said.

A further example of that is that Arey makes sure that each office is personal-

ized with a vinyl logo of that business on the front door of their space.

During the pandemic the mindset of how what a business space is changed with many people spending periods of time working from home.

Although many people loved the ability to work from their home, Arey also acknowledged that many also found out how being at home can lead to certain distractions that take away from their focus on work-related duties. He believes the Coastal Compass offers a happy medium between the two sides.

“We try to do everything we can to create a comfortable atmosphere similar to their home, but that also allows them to remain in an efficient environment,” Arey said.

Conway Recognized

Past President Andy Anderson presents Dr. Tim Conway a certificate representing a donation to Rotary’s Polio Eradication Effort in appreciation for his remarks at the June 14 Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra meeting at Treylor Park Restaurant in Nocatee. Conway is the CEO of the Morris Center, headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, and is a passionate supporter of evidence-based practices to increase literacy.

Contributed photo



Joy Vision Acupuncture now open

Dr. Erica Joy Siegel, acupuncture physician, cuts the ribbon Monday, July 18, during a ceremony marking the opening of Joy Vision Acupuncture, located at Mickler’s Landing, 1106 State Road A1A, Suite 201A. The business is the only acupuncture practice in the Southeast United States specializing in the complementary treatment of eye diseases with the Acunova Protocol. The event was conducted in conjunction with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. For more information, go to joyvisionacu.com.

Photo provided by the SJC Chamber



In the Arts



Send your arts news to
news@pontevedrarecorder.com

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022 · PAGE 43 www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Florida Chamber Music Project opens 10th season Sept. 18

Florida Chamber Music Project (FCMP) will open its 10th season on Sept. 18 at the Beaches Museum Chapel at the Beaches Museum at 505 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach.

“We are celebrating a decade of performances with concerts that will highlight greatest hits and new masterpieces,” said Susan Pardue, artistic director of FCMP. “Guest pianist Hyunsoon Whang will return, and we open with a piece from Jacksonville composer and violinist Piotr Szewczyk.”

Season tickets for the six-concert series cost \$150 and are available online at fchambermusic.org. Individual concert tickets are \$27.

Sept. 18

“Spring Tales” by Piotr Szewczyk
String Quartet in F Major, Opus 59, No. 1
by Ludwig van Beethoven

FCMP started its first season with a piece commissioned from Szewczyk, so it seemed appropriate to begin this milestone season in the same way. “Spring Tales” has three movements. In the previous seasons, FCMP has played all of Beethoven’s “middle” quartets except for this one, so FCMP will be completing the cycle for its 10th anniversary.

Nov. 20

String Quartet Op. 76, No. 6
by Joseph Haydn

String Quartet No. 1 in D Major, Op. 11
by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

This concert features two contrasting masterpieces of the chamber music repertoire.

Jan. 15

“Lullaby” by George Gershwin
Octet in E-flat Major, Op. 20
by Felix Mendelssohn

FCMP can’t play a lullaby in every concert, because, as beautiful as this one is, lullabies make listeners sleepy. However, following this little lullaby with the Mendelssohn Octet, one of the most energetic and joyful pieces ever written, along with a group of eight virtuoso musicians, will make the audience leave the concert energized and invigorated by the music.

March 26

String Quartet No. 19 in C Major, K. 465 “Dissonance” by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
“The Lick Quartet” by David Bruce

In this concert, FCMP pairs an undis-

puted, established masterpiece with a new masterpiece by a living composer.

April 23

Quartettsatz, D 703 by Franz Schubert
String Quartet No. 14 in D minor
“Death and the Maiden” by Franz Shubert

These Schubert pieces are both pillars of the string quartet repertoire. They are also some of FCMP’s favorites.

June 4

Quartet for Piano and Strings in E-flat Major, Op. 44 by Robert Schumann

Pianist Hyunsoon Whang returns for this big piece and will offer some solo piano music as well. Whang is a favorite of the FCMP audience.

Beaches Museum Chapel is wheelchair-accessible and has free parking along Pablo Avenue near 4th Street north of Beach Boulevard. All concerts begin at 3 p.m.

The Florida Chamber Music Project was founded 10 years ago by violist Susan Pardue. Joining her are violinists Patrice Evans, Siyu Zhang and Ann Hertler and cellist Laurie Casseday. All are members of the Jacksonville Symphony.

For advance tickets online, go to fchambermusic.org.

ON STAGE

A roundup of musical acts appearing before Aug. 29 at local venues

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Tickets may also be purchased at ticketmaster.com.

For further information about each act, go to theamp.com/events.

- **Slightly Stoopid** — With special guests Pepper, Common Kings, Fortunate Youth. 5 p.m. Aug. 4.

- **Rick Springfield and Men At Work** — With special guest John Waite. 7 p.m. Aug. 5.

- **Buddy Guy and John Hiatt & The Goners featuring Sonny Landreth** — 7:30 p.m. Aug. 6.



- **Lee Brice** — With special guests Michael Ray and Jackson Dean. 7 p.m. Aug. 12.

Image from The Amp
Lee Brice will perform Aug. 12 at The Amp.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan



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Sports

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022 · PAGE 44

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World Golf Hall of Fame plans to leave county in 2023

By Anthony Richards

After 25 years of calling St. Augustine home, the World Golf Hall of Fame has revealed its plan to move to North Carolina in 2024.

The move is part of a partnership between the United States Golf Association and the World Golf Hall of Fame that will lead to the creation of a new visitor experience at the USGA's Golf House Pinehurst campus.

"Since the World Golf Hall of Fame moved to St. Johns County in 1998, it has honored golf's history and the legacies of those who have made it great," said a World Golf Hall of Fame representative. "The Hall of Fame is proud of the 25 years spent at World Golf Village and is grateful for the support from the Northeast Florida community and state of Florida."

Several factors were considered prior to making the final decision to relocate, but the two primary factors centered around history and a strong financial investment by the North Carolina General Assembly, which recently awarded the USGA \$7 million designated toward the World Golf Hall of Fame project and construction.

The USGA broke ground on its six-acre Golf House Pinehurst campus last month. It is a vision that has come to life through state and community-based partnerships in North Carolina.

The World Golf Hall of Fame has a rich history with the area that dates to its founding in Pinehurst in 1974, as it was operated by the resort's management company until 1983, when ownership was transferred to the PGA of America.

Residents will still have some time to visit the Hall of Fame before it leaves, as it is scheduled to close in late 2023 at the conclusion of its long-term lease of the property at World Golf Village.

"The Hall of Fame acknowledges that today's generation of golf fans consume the sport and its history differently, and the decision to expand its partnership with the USGA will position the Hall of Fame to be able to evolve in the same manner," said a Hall of Fame spokesperson.

According to representatives with the Hall of Fame, they have been meeting with stakeholders for months, including St. John's County officials and World Golf Village partners, to evaluate options for the future of the World Golf Village and its entities.

That process has also included hearing from the World Golf Village community



Photo by Anthony Richards

Since 1998, the World Golf Hall of Fame has been located at World Golf Village in St. Augustine.

on what they believe to be the best future use for the area.

Additional details pertaining to World Golf Village's future, including the IMAX theater, will be made available later.

Many of the most cherished items in the Hall of Fame's existing collection will be relocated to Pinehurst as part of the creation of a new Hall of Fame locker room.

Last year's World Golf Hall of Fame induction ceremony took place on site in St. Augustine and the class included Tiger Woods.

The USGA will be responsible for day-to-day operations, management and artifact preservation related to the World Golf Hall of Fame displays, as well as the content, presentation and overall look and feel of the visitor experience.

The association will leverage the assets of its USGA Golf Museum and Library – the most comprehensive collection of golf artifacts worldwide – to add to the visitor experience.

The Hall of Fame will continue to operate as an independent organization as part of the World Golf Foundation, serving as the sole administrator of the Hall of Fame induction (process, criteria and ceremony).

The Hall of Fame also will collaborate with the USGA on digital and interactive content that celebrates Hall of Fame members and complements the artifacts on display.

"I'm confident today's announcement and alignment with the USGA will further cement the long-term relevance and vi-

ability of the World Golf Hall of Fame, all while continuing to honor golf's most storied individuals and artifacts," said Jay Monahan, PGA Tour commissioner and World Golf Foundation chairman. "Both organizations are committed to prioritizing the preservation of golf history, which will serve fans well in the years to come."



Tiger Woods was part of the most recent class into the World Golf Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is set to move from its location at World Golf Village to Pinehurst, North Carolina in 2023.

Local teens win Florida volleyball tournament

By Jennie Flinn

Two Ponte Vedra teens are still smiling after dominating all opponents faced during a beach volleyball tournament in St. Petersburg Beach. Thor Gyulai-Summers, age 14, and Cash Summers (unrelated), age 13, competed together for the first time in the U14 boys group during the Sunshine State Outdoor Volleyball Association's event on July 17.

The newly paired teens did not lose a single game during the tournament and won the championship 21-14. Challengers traveled from all over the East Coast, including South Carolina and as far away as Virginia.

"I was so excited to play with Thor after all our hard work together and am proud of how we played in the tournament," Cash said.

Both boys are fairly new residents of Florida, having moved from California with their families.

How they got together as teammates is a great "small world" story. Phil Dal-

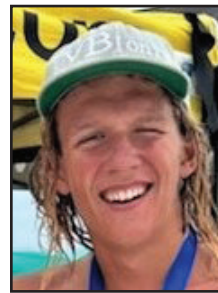
hausser, a U.S. Olympic beach volleyball gold medalist, was recently in town for a volleyball clinic. He made the introduction, thinking the Florida newcomers would pair up pretty well.

What Dalhausser didn't realize was they have more than volleyball in common. The boys' fathers have ties that go back almost 15 years ago. They met and became friends while playing rugby on the beach in their native country of South Africa. Years later, they met up again while living in California, so they had to laugh when they found out through Dalhausser that they'd both ended up in Florida a few months apart. It seems natural that their sons would hit it off too.

"It was great to compete and win with Cash, who I'm excited to have not only



Cash Summers



Thor Gyulai-Summers

as a teammate but as a friend in our new home state," Thor said.

Without much time to prepare the boys for the tournament after their introduction, Thor's father, Andor Gyulai, coached them on an almost-daily basis. (Andor is no stranger to winning either, having won the 1998 NCAA Volleyball Championship at UCLA.)

"Having a coach like Andor helped take our game to the next level," Cash said.

Cash and Thor both want to help the sport grow in popularity locally while enhancing their own skills on all levels possible. At only 14, Thor was recently invited to head back to California at the end of July to train with the U17 USA National Beach Volleyball Training Group.

"I am really excited to train at a higher age and skill level, and for the opportunity to work toward my ultimate goal of competing for the U.S. in the future," Thor said.

Even though he's on track to be a national standout, Thor's current goal as a rising freshman is to help lead the Ponte Vedra High School boys volleyball team to success this coming year.

Cash will be entering Pine Island Academy as an eighth grader this fall. He's planning to continue his skill development through Andor's St. Johns Volleyball Club. Everyone in the area is invited to try a class with the club, where they'll be joined by Cash and Thor — and those big smiles — to see if they also get hooked.

For more information on St. Johns Volleyball Club, go to stjohnsvolleyball.com.

For more information on Florida's beach volleyball tournaments, go to ssova.com.

Duff runs away with JAGA Men's Amateur

Final round 64 leads to 11-stroke victory

By Anthony Richards

To say that Jason Duff of Elkton was feeling it, would be an understatement after he shot a 64 in the final round to win the Jacksonville Area Golf Association's 2022 Men's Amateur Championship at Deerwood Country Club.

He finished 15-under for the tournament and won by 11 strokes over Luke Cusick of St. Augustine and Johnny Watts of Jacksonville, who both came home tied for second.

Duff, who graduated from Pedro Menendez High School and is a sophomore on the University of North Florida golf team shot rounds of 66, 71 and 64 for a 201 total around the 7,093-yard, par-72 course.

The event's defending champion Mike Smith finished at even-par with a score of 216, which was good for a tie for ninth place.

Duff entered the final round with only a two-shot lead over Watts and Osborn Theam of Jacksonville.

The lead was three when Creekside grad Andrew Riley eagled the par-5 seventh. Playing in the group behind Riley and Duff countered with a birdie.

From there, Duff took over by adding birdies on holes 8, 11 and 12 and burying an eagle on No. 13, before closing with five straight pars for a bogey-free round.

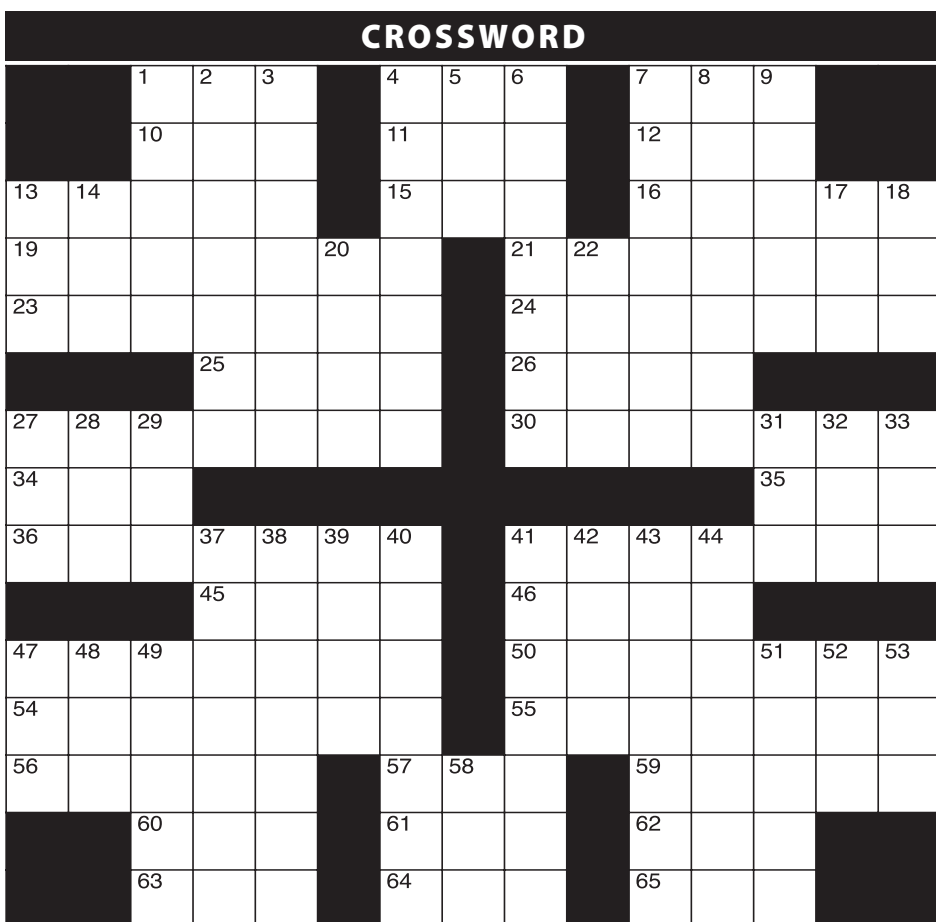
Duff did not miss a fairway and only missed two greens during his title-clinching round

Duff's 15-under-par winning score is considered



Photo courtesy of JAGA

Jason Duff of Elkton won the 2022 JAGA Men's Amateur championship by 11 strokes. Duff is a sophomore on the University of North Florida golf team.



ACROSS

- 1. America's WW2 President
- 4. Move earth
- 7. Insecticide
- 10. Naturally occurring solid material
- 11. State of fuss
- 12. Bhutanese wine
- 13. Greek island
- 15. Taxi
- 16. Tanzanian ethnic group
- 19. Metrical foot
- 21. Boasted
- 23. Eel-like vertebrate
- 24. Small freshwater lakes
- 25. Morally base
- 26. Not odd
- 27. Where you live
- 30. Fixed in place
- 34. A very large body of water
- 35. Moved quickly
- 36. Winged horse
- 41. Small waterfall
- 45. Hoopster Gasol
- 46. One who mimics
- 47. Tropical plant
- 50. Used of walls
- 54. A citizen of Iran
- 55. Christian hermit
- 56. She marries the groom
- 57. American patriotic society
- 59. Wine grape
- 60. School of Buddhism
- 61. A team's best pitcher
- 62. Consumed
- 63. Time zone
- 64. Part of a company name
- 65. Type of bulb

4. Metrical foot

- 5. Famed journalist Tarbell
- 6. Consumes quickly
- 7. Rewards in a civil suit
- 8. Kamodo are some
- 9. Ballroom dance
- 13. Chum
- 14. Comedienne Gasterer
- 17. A room to relax
- 18. Commercials
- 20. Six (Spanish)
- 22. Wild party
- 27. Small European viper
- 28. Baseballer Gordon
- 29. Eccentric person
- 31. A way to save for your future
- 32. Young boy
- 33. Midway between northeast and east

37. Changed

- 38. Prominent
- 39. Genus of seabirds
- 40. Event regarded as wrong
- 41. Skipped in a lively way
- 42. Multi-function radar (abbr.)
- 43. A country in W. Africa
- 44. Burn a corpse
- 47. Women's __ movement
- 48. NHL great Bobby
- 49. Coarse, green material
- 51. Treated with calcium oxide
- 52. When you hope to get there
- 53. "Partridge" actress Susan
- 58. What thespians do

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

DOWN

- 1. Marine protozoan
- 2. You use it for your eyes
- 3. Set aside for a later time

Elders Golf Tournament is set for Aug. 29

Council on Aging (COA) invites the community to participate in their Island Doctors Champions for Elders Golf Tournament at Slammer and Squire, World Golf Village, on Aug. 29.

The local nonprofit organization has been serving seniors and caregivers in St. Johns County for the past 49 years, and the annual golf tournament, now in its 19th year, is its largest fundraiser of the year. Sponsors are invited to bring a team of four to enjoy a day of golf followed by a celebratory luncheon or participate as a sponsor off the course and support the work COA does.

As a nonprofit, COA relies upon donations and sponsorships for support. This year, local medical group Island Doctors is the title sponsor of the event.

Caring partner sponsorships are available with a donation of \$5,500 and include a playing team foursome at the event. Participating team foursome sponsorships begin with a \$2,500 donation. Non-playing event sponsorships are available starting at \$250. All sponsorships include recognition at the event and online.

To sign up online to participate as a sponsor or team, go to bit.ly/ID-COA2022.

For more information, contact COA's Sheri Brideson at coagolf@coasjc.org or 904-209-3697.

The deadline to register to participate is Aug. 15.

To learn more about COA's services, go to coasjc.org or call 904-209-3700.



Photo courtesy of JAGA

Honorary Starter Bob Dickson (middle), with live scoring volunteer Joe Grippi, Osborn Theam, Jason Duff and Johnny Watts.

Duff

Continued from 45

the lowest since Sean Dale won in 2011 at the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club with 17-under played over 72 holes.

The largest winning margin in recent years was nine by A.J. Crouch at Sawgrass Country Club in 2012.

Duff's 64 is believed to be the second-best round in Jacksonville Amateur history, bettered only by Smith's 63 at the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club's Lagoon course in 2012.

One of the area's more distinguished golfers, Bob Dickson of Ponte Vedra Beach and TPC Sawgrass, served as honorary starter for the final round.

Among Dickson's accomplishments on

both the amateur and professional levels, the Oklahoma native is one of only four men to win the U.S. Amateur and British Amateur in the same year (1967). As a TOUR professional, he made six Greater Jacksonville Open starts at Deerwood, with a T8 in 1975 and a T12 in 1969 his best.

The championship featured 81 players, with 15 coming from outside JAGA's footprint of Northeast Florida. Fifty-four players in the field had handicap indexes of zero or less.

The Amateur is one of three JAGA-conducted events in which the top finishers are awarded World Amateur Golf Ranking points. The JAGA First Coast Amateur and the JAGA Match Play Championship are the other two.

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Voting is now **CLOSED!**



Winners will be published in print and online on August 18th

Readers have nominated & voted for their favorite businesses, organizations, professionals and more in over 250 categories online. Voting ended on July 27th. Thank you for all who voted in this year's contest! We appreciate your input!

Winners in each category of the 2022 BEST OF THE BEST of Ponte Vedra will be listed in a special pull-out "Winner's Circle" section inside the August 18th edition of the Ponte Vedra Recorder.

Until then, we're keeping the results under wraps!

