

Ponte Vedra Recorder

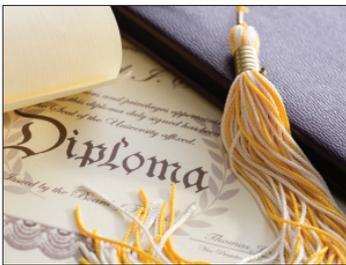
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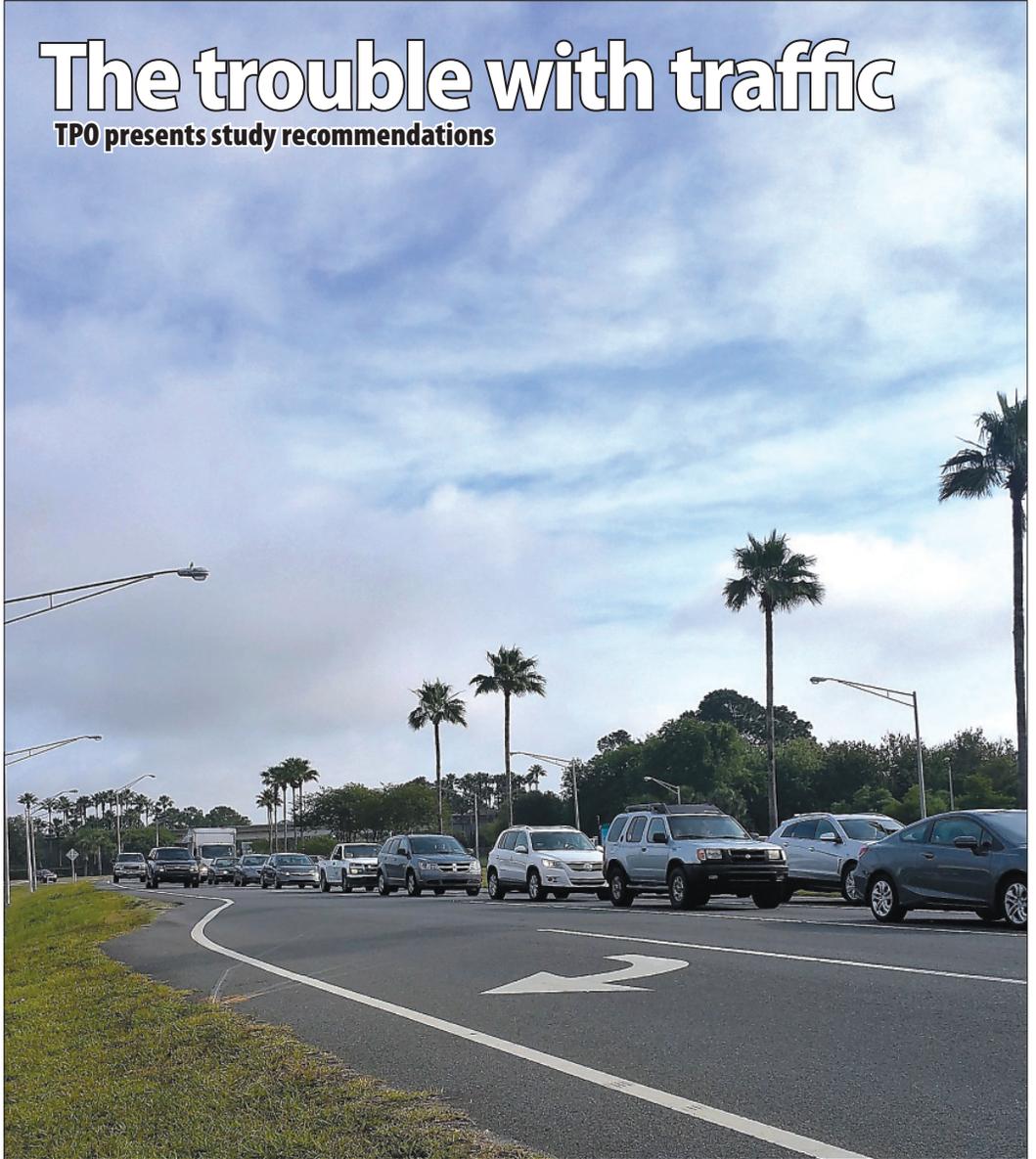
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Commencement

2016: Nease and Ponte Vedra high schools send off seniors in style

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The trouble with traffic

TPO presents study recommendations

Photo by Jasmine Marshall

Traffic streams onto A1A from J. Turner Butler Blvd. during a typical weekday-morning commute.

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Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. If you have hard copies of photos you want us to feature, feel free to bring them to our office — we'll scan them and hand them right back. E-mail submissions to **pvrecorder@opcfla.com** or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



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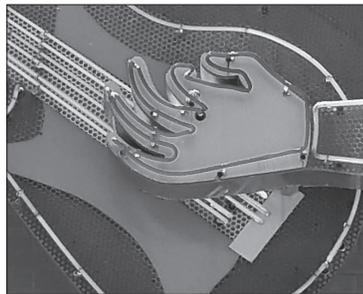
PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

S	T	A	R	S	L	E	G	R	A	J	A
C	O	M	I	C	Y	E	A	G	A	P	E
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3	4	8	9	1	5	7	2	6
7	1	5	2	6	3	8	4	9
6	2	9	4	8	7	3	1	5
9	6	4	1	5	8	2	3	7
1	8	3	6	7	2	9	5	4
2	5	7	3	9	4	1	6	8
4	9	6	7	2	1	5	8	3
5	7	1	8	3	6	4	9	2
8	3	2	5	4	9	6	7	1

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer to **jennifer@opcfla.com** by Tuesday at 5 p.m.

All correct entries will be entered into a random drawing to win tickets for two adults and two children to the Jacksonville Zoo. In order to allow as many families as possible to win, participants are only eligible to win a ticket prize pack once every four months.

Debra Braschel was the only reader to correctly identify last week's photo as the Jacksonville Beach Fishing Pier sign. Congratulations, Debra!



Don't forget — incorrect but entertaining guesses might also be rewarded with a trip to the zoo.

ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

Hi there! My name is Izzy and I'm a 1-year-old male cat who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center by my family who could not care for me anymore. I am super sweet and loving and nothing makes me purr louder than having someone hold me and give me tons of love and attention. Please come visit me here at the pet center and become my forever family. #31873



DOG OF THE WEEK



Hi there, my name is Benny and I am a 4-year-old male Chihuahua mix. I was brought to the pet center as a stray and now I'm looking for a new home. As this animal was a stray there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. #31835

Any pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to a new environment. Please reinforce house training and behavioral training and be mindful of interacting with other pets. Come visit us today here at the pet center.

St. Johns County Pet Center

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



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School districts respond differently to federal directive on transgender restroom, locker room use

By Jennifer Logue

The Duval, Clay and St. Johns county school districts have all adopted different stances on the Obama administration's recent directive stating that school districts that don't allow transgender students to use bathroom and locker room facilities consistent with their gender identity risk jeopardizing their receipt of federal funds.

In an eight-page letter sent jointly by the Department of Justice and Department of Education, the Obama administration noted that "as a condition of receiving federal funds, a school agrees that it will not exclude, separate, deny benefits to or otherwise treat differently on the basis of sex any person in its educational programs or activities."

With regard to school restrooms and locker rooms, the letter stated, "A school may provide separate facilities on the basis of sex, but must allow transgender students access to such facilities consistent with their gender identity."

Local response

After Duval County pledged to comply with the federal directive, a lawsuit

was filed by state attorney candidate Wes White on behalf of a mother of four Duval County public school students. In Clay County, meanwhile, Superintendent Charlie Van Zant Jr. posted a YouTube video assuring parents that the school district would not follow the directive.

"This direction from the Obama administration does not carry the force of law," Van Zant said, "and you can be assured that we will not allow the intrusion by the federal government into your child's school life."

Saying that he had received an "outpouring of concern" over the issue, Van Zant added that "biologically male and female students will be required to use their respective bathrooms, locker rooms and other facilities made available for their personal use."

The response by the St. Johns County School District was less definitive. In a statement issued last week, Superintendent Joseph Joyner said, "I am committed to doing what is right for each and every child. We believe our current practice is lawful and reasonable in that we provide gender neutral restroom facilities to accommodate

TRANSGENDER continues on Page 5

Jacksonville man drowns at Ponte Vedra beach

A Jacksonville man drowned at the beach at Guana River State Park Sunday.

Robert O. Hickson, 29, was on the beach with family members at 5:45 p.m. Sunday when another family member swimming in the ocean appeared to be in distress. According to witnesses, Hickson went into the water to assist the family member but went under and disappeared.

An extensive water and shore search was undertaken by the St.

Johns County Sheriff's Office, St. Johns County Fire/Rescue personnel, F.W.C., the U.S. Coast Guard and a helicopter from Lifelight. The search later became a recovery operation, however, when the sheriff's office Beach Patrol Unit located Hickson's body Monday morning in the surf approximately one-quarter mile south of where he last had been seen. The district medical examiner conducted an autopsy and the sheriff's office Major Crimes Unit continues to investigate.

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TPO presents proposed traffic improvements

Study recommendations draw mixed reviews from residents

By Jennifer Logue

Maintaining three southbound lanes from Marsh Landing Parkway to Marlin Avenue, adding bike lanes along Marsh Landing and South Beach parkways and constructing a Florida T-intersection on SR A1A at Ponte Vedra Lakes Boulevard are among the traffic and safety improvements proposed in a new study by the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO).

TPO officials presented the study's recommendations to a standing-room-only crowd of local residents at a meeting held May 17 at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Public Library. TPO Executive Director Jeff Sheffield and HNTB Transportation Engineer Jennifer Kennedy walked attendees through the \$4 million in recommended improvements in the study, which examined six intersections in the North Ponte Vedra Beach/Jacksonville Beach areas:

- J. Turner Butler Boulevard (JTB) and Marsh Landing Blvd.
- Marsh Landing Parkway at South Beach Parkway
- Sanctuary Parkway at South Beach Parkway
- Ponte Vedra Lakes Boulevard at Marsh Cove Drive
- Marsh Landing Parkway at SR A1A
- Ponte Vedra Lakes Boulevard at SR A1A

As part of the study, Kennedy said, engineers compared existing conditions at these intersections with traffic and safety projections in 2040. A variety of alternatives were considered for each intersection with a goal toward improving both safety and traffic flow, with engineers ultimately coming up with a list of recommended improvements for

'If you can put a man on the moon in a decade, you can fix the problems at that intersection.'

BOB GOLITZ

North Ponte Vedra Beach Coalition

each intersection.

"I know you won't agree with everything – we're used to that," Sheffield said. "The goal was to look at solutions in the context of safety and traffic improvements."

One finding that elicited both surprise and questions from the audience was TPO's recommendation that the intersection of JTB eastbound and Marsh Landing Blvd. remain as is, with no improvements. All of the considered improvements, representatives, said, created backups onto JTB.

"To take the position that nothing can be done is something we take exception to," said Bob Golitz of the North Ponte Vedra Beach Coalition, the group that initially requested the study. "If you can put a man on the moon in a decade, you can fix the problems at that intersection."

Golitz said that members of the coalition – which is comprised of residents from Marsh Landing at Sawgrass Master Association, Ponte Vedra Lakes Owners Association and the Marsh Landing Business Park Owners Association – are also split regarding their views on the recommendation to extend South Beach Parkway to Ponte



Photo by Jasmine Marshall

TPO recommendations

SR 202/ JTB eastbound off-ramp at Marsh Landing Boulevard

- Remain as existing

Marsh Landing Parkway at South Beach Parkway

- Add southbound left-turn lane
- Add exclusive westbound channelized right-turn lane
- Extend eastbound left-turn bays
- Convert eastbound left-turn lane to additional receiving lane
- Add bike lanes along Marsh Landing Parkway and along South Beach Parkway

Sanctuary Parkway at South Beach Parkway

- Add additional receiving lane on Sanctuary Parkway
- Add multiuse path on north side of Sanctuary Parkway
- Add bike lane along South Beach Parkway

Ponte Vedra Lakes Boulevard at Marsh Cove Drive

- Add a community park with walkway that can be used by emergency vehicles

- Add a parking lot to accommodate up to 20 vehicles
- Add two bus bays on the north and south sides of Ponte Vedra Lakes Boulevard, adjacent to the park to accommodate school buses

Marsh Landing Parkway at A1A

- Add bike lanes along A1A
- Implement signal timing modifications
- Right-in right-out channelized island at Professional Drive
- Convert Avenue C median opening to directional median
- Extend JTB exit lane to Ponte Vedra Lakes Drive

Ponte Vedra Lakes Boulevard at A1A

- Construct a Florida T-Intersection
- Add additional northbound left-turn lane
- Add receiving lane on west leg to terminate at Professional Drive
- Add bike lanes along A1A
- Add eastbound right-turn overlap phase
- Maintain three southbound through lanes from Marsh Landing Parkway to Marlin Avenue

resident said. "How do you expect us to get out of our neighborhood and go south if we have to cross two lanes of traffic that have constant green lights?"

"(The proposed solution) does create what you're saying," Sheffield confirmed. "We looked at this purely from an engineering standpoint."

Other residents pointed out that some of the study's recommendations – including building a neighborhood park, school bus bays and a parking lot along Ponte Vedra Lakes Boulevard – involve privately owned roads. That discussion prompted Sheffield to stress that no funding has been allocated for any of the proposed improvements.

"We were asked to do an evaluation and that's what we're doing," Sheffield said. "Funding is a completely different conversation."

Should the recommendations move forward, he added, funding could come from a number of governmental sources at the county and state level. The first step, he said, was gaining input from the community on the initial recommendations. At the meeting, TPO representatives passed out comment cards for attendees to complete.

Golitz of the North Ponte Vedra Beach Coalition encouraged attendees to contact the coalition and share their views.

"We as a group have to come with a strong voice, with one voice," he said. "We have to collectively come to terms with what our traffic and safety concerns are."

Vedra Lake Boulevard.

Proposed improvements to SR A1A, meanwhile, had some residents questioning whether the solutions would create problems elsewhere. The con-

struction of a Florida T-intersection, for example, would include having two northbound lanes with constant green lights.

"I live on Avenue C," one

Transgender

Continued from 3

privacy and safety for all students as needed or requested.

“There has been no binding decision made on schools in Florida and I, along with our school board, will continue to follow the development on this guidance and make adjustments to our current practice only if necessary,” the statement continued. “Again, my focus remains on the needs of the individual child.”

A St. Johns County School District spokesperson declined requests for further comment or clarification on how the district currently provides gender-neutral facilities, or whether that policy is in conflict with the White House’s directive, which states, “A school may not require transgender students to use facilities inconsistent with their gender identity or to use individual-user facilities when other students are not required to do so.”

SHORT TAKES

Battle of Bloody Mose

The 7th annual Battle of Bloody Mose Commemoration will be held June 18 from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Fort Mose Historic State Park, 15 Fort Mose Trail, St. Augustine.

The award-winning historical reenactment recreates the 1740 Battle of “Bloody Mose” which forced the British to retreat from Spanish Florida.

Re-enactments of the battle that took place during the War of Jenkin’s Ear will occur at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. The event will also feature 18th-century living-history demonstrations including colonial Florida crafts, and period artillery and musket demonstrations. Free children’s activities will also be offered during the course of the day.

Attendees can bring lawn chairs with them to the event. For more information and a complete schedule of events, visit www.floridastateparks.org/park-events/fort-mose.

County Commissioners approve Nocatee plan modifications

By Jennifer Logue

The Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved a number of technical modifications to Nocatee’s comprehensive plan and PUD last week, changes the developers say will give them the flexibility to respond to changing market conditions.

In addition to approving The PARC Group’s request to decrease the percentage of multi-family units and provide more flexibility with regard to the siting of schools, commissioners approved a number of other technical modifications, including those related to the development of new southern neighborhoods within the master-planned community. As was the case when the matter came before the Planning & Zoning Agency last month, however, it was the proposed modifications to affordable housing provisions on which commissioners focused most of their discussions.

“This county adheres to federal guidelines for providing affordable housing,” Commissioner Jimmy Johns said. “I want to make sure we haven’t painted ourselves into a box by limiting our options.”

Previously, the developers had agreed to donate 50 acres of land in Nocatee for affordable housing development, along with \$800,000 over time. But while the developers have to date given \$150,000 and 10 acres of land toward that commitment, the county has yet to develop any affordable housing on the property in the decade since it was donated – a fact that seemed to surprise and dismay county commissioners.

“So we’ve had that affordable site for 10 years and so far nothing’s happened?” Commissioner Rachael Bennett asked. “I would really like to see us get something going on that site...Ten years is a long time to sit fallow.”

Commissioner Bill McClure agreed. “I’m not happy to hear we’ve had (the land) since 2006 and we haven’t really done anything with it,” McClure said.

Under the now-approved modifications, instead of donating the remaining 40 acres of land and continuing to make cash payments over time, the developers would make immediate payment of the remaining \$650,000 and donate 20 acres of more valuable land on Nocatee Parkway for development as a private post-secondary institution. If after five years the school had not been developed, the developers would pay the county \$1.64 million in return for retaining the 20 acres.

“We believe the proposed changes... are of mutual benefit to the county and Nocatee,” said Ray Spofford, who represented The PARC Group at the com-

mission meeting. “Nocatee will be able to respond better to changing market conditions.”

County planning officials also supported the change, saying that the immediate cash payment would allow the county to address a number of current affordable housing challenges.

“This is an overall good deal for St. Johns County and the citizens of St. Johns County,” Planning Division Manager Teresa Bishop said.

Three county residents spoke in opposition to the change, however, citing the need to provide affordable housing for police officers, firefighters, teachers and others who might work in Nocatee.

“I don’t buy the fact that market conditions have really changed,” St. Johns resident Ellen Whitmer said. “The name of the game is to maximize profits. I’m in opposition.”

Commissioners, however, noted that many of the homes built in Nocatee met the standard for affordable housing. In addition, the construction of 9B and planned commercial developments along that corridor have changed the development landscape significantly since Nocatee was first envisioned and approved.

“Take it from someone who’s had a beautiful condo sitting on the market for over a year,” Bennett said. “The multifamily market is not here. So market conditions do change.”

“Our world was a different place 15 years ago than it is now,” she continued. “I think it’s important that we realize that as times change, we need to make sure we’re not trying to force something to fit that no longer fits.”

APPROVED MODIFICATIONS:

- Decrease the required percentage of multi-family units
- Expand the test area to meet specific use standards for retail and office

from 1 mile outside Nocatee to 3 miles outside Nocatee

- Revise development order so that schools are not required to be built in a village center in order to give the school district more flexibility in siting schools
- Revise affordable housing requirements in exchange for land donation for post-secondary institution
- Clarify design standards regarding road connection to Pine Island Road.
- Allow temporary above-ground utilities in some development areas

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When Patrick Caulfield first began volunteering for THE PLAYERS Championship in 1985, the “media center” was a makeshift space set up in the cart barn to handle the 100 or so reporters from a total of four countries. Today, as media center chairman, the retired IRS officer oversees a full-service media center that services more than 750 reporters from 190 media outlets and 20 countries. — By Jennifer Logue

Patrick Caulfield

How did you come to be involved as a PLAYERS volunteer?

A friend of mine introduced me to a friend of his at a party by the name of Tim who worked for the tour. He suggested that I volunteer with the tournament. So I did and that was in 1985. Since then, the tournament has provided funds to several other charities that I have been involved with. I see it as a win – win.

What are your responsibilities as media center chairman?

My primary duty is to oversee the media center. I have two assistant chairmen – Al Herndon and Tom Hyde – and a total of 15 volunteers in the media center. The media volunteers are there to give assistance to the media, including photographers, with any of their needs. This includes checking the media in, assisting with interviews, providing copies of player's interviews, photo shoots, transporting the media from one place to another, working with Getty Images, etc. Basically, anything that the media needs, we will assist them with if at all possible.

Describe a typical day volunteering there.

A typical day for Al and me normally starts around 3 a.m. Tuesday through Friday – 5 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday – and ends about 1 to 2 hours after play. We normally pick up local news teams along with local radio personnel from the media parking lot and bring them into the tournament so they can set up for their live shots and radio shows. The other volunteers come in at 7:30 a.m.

We go through all newspapers, for example, *The Times Union*, *The Record*, *Beaches Leader*, *USA Today*, *New York Times*, *New York Post*, etc. All articles that mention The Players are cut out, copied and assembled in a package and are available to all the press.

As the media comes into the tournament starting on Monday, we make sure they have their credentials, parking passes, etc. We help with the interviewing of players by making sure that copies of the interviews are available to all the media as soon as they are transcribed. We also transport photographers and other media to wherever they need to go throughout the golf course, assist in transporting any VIPs or charity groups and make sure that at the end of the day, all stat packages are assembled and available to all the media.

What is the biggest challenge of volunteering in this capacity?

One of the largest challenges is the amount of media we deal with and some of the time elements that we are involved with. At any point during the day, we may be called upon to act or react to certain situations that may need our immediate attention. Time may be a huge factor. We just have to be ready to respond. We have a great group of volunteers that always comes through under pressure.

What is your favorite part of being a volunteer for THE PLAYERS?

My favorite part of being a volunteer is the people that I work with. The tournament staff that I work with are incredible: Denise Taylor, Chris Reimer, Laura Neal, Joel Schuchmann and others are wonderful to work with. And the media center volunteers: I couldn't ask for a better group of people to work with both on my committee and other committees. All these people make it fun and enjoyable.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I enjoy traveling and playing golf. I also volunteer at Mayo.



Photo by Jennifer Logue

Chamber at noon

State Rep. Cyndi Stevenson updated local business and community leaders on legislative matters last week, when the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce met for its monthly Chamber at Noon event.

Held on the deck of the new Aqua Grill restaurant in Sawgrass Village, the event gave attendees an opportunity to learn about recent legislative issues and accomplishments that impact St. Johns County residents.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Sandra Lief and Robin Giddens-Sheppard



Bob Porter, Felicia Cox, Lin Jones, Sandra Ingram and state Rep. Cyndi Stevenson



Christin Adams and Katie Ghiotto



Dave Danzeisen, Board Chair PVB Division

Chamber golf classic and seasonal blend June 8

Registration is now open for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Golf Classic.

To be held June 8 at the Slammer & Squire, 2 World Golf Place in St. Augustine, the tournament will begin at 12:30 p.m. with a shotgun start, and will feature course games such as hole in one, closest to the pin, longest drive and best-dressed golfers. Following the tournament, an awards reception featuring heavy hors d'oeuvres will be held in conjunction with the cham-

ber's Seasonal Blend (5 to 7 p.m. at the Slammer & Squire Clubhouse).

Registration for the golf tournament is \$150 per golfer or \$500 per foursome, and includes a box lunch, golfer's bag and admission to the Seasonal Blend and awards reception. Admission to the Seasonal Blend only is \$15 for chamber members, \$20 non-members and includes hors d'oeuvres and drink tickets.

To register, visit event.stjohnscountychamber.com.

Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center

The Adult Day Care Center is now open at the new Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center, located at 1048 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Designed as an activity center for adults who are living at home with a caregiver and require special supervision, adult day care allows individuals

an opportunity to expand their environment and meet new friends while providing respite time for the caregiver.

The center specializes in but is not limited to the care of those with memory loss due to stroke, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's, or other physical changes that require therapeutic assistance. Call (904) 297-0061 for more information.

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Annual luncheon honors community nonagenarians, centenarians

By Carrie Resch

Thankful, grateful and blessed – all three were common themes among the nonagenarians and centenarians honored at the annual St. Johns County Council on Aging Centenarians Luncheon, held at The Players Community Senior Center May 18.

This year's honorees included a group of 17 nonagenarians – people aged 90 to 99 – and five centenarian honorees aged 100 and over. Sponsored by the Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary, the event featured Rotarian and COA Board Member Bruce Barber as master of ceremonies.

Barber opened by mentioning a few facts from 1916 – that World War I was the main news topic and the “it” star of the time was Charlie Chaplin.

The luncheon was served by the Landrum Middle School IMPACT club.

“This is their favorite event all year,” said Cherie Anthony, Landrum Middle School dean of students and IMPACT club sponsor. Of the 12 middle schoolers volunteering for the event, two also volunteered at last year's luncheon. Their presence was appropriate to another topic of discussion at the luncheon – that of bridging the gap between youth and seniors.

Ponte Vedra Baptist Church Pastor Bob Loy, who delivered the invocation, remarked that the future is in the hands of senior adults and with that comes the responsibility to impart their wisdom to younger generations.

“Tell your story – tell it to younger generations over and over again,” Loy said. “The younger generation, they need to hear what you have to say.”

One by one, the honorees were recognized and given a chance to share their words of wisdom or their secrets to staying young.

Ninety-five-year-old Arne Nielsen disclosed that his secret to staying youthful was singing every morning when he wakes up. He then serenaded the assembly and was given a resolute round of applause for his performance.

His 93-year-old wife, Marilyn Nielsen, was also one of the honorees.



Centenarian honoree Minna Barnes, 102.

“Arne and I are blessed,” she said. “We’re the only couple here over 90.”

Music has been an important factor in 95-year-old Ruth Conley's life as well.

“My mother was a professional musician, so I've been fortunate enough to grow up with the most wonderful music in the world,” she said, and with that, she also recognized the talent of pianist Don Miniard, who played at the luncheon.

Many of the honorees were not native to Florida, and not all were long-time residents of Ponte Vedra either, but 100-year-old Hana Delli-Gatti drew special recognition for being one of the first residents of the Ponte Vedra Beach retirement community Vicar's Landing 26 years ago. She recalled watching the

community being built.

“I've lived in Vicar's Landing as long as they've been there,” she said. “I can remember them tying little red ribbons on the trees that they were going to cut down.”

Fellow centenarian honoree Marion Hayes, 102, owned a vacation home in Ponte Vedra with her husband, and when he died, she decided to remain here. She credits her family, which consists of three children, 10 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren, with keeping her young at heart.

“It's my family that has kept me going, and I'm delighted that I'm 102 and about to be 103,” Hayes said. “I'm happy, and that's the reason I keep going.”

Some of the centenarian honorees



Debbie Van Garmert, SJC COA administrative assistant, pins a rose on centenarian honoree, James Jackson, 100.



Centenarian honoree Marie Lund, 100, with Kate Davit, the youngest of Lund's seven children.

were well-established at The Players Community Senior Center, such as 102-year-old Minna Barnes, who has lived in Ponte Vedra since 1954.

Another centenarian honoree, Marie Lund, also utilizes the senior center. Over the past couple of years, she has been taking the senior center's tai chi class with class instructor Dennis Sheils.

The only male centenarian honoree was 100-year-old James Jackson, a World War II veteran who relocated to Ponte Vedra after his wife died and lives with his daughter and her family. Jackson has a very straightforward secret to his endurance.

“They say to me, what's your secret? It's no secret,” he said. “You just have to keep breathing!”

St. Johns County Council on Aging Executive Director Becky Yanni was impressed by the seniors' optimism, expressed by the common themes in how they perceive life.

“It's inspiring to talk to the people who have reached this kind of milestone,” Yanni said. “They really teach us how to live well – not just how to live long – but how to live well.”

“They're just enjoying life, and that's what we try to do at Council on Aging – provide opportunities for people to enjoy their life, every day that they have a life.”



Nonagenarian, Delia Danzig, 96, with Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra member, Ken Smith, and Danzig's daughter-in-law, Purdie Meissner.



Husband and wife nonagenarian honorees Marilyn Nielsen, 93, and Arne Nielsen, 95

Photos by Carrie Resch

Sheriff's Office holds active shooter seminar

By Carrie Resch

Run, hide, fight.

Those were the three steps that representatives from the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office recommended people take if ever confronted with an active-shooter situation.

The tips were part of a community seminar the sheriff's office presented May 23 at Valley Ridge Academy in Nocatee. The first in a series of such seminars to be held across the county, the seminar was presented by Deputy Mark M. Smith and Sgt. Brian Canova, who offered local residents specific strategies for responding to a shooter situation and focused on three main areas: education, physical and mental preparation, and survivability.

"What this does," Smith said, "it gives you

a fighting chance; it gives you information so that you can use that to increase your safety and survivability."

Strategies presented at the seminar included:

Run

Have an escape route in mind; be observant upon entry. When fleeing from an incident, keep your hands up and your fingers spread so that law enforcement officers can clearly see that you are not a threat. The scene will be chaotic and multiple law enforcement agencies will be responding to the call. Help others escape if possible. Do not attempt to move wounded people, or if you decide to do so, know that you are taking a calculated risk and your chances for becoming a target are greatly increased. Leave your belongings

behind when fleeing.

Hide

If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide that is out of the shooter's view and where danger is less likely to find you.

Seek out rooms with lockable doors including

offices, and storerooms. Blockade the door and silence cell phones. Dial 911 if the situation allows, remain calm and try to give as many details as you can. Be prepared to answer questions from the dispatcher. Answer law enforcement if they call out to you.

The presenters noted that it is reasonable to ask for proof from the person asking you to open the door to ensure they are in fact a law enforcement officer. In addition, take into account how much time has passed: The average time it takes law enforcement to arrive on scene is three minutes.

Fight

Fight only as a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger. Attempt to incapacitate the shooter and act with physical aggression. Throw items at the shooter or search for items that could be used as a weapon.

The next seminar will be held June 7 at 7 p.m. at Turning Point Church, 3500 SR-16, St. Augustine.

Sheriff David B. Shoar hopes the seminars will create a dialogue and get people thinking about what they would do if they were ever caught up in an active shooter incident.

"A lot of times," Shoar said, "simple decisions we make when we enter a place can mean the difference between whether we survive or whether we don't survive."

Photos by Carrie Resch

Seminar Takeaways

- The average shooting incident lasts 12 minutes. The average response time for law enforcement to arrive on scene is three minutes.
- Exercise your thoughts. Imagine "what if" scenarios and discuss with family and friends.
- People have a tendency to become desensitized in work or home environments or in large crowds. Always be alert, aware and understating of your always evolving circumstances, and learn to trust your instincts.
- 40 percent of active shooting incidents happen in businesses.
- The most common weapon active shooters use is a pistol.
- When calling 911, provide the location of active shooter, number of active shooters, physical description, type and number of weapons and number of potential victims. Be calm and be as specific as possible.



St. Johns County Sheriff David B. Shoar talks to a group of about 20 members of the community who turned out for the first in a series of active shooting incident seminars to be held throughout the county.



Deputy Mark M. Smith was the main presenter. Smith has over 30 years of experience as a federal agent with broad knowledge of active shooter training.

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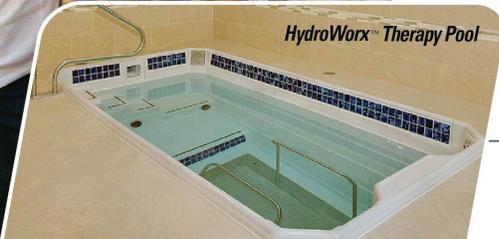
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Thursday, May 26	Friday, May 27	Saturday, May 28	Sunday, May 29
<p>Jacksonville Jazz Festival The 2016 Jacksonville Jazz Festival will be held May 26-29 in downtown Jacksonville. The festival will span 15 blocks and include three stages with live entertainment, local food, drinks and shopping, and performances by Snarky Puppy, Jon Batiste & Stacy Human, Yellowjackets and more. Admission is free. For more information, visit www.jacksonvillejazzfest.com.</p> <p>Military Appreciation Luncheon The Beaches Military Appreciation Luncheon will be held May 26 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Casa Marina Hotel and Restaurant, 691 N. First Street, Jacksonville Beach. The speaker will be RDML Mary Jackson, Commander, Navy Region Southeast. The cost is \$20 with advance online registration; \$25 at the door. For more information or to register for the event, visit www.myjaxchamber.com.</p> <p>Savvy Job Hunters Ministry Workshop "Make LinkedIn Work for You" will be presented by Candace Moody, vice president of communications for CareerSource Northeast Florida on May 26 from 9 a.m. to noon at Christ Episcopal Church, Parish Center Conference Room, 400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information or to sign up for the workshop, call (904) 285-7390 or email ccorritore@christepiscopalchurch.org or pottesen66@gmail.com.</p> <p>Adult Coloring Club The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library Adult Coloring Club will meet May 26 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd. Everyone is welcome, and supplies will be provided. For more information, call (904) 827-6950 or visit www.sjclps.org.</p> <p>MOSH After Dark: The History of Film Learn how film has evolved over the years with MOSH After Dark's May event, "The History of Film." The program is for adults ages 18 and up and will take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$8 for MOSH members; \$10 for non-members. MOSH is located at 1025 Museum Circle, Jacksonville. For more information, call (904) 396-MOSH or visit www.themosh.org to register.</p>	<p>14th Annual Sea Turtle Show The 14th annual Sea Turtle Show will take place May 26-July 4 at First Street Gallery, 216-B First St., Neptune Beach. The show will consist of local, regional and national artist's sea turtle-themed art with a portion of the proceeds going to the Beaches Sea Turtle Patrol. Sea Turtles created in glass, clay, jewelry, paintings, photography and metal will be on display and available for purchase. The opening reception will be held Friday May 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. Members of the Beaches Sea Turtle Patrol will be available to answer questions and discuss sea turtles. For more information, call (904) 241-6928 or visit www.firststreetgalleryart.com.</p> <p>Florida Folk Festival The 64th annual Florida Folk Festival will be held May 27-29 at Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park, located at 11016 Lillian Saunders Drive in White Springs, Florida. The festival, which celebrates Florida's cultural heritage, will feature performances by Arlo Guthrie, John McEuen, Ben Prestage, The WillowWacks and more. Opening ceremonies will begin at 6 p.m. on May 27. Advance tickets are \$25 per day or \$50 for the weekend for adults and \$30 per day or \$60 for the weekend at the gate. Children under six are admitted free. Tickets for children ages 6-16 are \$5 for the entire weekend. For more information, visit www.floridafolkfestival.com.</p> <p>Mental Health Recovery Support Free mental health support is available to the public facilitated by Georgia/Florida Certified Peer Specialist Whitney Bolin. Sessions are by appointment only Monday through Friday; call (770) 403-4991 or email whitneybat76@gmail.com. Bolin also facilitates a mental health recovery group at Flagler Hospital from 2 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday.</p> <p>Photography Show The 5th Annual Saint Augustine Camera Club's (SACC) juried member photography show will be on display in the Rotunda Gallery at the St. Johns County Administration Building, 500 Sebastian View, St. Augustine through June 8. The St. Johns County Administration Building is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.</p>	<p>Music at Grace: 'Americana' Music at Grace will present an organ recital by Shannon McKay entitled "Americana" Saturday May 28 at 5 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 8 Carrera St., St. Augustine. Admission is free; an offering will be collected.</p> <p>Memories of Love Marty Biathlon The Memories of Love Marty Biathlon 5K/25M ride, 50M ride and 1-mile fun run will be held May 28 at 7:30 a.m. in Nocatee. The event, which will also include family activities and a silent auction, raises funds and awareness for the Memories of Love Foundation. The foundation, founded in memory of Marty Gottlieb, to provide children with a parent battling a life-threatening illness "a chance to feel normal again" by sending their entire family on a 5-day Orlando vacation. Register online at www.1stplacesports.com.</p> <p>Friends of Jacksonville Animals benefit A Riverside block party to benefit Friends of Jacksonville Animals, Inc. will be held May 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The block party will take place on Stockton Street between Myra Street and College Street. Select tattoos from Inksmith & Rogers, 875 Stockton St., will be \$50 with all of the proceeds benefitting Friends of Jacksonville Animals. Adoptable dogs will be on site; adoptions will be \$20. The event will have pet friendly vendors, food and drink samples, and gift bags and vouchers for day-of adoptions.</p> <p>Wilson Phillips concert Wilson Phillips will perform with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra May 28 at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre. Gates open at 7 p.m.; show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$53.50 and will be available at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and St. Augustine Amphitheatre box offices, ticketmaster.com and all Ticketmaster outlets or by phone at (800) 745-3000. For more information, visit www.commonplacebooks.com or www.pvconcerthall.com. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre is located at 1340C A1A S., St. Augustine.</p>	<p>Memorial Weekend Luau The Memorial Weekend Luau will be held May 29 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Atlantic Beach Country Club, 1600 Selva Marina Drive, Atlantic Beach. The event will include live music on the pool deck, kids games and activities, and a Polynesian-inspired buffet. Tickets are \$20.95 for adults; \$12.95 for children ages 5-12. A portion of the ticket sales will go to the Whitney Laboratory Sea Turtle Hospital and the Beaches Sea Turtle Patrol. To RSVP, call (904) 379-2222 or email alex.bilby@atlanticbeachcountryclub.com.</p> <p>Practice with Purpose at Big Fish Yoga Practice with Purpose is an all-level yoga class offered on Sundays from 4 to 5 p.m. at Big Fish Power Yoga. The fee for the class is a \$5 cash donation that goes to the charity that Big Fish Power Yoga has selected for the quarter. Big Fish Yoga is located in the South Beach Regional Shopping Center in Jacksonville Beach at 3852 South Third St. For more info, call (904) 372-0601.</p> <p>Travel Training Program The Council on Aging's Travel Training program is designed to assist seniors in learning to ride the Sunshine Bus. Residents interested in expanding their transportation options or who would like to increase their confidence as a bus rider can receive assistance from trained volunteers in navigating routes, reading time tables and making transfers. Contact the mobility manager at the Council on Aging at (904) 315-6505 or email Katie.Arnold@karnold@stjohnscoa.com.</p> <p>Collection Tour Join the Summer Museum of Art and Gardens on Sundays for a guided tour of its permanent collection. The tour is free with the cost of admission. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.</p>

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Monday, May 30	Tuesday, May 31	Wednesday, June 1	Thursday, June 2
<p>Caregiver Support Group The Players Caregiver Support Group meets every Monday from noon to 1 p.m. at The Players Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Kimberly Weir of Heartland Hospice facilitates a weekly discussion of current concerns and issues of caregivers. For more information, call (904) 280-3233.</p> <p>Life Enrichment Group The Life Enrichment Group is a program designed for those with memory changes who like to stay active mentally, physically and socially while allowing caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. This program is offered weekdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ashford Court, 1700 The Greens Way in Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 568-8174, or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com.</p> <p>For The Love of Driving Volunteer drivers are needed to assist seniors in achieving their mobility goals in St. Johns County. Transportation needs range from trips to the grocery store and classes to spousal hospital visits or social activities. Contact the mobility manager at the Council on Aging, (904) 315-6505, or email Katie Arnold at karnold@stjohnscoa.com.</p> <p>Annual Activity Member Become an Annual Activity Member at The Players Community Senior Center. Membership includes discounts on fee-based classes, designated events and Coastal Travel along with complimentary participation in a wide variety of scheduled activities. Call Darlene Mahany at (904) 280-3233 for more information.</p> <p>Habitat for Humanity volunteers Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County is currently seeking qualified homeowners. Habitat does not give away homes for free. Instead, homeowners pay an affordable monthly mortgage payment and Habitat helps build them a simple, decent place to live. For more information on volunteering, donating or qualifying for a Habitat home, visit habitatstjohns.org.</p>	<p>Talk with a Doc: 'Think F.A.S.T!' Join neurologist, Dr. Carrigan, to learn about risk factors for stroke, how to prevent a stroke, and recognizing the signs on May 31 at noon at the Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA, 170 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra Beach. This free event is open to the community. Reserve your seat today at baptistjax.com/ymca or by calling (904) 202-5376.</p> <p>Palm Valley Farmers Market The Palm Valley Farmers Market takes place every Tuesday from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Sunset Rotary Club weekly meeting The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset meets Tuesdays from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Community leaders are welcome to attend. For more information, call Club President Ron Mott at (904) 460-7092 or email hojron@aol.com.</p> <p>SPLASH at PVPC Tuesday evenings, 7 to 8:30 p.m. the Singles Ministry SPLASH (Single People Loving and Serving Him) gather at Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church, 4510 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra: All single adults in the community are welcome for fellowship and discussions on applying the Bible in everyday life along with a light dinner provided by KC's Kitchen. Mission and social opportunities are also available. For more information, email julie@pvpc.com or call (904) 285-8225.</p> <p>Arbor Terrace Life Enrichment Group The Life Enrichment Group Day Program takes place every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra, 5125 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. The group is designed for those with memory changes who would like to stay active mentally, physically and socially. For more information, call (904) 497-4346 or visit www.at-pontevedra.com.</p>	<p>Healthy eating workshop Elevate Your Health by What You Eat, an interactive workshop on food and health will be held June 1 at 5:30 p.m. The workshop will be hosted by Sharyl Truty, MD and Elizabeth Sisselman RD, LDN at Balanced Physician Care, 115 Professional Drive, Suite 104, Ponte Vedra Beach. The cost to attend the workshop is \$10 in advance; \$20 at the door. Call (904) 930-4774 to RSVP. Visit www.balancedphysiciancare.com for more information.</p> <p>Music by the Sea concert series Music by the Sea takes place every Wednesday through Oct. 12, 2016 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the St. Augustine Beach Pier, 350 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine Beach. The annual summer music and food celebration features local bands and performers paired with local restaurants. On June 1, Take Cover will perform and the featured restaurant will be Seafood Kitchen. The concerts are free; guests can purchase a dinner plate for \$10 from the sponsoring restaurant. Food is served at 6 p.m. and the music starts at 7 p.m. Concert-goers can bring with them beach chairs and coolers. For more information, call (904) 347-8007 or visit www.augustine.com/event/music-sea.</p> <p>PV Professionals Networking Group The Ponte Vedra Professionals Networking Group meets the second, third and fourth Wednesday of the month from noon to 1 p.m. at Mulligans, 43 PGA Tour Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach. The first Wednesday of the month, the group hosts an after-work social mixer at various locations. For more information, call Dave at (904)248-9871, visit www.pvpng.com or email pontevedrapng@gmail.com.</p> <p>Ponte Vedra Toastmasters The Ponte Vedra Toastmasters Club offers opportunities for developing your leadership and communication skills. The group meets Wednesdays at The Players Community Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra. The meeting starts promptly at 7:30 a.m. Contact Lucy Reep at (904) 607-3695 or contact-5199@toastmastersclubs.org for more information.</p>	<p>Concerts in the Plaza The 2016 Concerts in the Plaza kicks off June 2 with a performance by The Driftwoods live at 7 p.m. at Plaza de la Constitución, 22 Cathedral Place, St. Augustine. The concerts continue every Thursday through Sept. 1. All concerts are free and attendees should bring lounge chairs for seating. Picnic dinners are popular, but alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the Plaza. For more information, call (904) 825-1004 during weekday office hours or visit www.concertsintheplaza.com.</p> <p>'Yoga Hosers' pre-release screening The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall presents filmmaker, actor, comedian Kevin Smith and a special pre-release screening of his brand new teen-comedy "Yoga Hosers" June 2. After the film screening, there will be a question and answer opportunity with Kevin Smith live in person. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$39. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach. Tickets will be available at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and St. Augustine Amphitheatre box offices, ticketmaster.com and all Ticketmaster outlets or by phone at (800) 745-3000. For more information, visit www.commonplacebooks.com or www.pvconcerthall.com.</p> <p>Ponte Vedra Republican Club meeting The Ponte Vedra Republican Club June lunch meeting will be held June 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sawgrass Golf Club, 10034 Golf Club Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach. The guest speaker will be Robert Weissert of Florida Tax-Watch. Lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m.; the cost of lunch is \$20. For more information, visit www.pvgop.com.</p> <p>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to carrie@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</p>

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Storyteller workshop set for June 4

The Florida Heritage Book Festival presents a daylong workshop "Finding the Storyteller in You" on Saturday, June 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Gamache-Koger Theatre at Flagler College, 50 Sevilla St., St. Augustine.

The workshop will be led by nationally recognized storyteller Connie Regan-Blake.

The cost to attend the workshop is \$85. The cost includes a box lunch. Register online at www.fhbookfest.com.

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You can also find dates for a series of upcoming sneak peek parties at Oak Bridge in the coming weeks. *See you at the Club!*



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AT *Sawgrass*

Beach community joins local artists, businesses for 30th annual Dancin' in the Street celebration

By Jasmine Marshall

The 30th annual Dancin' in the Street celebration brought live music, crafts and drinks to Beaches Town Center May 21.

The event attracted a crowd from across Jacksonville for a day of festivities featuring two stage venues where performances took place through the evening. Bands such as Gov Club, Mojo Roux, The E Show and Kim Retequiz and the Black Cat Bones performed as visitors roamed paths from Ocean Boulevard to Third Street blocked off to facilitate vendors.

A Kids' Zone was also a main attraction, with six inflatable activities including towering slides, bouncy houses and a kids' rodeo, as well as a putt putt golf station, an obstacle challenge course and face painting.

In addition to the music and attractions, Dancin' in the Street serves as somewhat of an "artist alley" for local artists to display their wares. One vendor, artist Brian Barnard, returned for his fifth year with a booth for his own collection of fan art "prints" featuring the likes of beloved characters from popular animation and video games. For Barnard, the atmosphere is the biggest draw.

"I've been an exhibitor for a while and this event is just a lot of fun," he said. "It's a bit wilder than most craft fairs and super casual. There's always a big turnout and it's just a good time."

Other visitors, like Kaylee Roderiguez of Orange Park, welcomed the opportunity to support local businesses at the beaches while enjoying the day with friends. "Honestly it's a bigger deal than people realize," she said.

First established in 1986, Dancin' in the Street is now a spring festival staple at the beaches. Its 30th year saw an artist lineup of 16 artists and food and merchandise booths lining several streets. As the Beaches Town Center Agency's biggest fundraiser of the year, money generated from the event goes to the ongoing beautification projects aiming to improve the central business district of Atlantic and Neptune Beach.

For those who return religiously, the added benefit of helping the community only sweetens the deal.

"I've been coming every year since 2010," said Roderiguez. "And if I can do my part to help Atlantic Beach by just having fun then I'm totally up for it."



Several colorful inflatable attractions beckon families to the Kids' Zone.

Photos by Jasmine Marshall



A crowd quickly forms throughout the town center as Dancin' in the Street gets into full swing.



Mojo Roux vocalist Gerald Roberts belts out a song on the Ocean Stage during Dancin' in the Street.



Vendor Cindy Butler of East Coast Tide Clocks with her creations.



Artist Brian Barnard poses in front of one of his pieces.

St. Johns County to offer free 'Reach the Beach' shuttle service during summer holiday weekends

St. Johns County will offer free shuttle service to popular beach locations on holiday weekends this summer.

Shuttle service will be offered to Mickler's Landing beach and the county ocean and fishing pier from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the following weekends:

- Memorial Day: May 28 – 30
- Independence Day: July 2 – 4
- Labor Day: September 3 – 5

The Mickler's shuttle will transport visitors between Cornerstone Park at 1046 A1A North to Mickler's Beachfront Park, which provides direct access to the beach. The pier shuttle will transport beach visitors between St. Augustine Beach City Hall, 2200 A1A South, and the pier parking lot, which provides direct access to pier amenities

and the beach. The shuttles will run every 20 minutes, with the final shuttles departing at 4 p.m.

Both shuttle service routes will be provided by the St. Johns County Council on Aging, Inc. and will be subject to inclement weather. Service updates will be provided via the St. Johns County "Reach the Beach" mobile website, Twitter feed and Facebook page. The goal of the shuttle service, county officials said, is to relieve congestion at the Mickler's Beachfront Park and the St. Johns County Ocean and Fishing Pier, and to give residents and visitors a more safe and convenient beach experience. For more information, visit www.sjcl.us/Beaches or call (904) 209-0331.

St. Johns County offices to be closed Memorial Day

All departments of the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners, St. Johns County administrative offices, library branches, and the St. Johns County Pet Center will be closed Monday May 30 in observance of Memorial Day. All offices and branches will resume standard business hours on

Tuesday, May 31.

Garbage, recycling and yard debris collection schedules will not be delayed. The Stratton Road solid waste scale house will remain open on the holiday during standard business hours; however, the Tillman Ridge solid waste scale house will be closed.

County Commissioner Bill McClure to run for Congress



McClure

St. Johns County Commissioner Bill McClure is running to replace retiring U.S. Rep. Ander Greshaw in the 4th congressional district.

McClure, a conservative businessman, cited his background in both government and the private sector as the right experience needed to represent the newly configured 4th congressional district, which includes portions of Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties.

"Congress is broken – and electing the same kind of career politicians who are focused on what's politically correct won't fix it," McClure said. "That's why we need someone who's done more than just run for re-election. We need someone with a proven record in the private sector of tackling tough problems, speaking their mind and creating jobs to build a bright future for our children and grandchildren."

McClure noted that as a St. Johns County commissioner, he demonstrated his conservative principles by casting the deciding vote against a referendum to increase the sales tax. During his tenure as a commissioner, he said, St. Johns County has added more than 11,000 new jobs and improved its bond rating from AA- to AA+.

"I've shown what you can accomplish when you apply conservative principles to government," he said. "Whether it's securing our borders, ending the threat of radical Islamic terrorism or making our economy grow again, another career politician won't get the job done. I'm a businessman who will make the right decisions, even if they are politically incorrect. Our nation's future is too important for anything else."

McClure's professional background includes serving as corporate vice president and institutional investor for E.F. Hutton. He has also helped start three health care IT firms – examples, he said, of his first-hand experience in creating jobs.

"The last thing we need in Washington is another politician looking out for his next re-election or how to pay back one of his fat-cat lobbyist buddies," McClure said. "That's not how you do things in the real world. I'm running for Congress because I think we need a businessman, not another politician, to take on the serious challenges facing America."



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- LEGACY TRUST PONTE VEDRA BEACH HOME AND ART TOUR
- BEACHES REAL ESTATE MARKET REPORT
- MEMORIAL DAY BBQ TIPS FROM CHEF MICHAEL

Spring into summer with Sand Castles



By Janet Westling
Contributing
Editor

Welcome to our Spring into Summer issue of Sand Castles, a luxury, lifestyle and real estate seasonal section. Last year, we moved the spring issue to the end of May and Memorial Day weekend, to accommodate a better timeline after the THE PLAYERS Championship.

It was a good move to relocate to a different slot. And we weren't the only ones making a move. A lot of moving happened in just one year in Ponte Vedra. In Sawgrass Village, for instance, several businesses and restaurants such as Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR and Aqua Grill relocated to a different location in the village, with new buildings and great design. Caffé Andiamo stayed in their same location, but had a beautiful redesign. Pineapple Post and Peterbrooke moved into Sawgrass Village from their previous locations and joined new businesses like J Turner & Co and John Craig on Main Street in the village.

It is exciting to see the growth, expansion and stunning renovation of Sawgrass Village, which many have described as Ponte Vedra's own "Town Square." We live in a beautiful resort community surrounded by unique neighborhoods that border the Intra-

coastal to the ocean and in between.

Several of these neighborhoods are featured in this issue, with stories that are contributed by eight local real estate agents. They represent some of our area's best! Katie Hughes from Re/Max Specialists takes us to River Marsh and a beautiful home on the Ponte Vedra River that leads to the Guana. Lisa Barton from Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR takes us to an amazing luxury estate home on the Intracoastal in the Harbour of Marsh landing that is like no other! Linda Ostoski of Watson Realty takes us to Palm Valley to an exclusive Mediterranean resort home on the Intracoastal. Michelle Floyd of Marsh Landing Realty takes us to Marsh Landing and a fabulous home on the Harbour and a jewel of luxury amid a private, gated golf and marina community.

If you aren't familiar with Marsh Landing's Found Forest, you can learn all about this unique estate community from Lurah Patrick of Berkshire Hathaway, HSFNR. Luxury living on Intra-coastal at "Watersedge" by Clare Berry of Berry & Co. real estate features a one-of-a-kind hidden waterfront development.

Mother and daughter duo Janet Westling and Allison Ferebee of Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR listed 2 Turnberry Pointe Way – a completely renovated stunning coastal contemporary located on the 13th green and water in Marsh

Landing. Allison recently began a new career in real estate when she joined Berkshire Hathaway earlier this month, bringing skills learned in the real estate support industry with her.

Barbara Maple writes in "Timeless Elegance" about a magnificent ocean-front estate home amid a lush setting of ocean, shoreline, tropical flora and marine life, with indoor and outdoor entertaining areas.

Staging is an important item to consider when selling your home. Elaine Caldwell, owner and designer of Luxury for Less, inspires us with her article on the benefits of home staging to achieve the best price for one of your greatest investments.

"Market Watch" by Carmen Edwards, broker with Re/Max Specialists, gives us a Beaches real estate update, with statistics that highlight our local market and answers the question, "Is it the right time to buy or sell?"

It is definitely time for a cruise! "Winter is over, summer has not fully begun. This is a great time for a refreshing and relaxing cruise," according to travel agent Susan Hudson and you can read all about it in her story.

Jennifer Logue interviews the local entrepreneur who recently launched J Turner & Co, a Florida-based furniture and lighting boutique in Sawgrass Village.

Nonprofits play a huge role in our

area and have a great impact on our community. The Cultural Center of Ponte Vedra Beach held its 7th annual home tour in April. You can read about the success of the tour from Landrum student Colette Belzer. Emmy Award-winning journalist Nick Zaccardi, meanwhile, has something in common with Colette. He got his start writing articles as a Nease student for the Ponte Vedra Recorder. Now 13 years later, he writes about his beginnings as a writer in Ponte Vedra and explains how those freelance assignments laid the foundation for his career. This is a wonderful story that I hope will inspire many students!

You might also be inspired to cook this Memorial Day weekend by Sawgrass Country Club Executive Chef Michael Ayres as he shares his food memories or his "Bites of Passage," as he recalls a great recipe taught by his dad during a Memorial Day celebration in 1995.

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

Janet Westling, Realtor

Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR
Sand Castles creator and contributing editor
www.janetwestling.com

MARKET WATCH

First Coast/Beaches residential real estate report

By Carmen Edwards
Managing Broker, RE/MAX Specialists
Ponte Vedra

How's the market? Well, that is a complex question mainly because our market is so varied. You can have statistics on average sale price that are accurate but also a bit misleading, as one very high-end sale can skew the curve. Then you have the pseudo-experts rendering opinions based on data that may not be applicable to your exact area. Bottom line, when deciding to buy or sell, the best way to find the accurate value of a property is with a specific comparative market analysis, which examines properties in close geographic proximity as well as similar style and size.

The other key to knowing when to buy or sell is not reacting to misinformation. There have been many articles, blogs and news stories that could make you question your intentions to buy or sell property. I've seen many pieces stating that home sales are negatively impacted during election years, yet the "data" that supports that assertion shows only a tiny fluctuation.

A paper published in the British Journal of Political Science used data to look at housing sales. They found that in election years, homes sales declined between two-tenths and three-tenths of a percent. Two-tenths of a percent? Hmmm. That

does not seem significant enough to generate this much negative press.

With all of that being clarified, let's dive into what the stats do say for the Beaches. We are comparing April 2015 to April 2016. Remember, take these with a proverbial grain of salt, as they are for general areas and as we all know beach property can change from one block to the next.

South Ponte Vedra Beach saw days on market decrease from 161 to 141 and the average sale price increase from \$516,775 to \$584,876 with the average list price increasing by about \$50,000.

In the North Ponte Vedra region, days on market increased slightly from 109 to 115 but average sale price took a huge jump from \$508,238 to \$933,103 and average list price was up by roughly \$400,000.

Jacksonville Beach has taken a slight hit in days on market and average sale price, with 112 days on market compared to 97 and a sales price of \$374,460, down from \$382,277. Average list price, however, increased from \$507,246 to \$625,340.

On the other hand, Neptune Beach jumped from an average list price of \$547,945 to \$666,578 with an average sale price of \$407,600 over \$305,337. Days on market also dropped from 92 to 77.

Then we have Atlantic Beach, where things

went up across the board. Average list price soared from \$591,375 to \$773,197, with average sale price rising from \$265,993 to \$479,449. Days on market dropped from 119 to 83.

So, what does this all mean? Is it the right time to sell? Is it the right time to buy? Yes and yes... IF...it works for you. That's really the nuts and bolts of it.

There are many markets where across-the-board stats can apply, but Jacksonville is not one of those and most especially the Beaches are not in that category, either. You have to get specific information on a specific property to make a good decision about buying or selling. Don't trust online estimates, don't rely on news stories or the price for which a friend bought or sold their home. Talk to a professional and have a licensed Realtor® help you navigate the real estate market. It's the safest and surest way to protect a very important part of your financial life.

Carmen B. Edwards

Managing Broker
RE/MAX Specialists Ponte Vedra
238 Canal Blvd. Suite 4
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

**** Statistics from Northeast Florida MLS Market Summary Reports by Area-Residential April 2015 compared to April 2016. All information deemed reliable but not guaranteed. Each RE/MAX office is independently owned and operated.**

HomeServices of America® acquires Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

HomeServices of America, the country's second-largest residential real estate brokerage company, has acquired Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty. Terms of the acquisition were not disclosed.

Headquartered in northeast Florida for nearly 28 years, Florida Network Realty has more than 330 sales associates in eight offices. In 2015, Florida Network Realty ranked second in market share by sales volume and closed more than 3,000 units and nearly \$900 million in volume.

Founded in 1988 by Linda Sherrer, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty prides itself on providing its agents and clients with the highest level of customer service, expertise, and resources. Sherrer, president and CEO, is known for her industry expertise and leadership as well as her extensive civic and philanthropic activities. Sherrer, together with executive vice president Christy Budnick, will continue to lead Florida Network Realty's strategic planning and growth initiatives as well as manage the company's day-to-day operations.

"We are proud to be part of the HomeServices of America family," said Sherrer. "We are joining an organization known for its strength and stability and one that supports our high standards of service and integrity. This transaction is a win/win for our clients, agents, and employees."

HomeServices Chairman and CEO Ron Peltier said, "Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty is a premier company with an exceptional reputation. This transaction aligns with our goal of acquiring distinguished companies that share the common goal of providing an exceptional consumer experience."

The acquisition expands HomeServices' presence in Florida, which includes Miami-based Esslinger,



Christy Budnick and Linda Sherrer



Home Services of America CEO Robert Moline, Budnick, Sherrer, Peltier

Wooten and Maxwell Realty International, which HomeServices acquired in 2003. With this transaction, HomeServices has nearly 27,000 real estate professionals operating in nearly 500

offices across 27 states. In 2015, the company's associates facilitated more than \$79 billion in residential real estate sales and more than 229,000 transactions.

"We are excited to be in Jacksonville," Peltier said, "and are looking forward to having Linda, Christy, and their team join the HomeServices family."

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Private Island Enclave in Ponte Vedra Beach

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By Janet Westling
Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR

Step inside 2 Turnberry Pointe Way and experience a unique and warm custom-designed Arthur Rutenberg home that is great for entertaining family and friends.

This pool home has 4 bedrooms, and 3 1/2 bathrooms, with more than 4,500 square feet of beautiful appointments throughout.

Spectacular views of the 13th green of the Marsh Landing Golf Course and sweeping vistas of the lake await you as you enter the spacious, open and peaceful light-filled living space. You are connected to the outside with a wall of windows and stunning views amid a country club setting.

The beautifully redesigned living

room has an exquisite Italian grey stacked stone floor-to-ceiling fireplace that is complemented by the floors with hues of grey and walnut. A wet bar adjacent to the fireplace has leather finished granite, cool glass tiles and crisp white cabinets – all redone to the specifications of owner Geoff Smith.

The former CEO of the English firm Norwood Interiors, Smith has brought his expertise in kitchen and bathroom design to the United States and to 2 Turnberry Pointe Way. For more than 25 years, Norwood Interiors created kitchen and bathrooms and represented the prestigious Poggenpohl and Siematic brands, installing 25 kitchens a week and employing more than 100 people. Norwood's was recognized

as the master retailer for kitchens two years in a row at the KBB Review Awards in England.

The completely renovated kitchen in beautiful Ponte Vedra Beach boasts one of the largest granite islands, and opens to the atrium dining room and family room. With abundant light and expansive views the kitchen, dining and family room offer an open-concept design that features custom cabinets, stainless steel appliances, quartz counters and designer subway tile backsplash.

The atrium dining room adjacent

to the large family room has natural sunlight and indoor/outdoor movement that is open to the kitchen and family room and overlooks the pool on one side and the garden on the other. The spacious family room, with more than 580 square feet of living space, has vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, recessed lighting, a ceiling fan, and a floor-to-ceiling gas brick fireplace. The wall of windows that brings the outdoor living space inside can slide open

TURNBERRY continues on Page 21

2 TURNBERRY POINTE WAY



Estate homes open doors for tour



By Colette Belzer
Landrum Middle School student

A strong turnout made this year's 7th annual Legacy Trust Ponte Vedra Beach Home and Art Tour a major fundraising success for the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach.

Development Director Toni Boudreaux said she was quite pleased and that the Legacy Trust Home Tour raised more than \$44,000 – a 21 percent increase over 2015 and the largest-grossing tour since 2010.

As Boudreaux explained, the weather was wonderful for the tour and there was plenty of positive feedback on the tour's five homes, each of which was topped off with its own unique touch.

Three of the homes were on Ponte Vedra Beach Blvd., another in The Plantation and one in Jacksonville Beach.

The festivities began the evening before the Home and Art Tour with the Sunset & Tapas tour. Guests were shuttled to two lovely homes that were not included on the home tour, where they visited with the homeowners and indulged in complimentary tapas-style hors d'oeuvres and wine.

Committee members for this year's Home and Art Tour included Chair Janet Westling, Honorary Chair Ed Waller, Design Consultant Paula Crist Lewis, Photographer Wally Sears and Editorial Consultant Andie Patton. All proceeds from the event go to the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, a 501 (c) non-profit organization.



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Shapiro Group, 2012.

Turnberry

Continued from 18

on a beautiful day to bring in the sounds of the spa and the symphony of the outdoors, revealing Florida living at its best!

The Ponte Vedra lifestyle in Marsh Landing Country Club was created in 1985 by property brothers Jerome and Paul Fletcher. The brothers placed a huge emphasis on the conservation and preservation of the environment that included tidal marshes, natural lakes, ponds and a wide variety of native trees.

They executed their plan beautifully and today, 30 years later, this pristine environment is host to wildlife such as ospreys, egrets, herons, deer and of course, residents!

Believed by many to be “the best neighborhood connecting Jacksonville to the Atlantic Ocean,” Marsh Landing Country Club features a private 18-hole golf course designed by Ed Seay of Arnold Palmer Course design. The par 72 course winds through some of the most scenic marshes and groves, connecting sport to nature in a nod to the biodiversity of the environment.

A beautiful enclosed lanai overlooks the heated pool and terraced private lawn, with sweeping vistas in a tranquil setting. Welcome home to 2 Turnberry Pointe Way, a completely renovated coastal contemporary in Marsh Landing staged by Janet Westling and J Turner & Co.

Listed by Janet Westling and Allison Ferebee. Represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty. Offered for \$1,120,000.



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Freelance assignments for Recorder laid foundation for career

By Nick Zaccardi
NBC SPORTS

When I began submitting freelance stories to my hometown newspaper, I never thought it would eventually lead me to the world's biggest sporting event.

I was a rising junior at Nease High School, without a driver's license, when I first wrote about the school's sports and athletes for the Recorder. Now, more than 13 years later, I'm preparing to cover my fourth Olympic Games as a journalist and my second for NBC Olympics.

NBC Olympics earned multiple sports Emmy Awards for its coverage of the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics, and I was blessed to be a part of that effort. But the foundations of my career – a career that I still consider very young – were set in Ponte Vedra.

I learned the tenets of journalism in John Blackford's outdoor pod classroom at Nease.

I learned on-the-job sports reporting lessons from the late Recorder Editor Grace Hayes and sports writer and photographer Jerry Norton.

Those early joys of visiting a local business, a restaurant or medical office, or even at school, and seeing my name in that newsprint will never be matched. Not at a worldwide entity such as NBC. Not at a worldwide event such as the Olympics.

My freelance work and that for Nease's student newspaper – the Vertical – proved key once I enrolled at the University of Florida in 2004. I already had a résumé and examples of my work to submit to the Gainesville Sun, which I worked for as a correspondent my first semester, and, later, the university's student paper – the Alligator.

No other incoming students at UF, one of the largest and most competitive universities in the nation, had those credentials.

I was blessed in high school to cross paths with a quarterback, who later also followed me to Florida. You may have heard of him. My professional relationship with Tim Tebow and his family, another happenstance born out of Ponte Vedra, accelerated my work in journalism while in college. No other media covering the University of Florida football team had the far-reaching knowledge of the most influential college football player of our time.

But something less optimal happened after I graduated Florida and completed two post-college internships.

I needed a job.

I was out of work and headed home to live with my parents in Ponte Vedra. This was August 2009.

Then, again, this community gave me a boost. I began writing for the Recorder again as a freelancer for the first time in several years. I was also fortunate to learn a new skill set working digitally for PGATour.com in Sawgrass. That allowed me to save for my ultimate ambition of covering an Olympics. I had secured a credential for the Vancouver

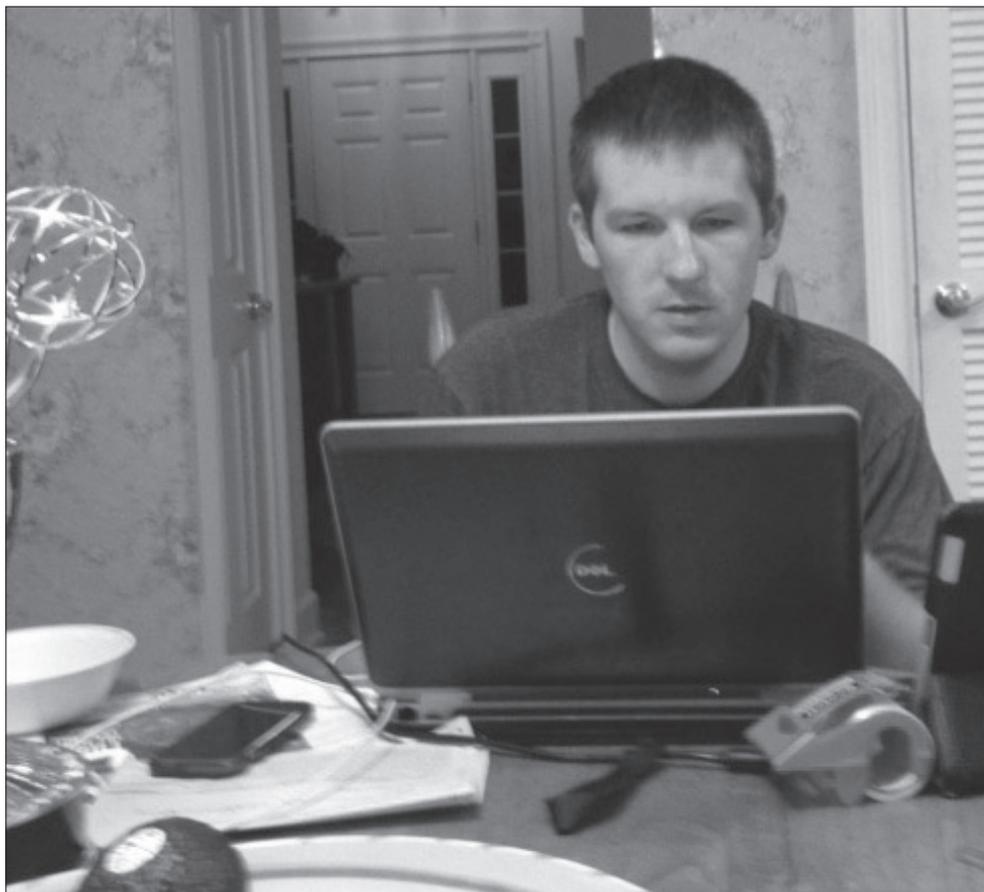
Winter Olympics as a freelancer in February 2010.

After I returned from Canada, I went back to work in Ponte Vedra. Two months later, I earned a position with Sports Illustrated in Atlanta, leaving home permanently for the first time.

After one Olympics with SI – the London 2012 Summer Olympics – I made another move to New York and then to work for NBC Sports as their lead Olympics writer.

My parents still live in Odom's Mill, my older sister off A1A and my younger brothers and sister in other Florida cities. So I visit home often, and every time I am reminded how what happened in high school 13 years ago, when my mom had to drive me to freelance assignments, laid the foundations for my career.

And how I never would have made it without this community.



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Waterfront magic

By Michelle Floyd
Marsh Landing Country Club Realty

When the owner of 104 Annapolis Lane went to his architect, he told him, "I want a home that when people walk in they go 'Holy cow!'"

He achieved that and more.

This home is a jewel of luxury amid a private, gated golf and marina community. Located on the Marsh Landing Harbour Island basin, the home offers direct access out to the deep, protected harbor of the Intracoastal Waterway. All the home sites are on an elevated promenade with direct access to the owners' boat slip. With both the lot and home elevated, the views are breathtaking.

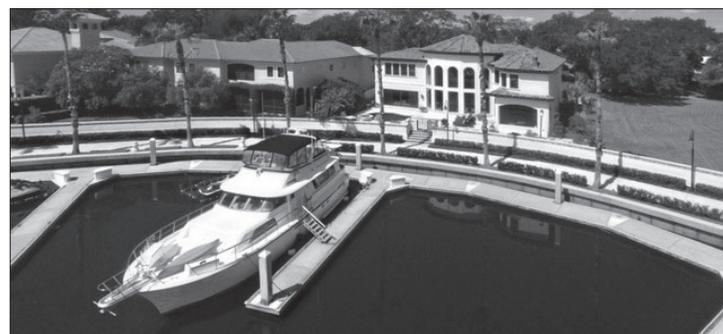
The entrance of the home, meanwhile, is beyond grand. The great room is literally a wall of two-story windows looking out to the harbor basin. Yachts of all shapes and sizes are docked in the back yard. The water glistens through the windows from the first and second floors. The great room includes an open dining room, with remote operating fireplace, driftwood table and views of the harbor. Open living at its finest, this home boasts a true gourmet kitchen with granite countertops and serving bar that opens to the dining area.

An exquisite Old World designed bar area offers a 1,200 bottle wine cellar,

which most restaurants would covet, including a wine de-corking area. The media room has a portal window and a window with a view of the wine cellar, as well as built-in book shelves, hardwood floors, sliding glass doors to the pool and fire pit, and motorized blinds.

The flow and furnishings are an entertainer's delight, with disappearing doors and remote-controlled phantom screens which lead to the patio, pool, fire pit and marina. A more secluded patio with hot tub and fountain lead out to a separate guest house or casita, which is off the main home with its own private entrance. It contains a bedroom and bunk room for grandchildren (each bunk has its very own built-in TV), a small kitchenette and bath.

If ever there were a luxurious and romantic master bedroom, this is it! Located on the second floor and accessed by a free-form staircase or elevator, the bedroom offers views of the harbor that rival Sardinia, Italy or Cannes. An onyx backlit fireplace, cove lighting, mechanical blinds, lush carpeting and gold moldings set the stage. The



bathroom has onyx tops, a rain shower with body sprayers, his and hers water closets with Toto toilets, and a closet the size of most great rooms!

Off the closet is a private yoga or massage room. If you ever thought of living in your master bedroom and bath, this will do it! Upstairs is a guest bedroom the owner calls "the Zen Room." The room faces the water with another wall of glass that gives the feel of being on a cruise ship, with nothing but water below. The bath is modeled after a Japanese bath, with dramatic black stone pebble walls and floors, a steam shower and an angled ceiling, enabling condensation to run downward.

Nothing has been spared in the design or building of the home, from

the travertine and wood flooring to the variations in countertops from granite to onyx to stone.

Walk outside and your view is of your private 50-foot dock that will accommodate that special vessel. Lounging at the free-form, saltwater pool is magnificent. To be able to live and play in one area is a real slice of heaven.

Currently furnished with art from all over the world, the home features museum-quality glass and metal art set against the stunning backdrop of the water through walls of glass. This is truly a magical place to live and entertain!

Represented by Marsh Landing Country Club Realty. Listed by Michelle Floyd and Ci Ci Anderson and offered for \$2,450,000.

MARSH LANDING'S HARBOUR ISLAND

Memorial Day memories serve up succulent recipes

By Chef Michael Ayres
Sawgrass Country Club
Executive Chef

Being a professional chef, the question I'm most often asked is, "So, what's your specialty?"

I always answer by telling people that it is way too difficult a question to ask. It's akin to asking a music lover, "What's your favorite song?" The possibilities are infinite. Most chefs I know can't tell you what they made for specials in the past two months. We work and live in the moment. So much of what we are doing is cutting-edge flavors and techniques, produce at the peak of freshness, seasonal availability and fast-paced work environments. Life moves fast in the hectic pace of a food establishment. It's easy to get lost in the shuffle, and forget about dishes you once often made.

But oddly enough, most chefs can recall with great detail the dishes and foods that made up their path to becoming professionals – usually family favorites that stay with you for a lifetime. I call them "Bites of Passage."

I'm a sucker for nostalgia, and for my money, nothing does the trick quite like food that makes a lasting impression on you.

May 29, 1985 – Memorial Day – I was introduced to the art of dry rubbed and smoked pork shoulder by my father. He had been tooling around with this recipe for a couple years at this point and had it down pat. The blue-grey smoke from oak wood, the undeniable smell of the rub, the black bark that holds together a hunk of porcine nirvana – I have never been the same since.

Every pulled-pork sandwich that followed that day gets compared to that one. I can't have BBQ without thinking about my Dad. Even if I run across pedestrian pulled pork, I ponder what he would say – "needs more cayenne in the rub" or "used too much apple wood." I think that's what is so great about food nostalgia. For me, it's all about the lasting memories that are made with food, family, and friends. Here are some recipes for a Memorial Day feast that hopefully can make some lasting impressions on your brood.

CAROLINA BBQ SAUCE

- ½ cup white vinegar
- ½ cup cider vinegar
- ½ tablespoon sugar
- ½ tablespoon crushed red pepper flakes
- ½ tablespoon Tabasco sauce
- Salt and freshly cracked black pepper to taste

Just mix it up and reserve. (I like to put mine in a little squirt bottle or salad dressing cruet.) Serve it with the following: coleslaw, grill-roasted corn brushed with maple syrup and watermelon dressed with lime zest and honey.



PULLED-PORK SANDWICHES

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 4 tablespoons paprika | 4 tablespoons brown sugar |
| 2 tablespoons kosher salt | 2 tablespoons cracked black pepper |
| 2 tablespoons ground cumin | 2 tablespoons chili powder |
| 2 tablespoons dry mustard | 2 tablespoons ground coriander |
| 1 tablespoon cayenne pepper | 1 pork butt, 5 to 6 pounds |

You can either start this recipe the night before for lunch if you have a cabinet smoker or a fuel feeder, or early in the a.m. for dinner. On a grill with a cover, build a small fire to one side, with hardwood charcoal for indirect cooking.

Mix dry ingredients together in bowl. Apply this rub to pork butt with your hands, covering meat entirely. When flames begin to die down, leaving flickering coals, place meat on grill on the side without fire. Do not let flames touch meat at any time. Cover grill, vent slightly and cook, checking fire every 30 minutes or so, and adding a bit more fuel as necessary, for about 8 to 10 hours (your patience will be rewarded) until meat is soft to the touch. Remove meat from grill with tongs, let rest 10 minutes and pull meat apart with tongs. Serve on cheap hamburger buns (important), drizzled with sauce and a little pillow of coleslaw.

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Timeless elegance highlights oceanfront home

By Barbara Maple
Watson Realty Corp.

A rare find with 223 feet of ocean frontage, this magnificent estate home rises over the dunes on a grand 2 ½ acres. The timeless design features showcase the lush setting of ocean shoreline, tropical flora, marine life, and outdoor and indoor entertaining areas. Meticulously maintained, it offers 10,284 heated/cooled square feet, 6 bedrooms with en suites, a pool bath, upstairs and downstairs powder rooms and plenty of gathering spaces – plus a four-car garage and circular motor court!

The two-story foyer with 7-foot crystal chandelier and detailed crown molding opens through Roman columns to a generous formal living room with inviting ocean views, 12-foot ceilings and gas fireplace. A separate bar area leads to a stunning great room and open, gourmet kitchen with everything needed to fashion a world

class feast.

The downstairs is rounded out with a custom-designed craft room overlooking the pool, freehand artist painted dining room, cherry wood-paneled office, master retreat, guest suite and laundry. Upstairs features four more bedrooms, a game room with bar area and additional family room. Wrap-around balconies, covered and open terraces and a private beach walkover take advantage of the fabulous oceanfront location.

The most eye-catching feature of the home is the lavish poolside oasis created with 800,000 pounds of limestone boulders to support a 45-foot jetted slide, waterfall and cave hideaway for the toys. A diving board, spa, summer kitchen and pool deck for sunning or sipping margaritas offer the ultimate resort getaway right at home.

And the updated technology is a treat! Ports for iPod Touches are installed in the walls of many rooms

throughout the home. They are programmed to control surround sound from anywhere in the house but can be programmed for many other functions. And with minimum equipment and wiring changes, almost endless functions can be expanded for amazing ease and use of the home that match today's technologically advanced generation.

This entire estate is truly a joy to be

in – from the inviting feel of timeless design features, to the multi-functional entertaining or family areas, to the advantageous beach location. And the Ponte Vedra Beach location, with A-rated schools and a plethora of activities, creates the perfect environment for raising a family. What a great combination!

This home is represented by Watson Realty Corp, listed with Barbara Maple.



OCEAN FRONTAGE

Allison Ferebee joins Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices FNR



FEREBEE

Allison Ferebee has joined the Ponte Vedra office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty.

Ferebee brings several years of experience in the administrative aspects of the real estate industry to her new role as Realtor. With expertise in coordinating

closings, scheduling, planning, photography and social media, she will assist clients through the real estate home buying and selling process from start to finish.

"I have great expectations for Allison," said Kevin Waugaman, broker/manager of the Ponte

Vedra office. "Her drive and commitment to excellence are right in line with the service we provide our clients at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices FNR."

A Ponte Vedra Beach resident since 1980, Ferebee graduated from Jacksonville Country Day School and The Bolles School,

where she was a cheerleader. She holds a degree in communications from the University of Georgia, where she met her husband, Chris Ferebee, an assistant state attorney in St. Augustine. They are the parents of two children, who attend Palmer Catholic Academy.

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Amenities make cruising a perfect vacation

By **Susan Hudson**
Williamsburg Travel

Winter is over, summer has not fully begun. This is a great time for a refreshing and relaxing cruise. It

is why so many people who take a cruise return home raving!

Objections to taking a cruise range from a fear of claustrophobia to a fear of seasickness.

The cruise industry has come a

long way since its inception and has almost completely eradicated both issues – ships are now built with megastabilizers and contain the latest meteorological technology, giving them the ability to forecast significant storm locations and alter routes when necessary.

Cruise ships, in fact, have much to offer vacationers – water slides, rock climbing, putting greens, state-of-the-art fitness centers, spas, cultural lectures, musical extravaganzas, gambling, multiple restaurants, and the list goes on...

A cruise is perfect for just about everyone. There are special cruises for singles, couples and families. Couples from honeymooners to senior citizens can find activities on board ships geared to their special interests, from bridge tournaments to lectures. Families love cruises because of all of the varied activities offered in each age group. Carnival, Royal Caribbean and Azamara cruise

lines make for a great family-oriented vacation that is fun for all ages.

Windjammer, meanwhile, is an ideal cruise line for singles and young-at-heart adventurers. For the empty nesters, the river cruises along the Rhine and Danube are very enjoyable getaways. For the more adventurous, there are river cruises on the Yangtze or Mekong Rivers.

One of my favorite river cruises is on the Russian Volga. Some of the more high-end, luxury cruise lines – such as Crystal, Seabourn, Oceania, Silversea and my favorite, Regent – are totally all-inclusive with alcohol, tips and in some instances shore excursions included in the cost. Once you board, the ship's crew sees to your every need.

Cruises are available for all budgets and planning one is easy. Step one is to talk to an experienced travel agent and give her (or him) your wish list. The travel agent will take it from there.



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Custom River Marsh home boasts views, beach access

By Katie Hughes
RE/MAX Specialists

Walk or bike to the Atlantic Ocean in Ponte Vedra Beach from this stunning home situated on the best lake lot in River Marsh. The private, gated community of River Marsh is located along Lake Ponte Vedra, which is a Guana River Marsh Aquatic Preserve. Nature enthusiasts will revel in the wide variety of resident and migratory wildlife. The community has a private kayak launch so that residents can enjoy boating on Lake Ponte Vedra and its beautiful natural habitat.

Located on a 1/3 acre lakefront lot with sweeping oak trees, 112 River Marsh features a large circular driveway and inviting curb appeal. The custom-built home has more than 3,600 square feet, 5 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms plus a bonus room. The fifth bedroom has an additional living room and second master bathroom, offering the perfect mother/daughter/teen suite.

The flexible floor plan and multiple living/entertaining spaces make this a great home for a variety of families. In addition to the breathtaking views, the home is finished with designer details including real hardwood flooring, a chef's kitchen with maple glazed cabinets, granite countertops and GE Profile stainless-steel appliances. The adjoining breakfast nook

affords views of the lanai and community lake through an essentially ceiling-to-floor glass wall of triple sliding glass doors. As a focal point of the family room, the stacked stone gas fireplace adds to the ambience of the perfect view. Imagine your perfect evening on the lanai, with ocean breezes and the sounds of the Atlantic!

The first-floor expansive master suite opens to the lanai and offers wonderful views of the pond and fountain. The custom-finished master bathroom features wood cabinets, premium granite, a large garden tub and walk-in shower. In the evening, special lighting accentuates the water, fountain and surroundings of the home.

Everything about the home is completely custom, with beautifully designed bathrooms, extensive moldings, finished closets, extensive storage and central vacuum plus a large walk-in attic from the second floor. There is plenty of parking in the side entrance three-car garage and large circular driveway.

Location, location, location are the words for this home, as it is on the best lot in the community and the best location in Ponte Vedra Beach, with easy access to A1A, Mickler's Landing Beach and A-rated St. Johns County schools.

Represented by Re/Max Specialists. Listed by Katie Hughes. Offered for \$800,000.



112 RIVER MARSH DRIVE

Intracoastal living at its finest

By Clare Berry
Berry & Co. Real Estate

Across the Intracoastal Waterway bridge from Atlantic Beach, there is a one-of-a-kind, hidden-away waterfront development of just 20, four-story townhomes. Known as "Watersedge" because of its location on Harbortown Marina, Watersedge is the only such development in Northeast Florida.

This unique townhome is a 24/7 tropical retreat! Relaxation begins when you enter the private, lushly landscaped courtyard, which features a stunning oversized saltwater spa, lights, fountains and a fire pit. Inside, the vibe continues. Four stories of water views engage the senses. The private elevator is convenient as well as practical for delivering both items and people to the four floors.

The first level offers two spacious guest rooms, with either courtyard or marina views. The second floor is the public area, designed for easy entertaining. It includes the kitchen/family room/dining room, all with custom floor-to-ceiling cabinetry and high ceiling heights. The balcony and windows are on an axis to the Intracoastal, offering amazing views of the boats, birds and water sports. Quality is second to none, with top appliances and gorgeous granite.

The third floor is truly the owner's retreat: a spacious bedroom, private balcony overlooking the marina and Intracoastal Waterway, plus an office and stylish bathroom finished with beautiful granite and stone. Custom closets complete the suite. The fourth floor is finished as the ultimate getaway space: The owner designed a media room extraordinaire, including built-in seating, two screens, a sound system, custom



lighting and a bar with storage. The custom ceiling imitates the night sky, complete with constellations, while French doors open to a huge balcony with views to forever! The owner has a boat slip in the marina, available separately.

Plantation shutters, crown moldings, televisions, steam showers, a private two-car garage with epoxy flooring and wall-storage systems, home theatre with all the bells and whistles... In short, this is a real showplace, yet understated. This townhome will make your life easy: It's move-in ready and offers the ultimate in vacation-every-day lifestyle. The beach is so close, you'll enjoy sea breezes every day!

With world-class luxury touches, expansive water views, a bustling marina, and the adjoining Intracoastal Waterway teeming with sea turtles, dolphins and manatee, this opportunity is simply unmatched.

Represented by Berry & Co. and listed by Clare Berry. Offered for \$895,000.



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Home staging delivers sizable benefits



By Elaine Caldwell
Luxury for Less home staging

The time has finally arrived to sell your home. You are probably selling for one of the following reasons:

- The current home is either larger or smaller than you need
- You've been relocated; or
- You've simply decided that you don't

want the continued expense of a larger home you've had for years.

Whatever the reason, you are looking at selling one of the most expensive investments you have and you want to get the best price you possibly can for it. When real estate agents talk about staging your home, they are referring to decorating it in a way that best showcases the home's assets. Staging involves preparing a home for sale, with special emphasis on presentation and appearance.

It is important to realize that preparing a home for sale and staging a home are not always the same thing. As part of your pre-sales preparations, you might want to go through the house to make repairs where needed. This is an essential step, since potential buyers will see everything they consider "wrong" to be an opportunity to reduce their offering price.

The goal of home staging, then, is to improve the home's appearance in the eyes of a potential buyer, with the ultimate goal of selling it more quickly and for the highest possible price.

Just think of the homes you've looked at which were just okay and the homes that make you say, "Wow." Professional staging can turn your home into the "wow" home.

Staging a home:

- makes you think more as a buyer and less like a seller
- increases the likelihood of a sale
- forces you to do de-clutter and organize
- reduces the time on the market
- helps justify the selling price

Many buyers simply lack the ability to imagine how good the house can look. Staging can be fun because it can easily become a creative process you'll enjoy. Don't forget, however, to stage the outside of the house – an area that frequently gets overlooked. Curb appeal is exactly what it sounds like. It is the first impression a potential buyer gets of your home.

How much time and money should you spend on home staging? The number of improvements you make to your home prior to selling is only limited by imagination and budget. A good rule of thumb is you should only spend as much on home staging as needed to achieve the desired effort, which is to sell the home quickly and for the best price.

You may be able to do it yourself. If you can that's great. If you are uncertain, hire a professional who comes highly recommended.


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Store brings one-of-a-kind finds to Ponte Vedra Beach

By Jennifer Logue

Fabrics from Shanghai. Antiques from Europe. Teak from Indonesia.

Those are a just a few of the one-of-a-kind finds shoppers will discover while browsing at J Turner & Co. The new furniture, lighting and design store located in Sawgrass Village is the latest venture for Jennifer Turner and her husband, Mark, whose other businesses include Yobe Frozen Yogurt and V Pizza. Jennifer Turner said the idea to open a furniture store sprang from the couple's own efforts to furnish their new home in Ponte Vedra Beach, where they've lived for the past 18 months.

"We move about every year and when we do, we sell the furniture with the home we design," Turner said. "We were coming back from Atlanta shopping for our new home and we just said, 'We should open a furniture store.'"

Planning for the store began in earnest less than a year ago, and by early January J Turner &

Co was open for business. With a wide selection of furniture, lighting fixtures, rugs and other décor, the store is unique in the local marketplace, Turner said.

"We felt there was nowhere in this city that offered a central place where you could get all your furniture, lighting and rugs," she said. "We want to be that one-stop shop."

The store also reflects the eclectic and laid back style the Turners were hoping to create with the furnishings they offer. "We pride ourselves on being comfortable and relaxed," Turner said. "Jacksonville is kind of a traditional city and we wanted to steer away from that."

A key component to the store's eclectic feel, she added, comes from the time and effort the couple puts into scouring the globe for truly distinctive pieces.

"We do a lot of the importing ourselves," Turner said. "We've been going around the world, looking for those one-of-a-kind pieces you won't find anywhere else."

With staff members based in Shanghai and Indonesia, J Turner &

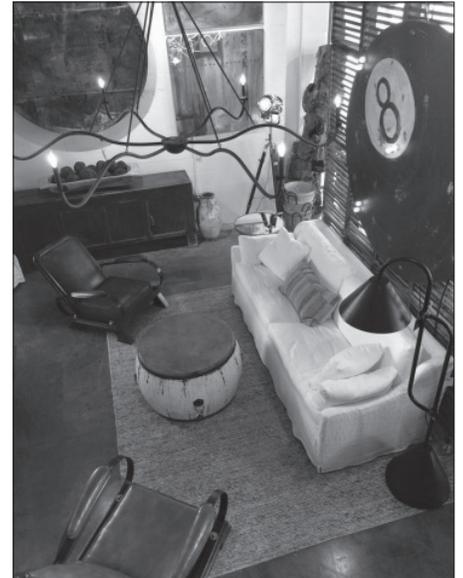
Co has a steady stream of unique merchandise from those countries.

"We have three containers coming from Indonesia in the next two months," Turner said. "A lot of our customers are waiting for their pieces, which they pre-ordered."

And for those eager shoppers who just can't wait for the latest merchandise to hit the floor of the Sawgrass Village store, J Turner & Co will make appointments for customers to visit its 8,000 square-foot warehouse off of Beach Blvd. so they can score that perfect piece.

Response to the store has been very positive, Turner said. In addition to strong sales and foot traffic, J Turner & Co has an active social media following on Facebook (www.facebook.com/jturnerandco) and Instagram.

"It's been great," said Turner, noting that the store does in-home design consultations and also has a designer trade program. "A lot of customers come in and tell us they feel like they're not in Jacksonville. They say, 'Wow! It's different – but we love it!'"



J TURNER & CO



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WELCOME TO CASA SERENA!
This fabulous 5/6 custom home was inspired by beautiful Spanish architecture and features stunning views of the Intracoastal waterway from almost every room and includes its own private floating dock in the backyard! \$2,495,000



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Tee off to the 13 green of the Marsh Landing Golf Course with rear views from almost every room in this "completely renovated coastal contemporary", waiting for the perfect family to call home. This pool home has 4BR, 3.5BA, with over 4500sf of beautiful appointments throughout. \$1,120,000



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Found Forest is an exclusive enclave of lush, wooded estate lots located in the heart of Marsh Landing Country Club. It is our privilege to offer 5-4 outstanding properties ranging from 4 to 10 acres. Each lot includes a Serenata Beach Club membership as well as membership to Marsh Landing Country Club with no initiation fee (applicable dues and fees apply). Picture yourself on vacation every day in your dream home.



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SAWGRASS POINT
Spacious home situated on a lagoon with a view of the 17th green of the Sawgrass TPC Valley Course. Living room fully equipped with built-in wetbar, ceiling to floor windows & sliding glass doors, & an abundance of natural sunlight with serene water to golf views. Major renovation in 2008 added 2nd floor with additional living space & large office/bonus room & 2 additional bedrooms. \$1,225,000



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Built to last with concrete masonry construction, this custom built 5 bedroom, 7 full, 2 half bath home has been expertly designed and made for entertaining. Includes a Chef's kitchen, home theater, game/billiard room, separate waterfront guest cottage, screened lanai with summer kitchen, pool/spa, and a 60' boat slip. 210' on the Intracoastal Waterway! \$4,295,000



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Own a 225' on the Intracoastal. This property can be subdivided into 3 75' lots offer at \$1,950,000. 2 Southern lots also being offered which are 150' x 400' for \$1,350,000



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Mediterranean resort home offers serenity

By Linda Ostoski
Watson Realty Corp.

Indulge in luxurious accommodations every day within this private and immaculate Mediterranean home. Tucked away in an undisturbed location of sought-after Ponte Vedra Beach, this home sits facing east towards S. Roscoe Blvd., as 120 feet of the serene Intracoastal Waterway flows to the west of the property.

Allow the soaring iron gates lining the property to sweep open as you and your chauffeur arrive up the distinguished drive into the oversized, tiled four-car garage.

Stretching to almost 10,000 square feet, this home offers countless ways to relax and entertain for any occasion in the large, open interior spaces. Make an astounding first impression with each guest as they enter past the wrought-iron front doors into the formal gathering room, illuminated with an abundance

of natural sunlight from the towering windows; or radiate welcoming warmth from the hand-carved, two-story Italian marble fireplace and centerpiece chandelier during the evening.

Unwind from your daily stress and the subtropical Floridian climate by descending into the pristine beach-entry pool and spa, complemented with exotic white sand, native palm trees, and customized ambient lighting for an exceptional private island setting. Feeling refreshed, lounge with the family around the large outdoor kitchen and bar, or embrace the soothing warmth given off from the outdoor gas fireplace when the coastal breeze of the Atlantic Ocean transcends the vast covered patio.

As the sun settles behind the views of the preserve, let your personal chef prepare the ingredients for a delectable dinner in your separate full-sized caterer's kitchen. For private events, invite a seasoned bartender to create the perfect social setting to mingle

around the formal bar. The kitchen's large island with a trough sink creates an excellent location for serving hors d'oeuvres to welcomed company prior to seating them before your finest china in the formal dining room. The three sinks, two dishwashers, Sub Zero refrigerator and freezer in the epicurean kitchen make it effortless to put away dinnerware after desserts.

Decide how to unwind with your friends and family after dinner. Saunter upstairs to the theater room for a private showing of the latest Hollywood film or catch up on your favorite primetime sitcom. For casual gatherings, begin a tournament in the billiards area, with access to the wet bar for late-night snacks. Retreat to the executive study for a calm space to dive back into your novel or challenge friends to a game of chess.

End the day in your breathtaking, deluxe master suite measuring approximately 2,000 square feet. De-stress in the private steam room of the master

bathroom, or relax in the sitting room with some imported wine chilled in your morning kitchen. The soaking Jacuzzi tub or Kohler shower wall jets of the walk-in shower can also help you cleanse from your stressful day. After deciding your sleep apparel from the 40-foot walk-in closet, jump into your California king bed with the amber hues from the fireplace easing you to slumber.

This absolutely one-of-a-kind property has 5 bedrooms, 7 full bathrooms, and 3 half bathrooms. For the tech-savvy homeowner, the lighting system, alarm system, music system, and HVAC system are all computerized for convenience. This home was also built with Pella windows and lysine foam insulation for energy efficiency.

This exclusive Mediterranean resort home at 181 S. Roscoe Blvd. is currently offered at \$2,900,000. For more information or for a private showing, contact Linda Ostoski with Watson Realty Corp.



INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY

SALE PRICE: \$2,495,000

Casa Serena offers waterfront retreat

By Lisa Barton
Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR

Welcome to Casa Serena – your retreat from the busy world. Located at 145 Bristol Place in Marsh Landing’s Harbour Island, this fabulous custom home was inspired by the beautiful architecture of Spain and features stunning views of the Intracoastal Waterway and Harbour Island’s lagoons from every room.

When you enter through the double solid-mahogany doors, you’ll appreciate the gracious foyer with a welcoming fountain, peky cypress ceilings and an elegant floating staircase with hand forged metal railing. The wonderful gourmet kitchen is perfect for family gatherings and big parties, with lovely granite counters, travertine floors, double ovens, a six-burner gas stove with pot filler, vegetables sink and huge prep island. The kitchen opens to the family room and casual dining area, all with gorgeous views of the water.

You’ll enjoy relaxing in the media room, with a custom-built entertainment center and beautiful bookcases. The huge study has ample work space, two built-in desks and, again, great views of the pool and Intracoastal Waterway. The downstairs guest suite is perfect for in-laws or friends, who’ll appreciate their own bathroom and private patio that overlooks the 60-foot floating dock and lagoon.

The master bedroom is a true oasis, with an elegant double-door entry,

cypress coffered ceilings, a custom-built entertainment center with a gas fireplace and sitting area. This master has two balconies – one overlooking the pool and Intracoastal Waterway and one that is private and great for sunbathing. The resort-like master bath offers a steam shower, large jetted tub, refrigerator and double vanities with custom cabinetry. The other three en suite bedrooms are spacious, each with its own balcony and lovely Intracoastal view.

In addition to the balconies, this home offers ample outdoor living spaces. The heated pool and spa are open and feature great views of the water. The courtyard entry offers plenty of parking and the four-car garages will accommodate a fleet of vehicles.

Harbour Island, “the boater’s paradise,” is located in Marsh Landing Golf & Country Club and is known for its luxurious homes and breath taking natural beauty. At the center of this beautiful community is a yacht basin with floating docks. Boat owners in Harbour Island enjoy direct, deep-water access to the Intracoastal Waterway, and Country Club members of Marsh Landing enjoy great amenities, including golf, dining, fitness and an active tennis program.

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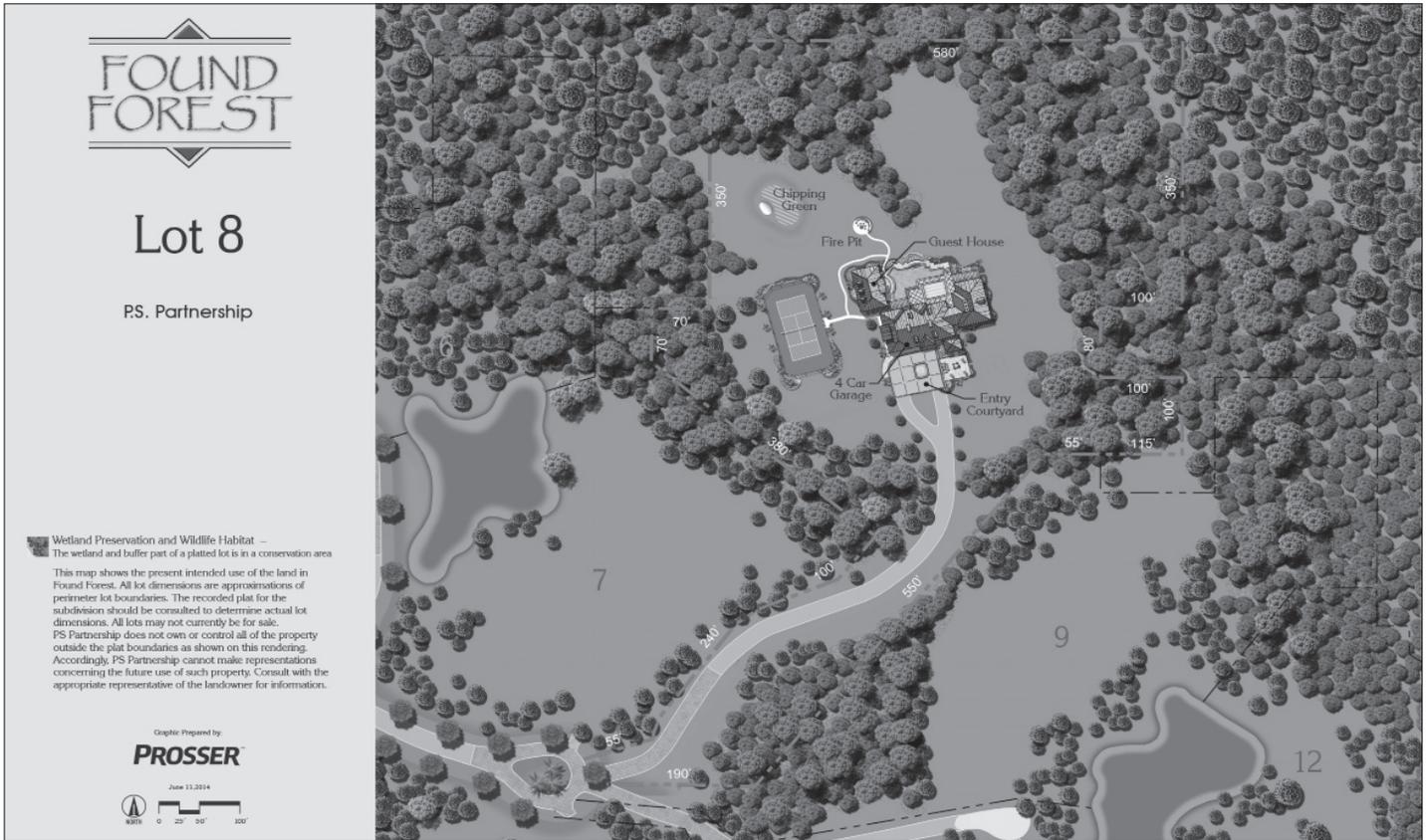
June 9, 2016 - Deadlines May 27th

August 11, 2016 - Deadlines July 29th

October 6, 2016 - Deadlines September 23rd

December 1, 2016 - Deadlines November 11th

TO BE INCLUDED CALL 904-285-8831



Estate lots available in Marsh Landing's Found Forest

By Lurah Patrick
Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR

Who says you can't have your cake and eat it, too? Found Forest in Marsh Landing Country Club is living proof that you can have the best of everything.

An exclusive enclave within Marsh Landing Country Club, Found Forest consists of 20 huge homes and home sites. The recent flurry of building activity in Found Forest has left only a few lots remaining. With huge lot sizes, ranging from just under 3 acres to a little over 10 acres, it's clear to see buyers are only limited by their imagination. Four lots in particular illustrate the possibilities available for buyers looking to build their dream estate.

Lots 8, 9, 10 and 17 are on the market, ranging from 4.75 acres to 10.08 acres each. These magnificent parcels offer ample uplands to build a magnificent estate or compound. Lush, old-growth forest provides unsurpassed privacy in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach. What's more, proximity to the beach, beach clubs, shopping, Mayo Clinic, JTB non-stop to downtown Jacksonville, and Jacksonville International Airport makes Found Forest's location ideal.

Priced from \$995,000 to \$1,800,000, these lots also include a Serenata Beach Club and Marsh Landing Country Club membership, with no initiation fee. Two of these lots even have water frontage

on the existing lakes. Nowhere else in Ponte Vedra Beach offers the ability to build a secluded getaway in a gated community with roving security, championship golf, tennis, exercise facilities, multiple playgrounds and access to a state-of-the-art upland marina.

If the prospect of building your dream home seems daunting, another Found Forest property may fit the bill: 315 Panther Chase Trail (Lot 11) is currently for sale, with 6 bedrooms, 6 full and 2 half baths. This 8,497 square-foot, all-brick home was built in 2015 on 2.75 acres. Highlights include a 600 square-foot covered cabana with outdoor dining, family room and a Wolf grill. The kitchen is a chef's dream, with two Sub Zero refrigerators, a La Cornue range, two dishwashers, marble countertops and Candle Light custom cabinetry. Wine lovers, meanwhile, will enjoy the 140-bottle Sub Zero wine refrigerator.

Du Chateau white oiled European oak floors, Cove crown molding and millwork, and Shaker-style interior doors are just a few examples of the attention to detail in the interior. The driveway pavers are reclaimed Chicago clay brick.

The estate also includes a detached guest house and a separate four-car garage with an in-law suite or office above. The home is offered furnished for \$3,490,000.

Whether you are looking to build your dream home or buy that perfect move-in ready property,

Found Forest is an opportunity not to be overlooked. This exclusive enclave of private, forested estates is really the first and last of its kind in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Found Forest Lots 8, 9, 10, and 17 are offered by Vanessa Solomon and Lurah Patrick, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, FNR. 315 Panther Chase Trail offered by Cici Anderson and Michelle Floyd, Marsh Landing Country Club Realty LLC



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St. Augustine Music Festival returning for its 10th season

The St. Augustine Music Festival (SAMF) will return for its 10th season this summer.

Billed as the U.S.A.'s largest free classical music festival, the six-concert series will take place over two weekends, June 16-18 and June 23-25. All concerts will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine located at 38 Cathedral Place.

Music by Mozart, Bach, Tchaikovsky, Copland, Beethoven and other classical composers are on the programs this year, along with the debut of a St. Augustine-inspired piece by Northeast Florida composer Bob Moore.

The St. Augustine Music Festival was founded in 2007 by Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra members Jorge A. Peña (viola) and Jin Kim-Peña (cello), in conjunction with participation and support of many other musicians and the local community.

"Our mission statement is to entertain, educate and elevate through music," said Peña, who serves as SAMF artistic director. "We want people to come and hear how a first-class classical music concert can truly enhance our human experience."

The concerts are free and open to the public; no admission fee or ticket is required.

For more information, visit www.staugustinemusicfestival.org.

St. Augustine Music Festival 10th season concert performances

Thursday June 16: 'Players Partnered'

Johann Sebastian Bach Brandenburg Concerto No 3 (1685-1750)

Heinrich Ignaz Franz von Biber Batalia á 10 in D major, C.61 (1644-1704)

Johann Sebastian Bach Brandenburg Concerto No 6 (1685-1750)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola (1756-1791) in E-flat major, K. 364

Friday June 17: 'Folk and Formality'

Manuel de Falla Siete Canciones Populares Españolas (1876-1946)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Horn Quintet in E-flat major, K. 407 (386c) (1756-1791)

Guitar solos TBA – Stephen Robinson, guitar

Saturday June 18: 'Young Beethoven'

Diaz Trio
Ludwig van Beethoven Serenade in D major Op. 8 (1770-1827)

Ludwig van Beethoven String Trio in E-flat Major, Op. 3 (1770-1827)

Thursday June 23: 'Piano Night: Pushing Parameters'

Scott Watkins
Program of Feb. 6, 2016, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, New York City
Béla Bartók Piano Sonata Sz.80 (1926)



Photo courtesy of St. Augustine Music Festival

(1881-1945)
Howard Harold Hanson Sonata In A Minor, Op. 11 (1918)

(1896-1981)
Claude Debussy Préludes, Book II (1862-1918)

Friday June 24: 'Masters of Elegance'

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Trio for Clarinet, Viola and Piano in E-flat major (1756-1791) "Kegelstatt", K. 498
Franz Schubert Piano quintet in A

major, D. 667 "Trout Quintet" (1797-1828)
Johannes Brahms Sonata No. 2 Op. 99 for Cello and Piano (1833-1897)

Alexei Romanenko, cello, Eugenio Urrutia-Borlando, piano

Saturday June 25: 'Celebrating a Decade'

Richard Wagner Siegfried Idyll, WWV 103 (Symphonic Poem for (1813-1883) Chamber Orchestra)

Aaron Copland Appalachian Spring for 13 instruments (1900-1990)
Peter Tchaikovsky Serenade for String Orchestra, Op.48 (1840-1893)
SAMF Commission and World Premier
Bob Moore La Década for Organ, Strings and Timpani (b. 1962)

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Nocatee resident to appear on 'Wheel of Fortune'

By Jennifer Logue

Melissa Naldzin has loved "Wheel of Fortune" ever since she was 4 years old and played the computer version of the game on her father's Apple II GS computer.

So when the Nocatee resident, Realtor and professional photographer learned the "Wheelmobile" was coming to Jacksonville, she knew she had to audition.

That first local visit would lead to Naldzin appearing on the long-running game show: First Coast residents will have a chance to see how she fared at 7 p.m. Friday May 27, when Naldzin's episode airs locally on WTLV NBC 12.

"It truly was a once-in-a-lifetime experience," Naldzin said.

Taking a spin

At first, it appeared that Naldzin wouldn't win the chance to spin the wheel or buy a vowel, when her Jacksonville audition in November 2015 never happened.

"I submitted my application and sat there all day and never got called," she said. "I was so bummed."



Melissa Naldzin

Two months later, however, Naldzin received an email saying she had been selected for a second Jacksonville audition.

"I was shocked since I wasn't picked in the first round," she said.

Naldzin went back for another local audition, where this time she advanced to calling out letters, playing a few practice games and taking a written test.

"They don't judge you on how quickly you can solve a puzzle, but rather on how well you enunciate and project your voice," she said. "They also look for high energy, lots of clapping and cheery faces."

The audition concluded with applicants being told they would be notified within two weeks if they had been selected to appear on the show. On day 15, Naldzin opened her mailbox and saw an envelope from "Wheel of Fortune." A week later, she received an email telling her to book a flight and be in California in 10 days for her taping.

"They sent a package with all the important details, so at that point it really started to sink in!" Naldzin said.

Accompanied by her mother, Naldzin spent a few days exploring the Los Angeles area before tackling the big wheel in the television studio.

"The set is actually smaller in person," she said. "We filmed five shows that day, so when it wasn't our game, we were able to watch the other contestants and cheer them on. The contestant coordinators were fantastic and so helpful and encouraging – they felt like family by the end of the day."

But solving the puzzles in the studio was a lot different than playing along at home, Naldzin found. "It's one thing to know the puzzle before anyone else," she said, "but having to wait your turn to solve it or trying to avoid Bankrupt or Lose a Turn can be a little intimidating – plus the wheel weighs about 2,400 pounds!"

Now that she is back in Nocatee and waiting to see her episode on TV, Naldzin described her "Wheel of Fortune" experience as both "surreal" and "absolutely incredible."

"I remember thinking to myself, 'Wow, I really am standing next to Pat Sajak and I really am on Wheel of Fortune right now!'" she said. "Living in that exact moment was just spectacular and one that I am so grateful for – I smile every time I think about it!"

Jaguars rally highlight of May Nocatee Farmers Market

It was all about the Jags Saturday, when the Jacksonville Jaguars visited the monthly Nocatee Farmers Market to rev up fans for the coming fall football season.

In addition to Head Coach Gus Bradley, Jags draft picks Luke Joeckel and Ace Sanders were on hand along with former players, the ROAR cheerleaders and team mascot Jaxon de Ville. Local residents had an opportunity to take photos, collect autographs and participate in a pep rally and question and answer session with the coach.

Attendees also had an opportunity to test their swing on the new Island Green and to peruse the dozens of stalls featuring baked goods, organic produce, honey, herbs, jewelry, artwork and more.



Fundraisers to benefit sea turtles

14th annual Sea Turtle Show at First Street Gallery

The 14th annual Sea Turtle Show will be held May 26-July 4 at First Street Gallery, 216-B First St., Neptune Beach. The show will consist of local, regional and national artists create sea turtle-themed art with a portion of the proceeds going to the Beaches Sea Turtle Patrol.

Participating artists include Melinda Bradshaw, JoAnne Adams, Cheryl Wencel and Maureen Buik. Sea Turtles created in glass, clay, jewelry, paintings, photography and metal will be on display and available for purchase.

The opening reception will be held Friday May 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. Members of the Beaches Sea Turtle Patrol will be available to answer questions and discuss sea turtles. For more information, call (904) 241-6928 or visit www.firststreetgalleryart.com.

Memorial Weekend Luau

The Memorial Weekend Luau will be held May 29 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Atlantic Beach Country Club, 1600 Selva Marina Drive, Atlantic Beach.



Courtesy of First Street Gallery

"Baby Loggerhead" by Susan Fitzgerald

The event will include live music on the pool deck, kids games and activities, and a Polynesian-inspired buffet.

Tickets are \$20.95 for adults; \$12.95 for children ages 5-12. A

portion of the ticket sales will go to the Whitney Laboratory Sea Turtle Hospital and the Beaches Sea Turtle Patrol. To RSVP, call (904) 379-2222 or email alex.bilby@atlanticbeach-countryclub.com.

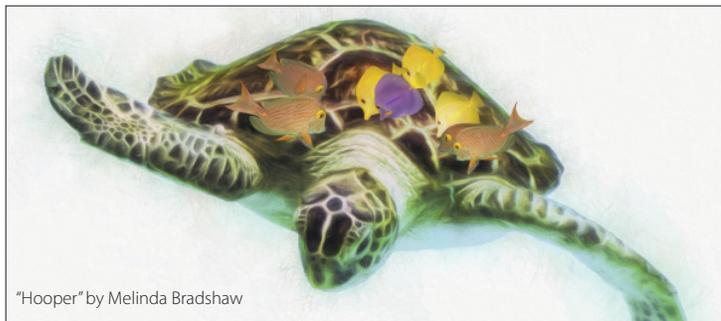
Episcopal senior honored at Mayo Clinic for kidney cancer research

Episcopal School of Jacksonville senior Alice Choi was honored at the Mayo Clinic on May 17 for her research on the early detection of kidney cancer.

Choi – the recipient of a grant from the Judy Nicholson Kidney Cancer Foundation – has spent approximately 125 hours working in the Mayo Clinic Florida lab under the supervision of researchers. Her investigation focuses on the use of gold nanosensors to identify cancer cells in kidney cancer.

Mayo Clinic Florida researchers, Choi's teachers, and member from Jacksonville-based Nicholson Kidney Cancer Foundation recognized Choi's achievements and presented her with an award. The May 17 luncheon also honored Choi's teacher, Marion Zeiner.

"The young minds of today are inspiring — we believe they will find the markers and cure for cancer," said Linda Ostoski, Judy Nicholson Kidney Cancer Foundation president. "We were proud to sponsor Alice as she researched the early detection of kidney cancer. We know her future will be very bright."



"Hooper" by Melinda Bradshaw

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Graduates celebrate milestone at Nease 2016 commencement

By Jennifer Logue

It was a time for both looking back and looking ahead, as the Allen D. Nease High School Class of 2016 marked the momentous milestone of high school graduation last week.

Held May 21 at the University of North Florida Arena, the commencement ceremonies began with performances by the Nease band and concert choir, which sang “Homeward Bound” before graduates entered the arena to the traditional strains of “Pomp and Circumstance” and the applause of family and friends. Following the presentation of colors, the choir led attendees in singing the National Anthem before both school officials and graduating students addressed the audience.

Among the many speakers offering words of wisdom to the Class of 2016 was class President Gaby Greenwald, who reflected on what she had learned and gained at Nease through such activities as participating in the International Baccalaureate program, serving as an officer in the International Thespian Society and performing in school theatrical productions such as “Cinderella” and “The Crucible.”

“Nease has provided me with opportunities and experiences I otherwise would not have had,” Greenwald said, before acknowledging that for many of her classmates, the future remains to be written. “I have no idea what I want to be – and for those of you who also don’t know, it’s okay.”

For those going on to college, Greenwald said, the next four years will bring new opportunities to learn, work hard and find personal fulfillment.

“There’s a seemingly infinite number of cultures to learn from, foods to taste, live music to listen to, and experiences we can’t even fathom at this moment but that will change the way we think and the people that we become,” she said. “Life isn’t a narrow road by any means – rather a vast, vast highway. Leaving the safe environment of Nease where we’ve invested four years of our lives will be harder than we so easily claim. But I encourage you to take advantage of this time in our lives, this opportunity to find what really fulfills you.



Photo by Jennifer Logue

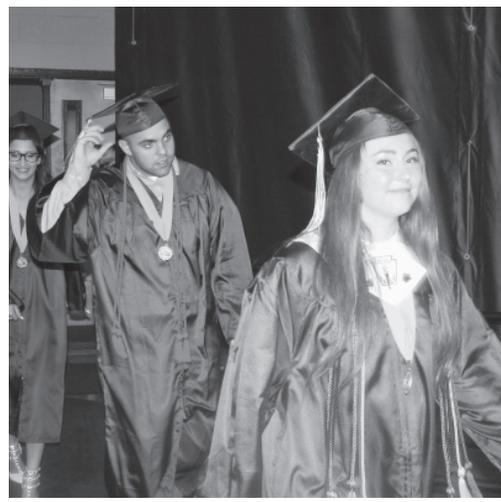


Tyric Reid, Aris Duffey and Jordan Willis

See more graduation photos on page 49



Braden Robbins and Lauren Jones-Colletti



Seniors enter the arena to “Pomp and Circumstance” at the Nease High School 2016 commencement ceremonies



Nease graduate Lauren Jones-Colletti shares her thoughts on her graduation mortar board

Ponte Vedra High School's holds Class of 2016 commencement

By Jasmine Marshall

Steve McCormick took the podium with a proud smile as the applause for the processional quieted. The Ponte Vedra High School principal looked over the sea of 361 students clad in light blue before welcoming the audience gathered in the University of North Florida's Arena May 21 for the school's commencement program.

McCormick urged the crowd to reflect not only on their accomplishments but also on the traits that defined them. He quoted writer William Arthur Ward, saying greatness is discovered in "goodness, humility, service and character."

"These attributes capture the essence of the class before us," he said. "You lead by example, and you serve as an inspiration to all who follow."

Dr. Joseph Joyner, superintendent of St. Johns County District Schools, took the podium next, joking that the students had lost the cuteness of their kindergarten years when he'd first started. He also thanked the graduates for embarking on their journey with him in his last graduation as head of the school district.

"We've made this journey together," he said. "And that makes you a very special class to me."

Introducing the salutatorian was science department chair Steve Lyons, who described Abhimanyu Ahuja with all the fondness of a mentor.

"The greatest compliment I think I can pay him," Lyons began, "is to tell him that when I look at him, I don't see a quarterback. But I see someone who I would trust as my doctor ... I would trust him with my health, and with my life."

Ahuja was met with thunderous applause for his speech, a heartfelt message of gratitude and a personal story about his late sister, who died after battling a mitochondrial disease. Having never shared his story with his classmates before his speech, Ahuja said he hoped it might inspire them.

"Her courage today serves as the guiding principle of my life," he said. "And so I share with you what she taught me: never give up, no matter the odds. Trust me, you'll find great strength in the end."

Valedictorian Yooree Ha wrapped up the opening with a rousing speech in which she tearfully thanked her parents for their sacrifices in emigrating from South Korea, congratulated her classmates and reminded them to be grateful for their opportunities.

"Don't take your opportunities for granted," she said. "Celebrate and be proud, but also be aware that you've been blessed. Take this blessing and do good with it."

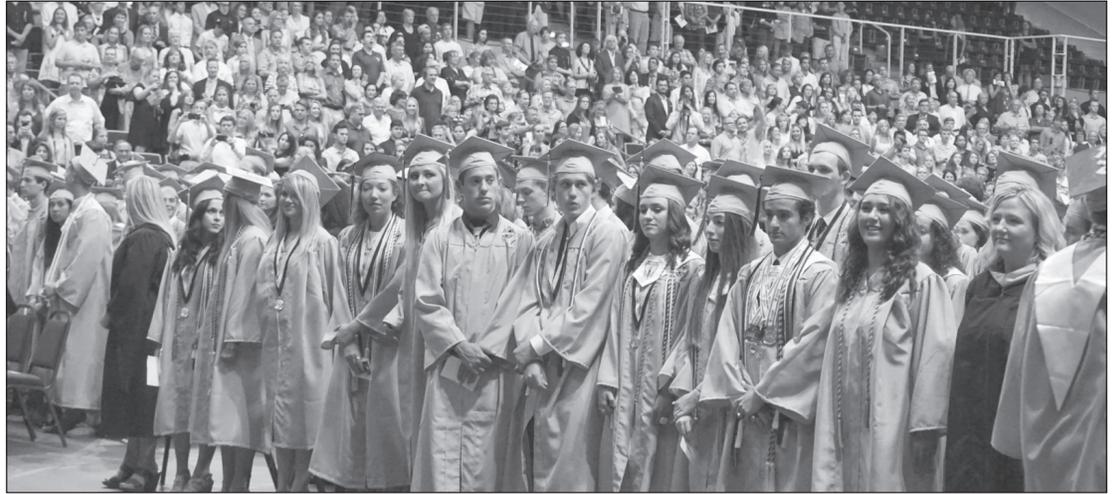


Photo by Jennifer Logue



See more graduation photos on page 49

LEFT: Melody Verkerk and Lacey Lewis

BELOW: Ricardo Davis, Noah Thomas and Jake Richard



Isabel Abril and Seema Afsh



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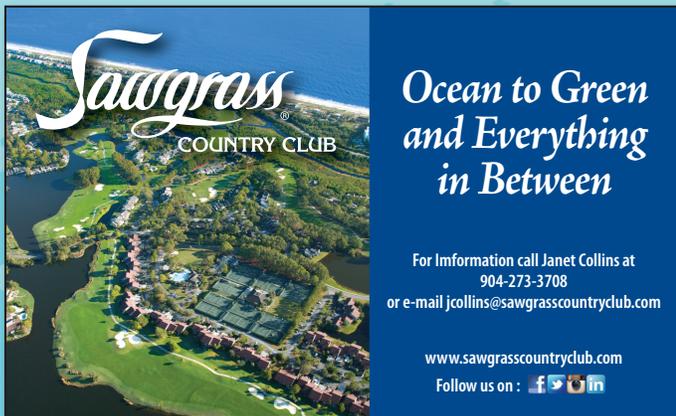


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IN REMEMBRANCE

RUSSELL QUENTIN SUMMERS, JR.

RUSSELL QUENTIN SUMMERS, JR., 80, died May 13, 2016. He was born July 2, 1935, in Oradell, N.J. He was the son of Russell Quentin and Eleanor Culbert Summers. After college, Russ lived in Baltimore, MD until he retired to Ponte Vedra Beach in 2010.



Russ graduated from The Hun School in Princeton, NJ, where he was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001. He graduated from Washington College in Chestertown, MD, where he was a varsity athlete and a member of Theta Chi Fraternity. After serving for two years in the U.S. Army, Russ worked as a juvenile probation officer in Baltimore County for two years, followed by 15 years with Moore Business Forms. He worked for Willamette Industries for 15 years, serving as the Baltimore-Washington D.C. district manager. After retirement from Willamette, Russ established his own small business, Palm Tree Printing.

Russ and his wife lived for 26 years in Worthington Valley in Baltimore County in a historic home built in 1840. He was a former member of Baltimore Country Club. After moving to Ponte Vedra Beach, Russ volunteered for the Council on Aging Memory Enhancement Program, and for the Flower Ministry at Christ Episcopal Church. He was a member of the Churchmen and the Sawgrass Country Club.

Russ is survived by his loving wife of 31 years, Susan Ritchie Summers; a daughter, Susan Gaddis (Rob) of TN; a son, Russell Quentin Summers, III of MD; a stepdaughter, Pamela Smith of MI; a sister, Jane Fink of NJ; five grandchildren and two nieces.

A memorial service will be held at Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL on Friday, June 17 at 10 A.M., followed by a reception at the church. Burial will be in Maryland later in June.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 or to St. John's County Council on Aging, 180 Marine Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

Please visit our online Tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com. Services under the direction and care of Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.



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Graduation

Allen D. Nease High School



Nease Principal Kyle Dresback addresses graduating seniors.



Nease Senior Class President Gaby Greenwald addresses her classmates.

Ponte Vedra High School



Abhimanyu Ahuja, class salutatorian, gives his salutatory address and shares a personal story of his late sister.



Principal Steve McCormick takes the podium with a smile.



Valedictorian Yooree Ha addresses her class with thanks and well wishes.

Keeping Up

By Barbara Boxleitner
Special to The Recorder

LaGrange College junior Logan Lanier is an All-American golfer.

The Bartram Trail High School graduate was cited as a first-team All-American after tying for sixth at the NCAA Division III Championship. In addition to that coveted honor, he was the team's lone selection on the Golf Coaches Association of America Division III all-Southeast Region team.

He was the USA South Athletic Conference player of the year and an all-conference first-team selection. He led the conference with a 72.1 stroke average in 25 rounds and had five top-five efforts.

Lanier was named to the all-tournament team for his play at the conference championship, where he led the team with a 223 (76-76-71) and finished fourth.

More men's golf

LaGrange junior Anthony Sclopio was named to the all-USA South second team. The Ponte Vedra High alumnus had a 75.7 stroke average, second on the team, in 22 rounds.

Baseball

USC Aiken junior pitcher Brooks Calvo was 1-1 with a 5.92 earned run average in 11 appearances. The Allen D. Nease product will pitch for the Florence RedWolves of the Coastal Plain League this summer, according to the RedWolves online site.

South Georgia State College pitcher Cayden Hatcher was 6-2

with a team-best 2.30 earned run average in 13 appearances. The sophomore is a past Shark.

Softball

Senior captain Rachel Pewitt was Rhodes College's lone representative on the all-Southern Athletic Association Conference first team. The catcher and infielder out of Ponte Vedra High hit .371 in 43 games. She led the team with seven home runs, third in the conference, and 40 runs batted in, fifth in the conference. She finishes her Rhodes career with 158 games and 158 started, both second in the program's history. She ranks fifth in the school's record

book with 108 RBIs.

Women's lacrosse

Washington and Lee University senior attacker Melissa Coggins has been named to the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association Chesapeake Region second team. The Bartram Trail graduate is on the all-Old Dominion Athletic Conference first team. She led the team with 44 points, including a team-high 27 assists. She added 17 goals.

Send updates about area athletes to Barbara Boxleitner at bboxleitner@outlook.com.

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Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

Sharks varsity sharp in spring football game

By Jerry Norton

The high school year ended on a high note for the Ponte Vedra Sharks football team as they cruised to an easy win over Fletcher in the annual spring classic. As is the rule in the Spring Classic, both teams' varsity lineups faced each other in the first half, and the varsity Sharks dominated the varsity Senators 28-7 for those 24 minutes. The Sharks JV version pretty much held their own in the second half, as the game ended with Ponte Vedra on top 38-21.

Shark Head Coach Matt Toblin had to be happy with what he saw from his offense and especially senior quarterback Nick Tronti, who apparently has recovered completely from a broken collarbone sustained at the end of last season. Also impressive was his hard running but diminutive senior running back Hal Swan.

Tronti connected on touchdown passes to Marshall Few, Swan and J.D. Pirris.

Swan also scored on a short run following a big defensive play by the Sharks that saw linebacker Cade Macri sack the Senators' quarterback, causing a fumble that Trevor Rolison recovered for Ponte Vedra on the Fletcher one-yard line.

Ponte Vedra would miss a makeable first-half field goal, but that might be explained by the fact they were playing without their reliable kicker, Chris Howard, who was out of town.

Tronti had good protection from his offensive line that featured a mix of experienced seniors and big up-and-coming juniors, including Taylor Montroy, Korey Johnson, Rob Wortelboer, Colin York, Brock Mayers and Zach Lowery.

The Shark defensive line has both size and experience with Alfred Koch, Parker Shannon, Mike Duncan and Dan Lichlyter along with outstanding linebackers Macri, Jacob Reeves, Van Kouteren, Carson Richter, John Tyler and Rolison and defensive backs Andrew O'Dare, Noah Solaun, J.B.



The Sharks' Marshall Few leaps high for a pass.

Shepard and Jon Santillo.

Fletcher capitalized on several long scoring plays; the first with five minutes left in the half on a swing pass covering 70 yards. They scored their second TD on the opening play of the second half 70-yard run and their third TD also came on a long run.

Despite being outscored in the second half, Coach Toblin had to be impressed with the play of several of his

underclassmen. Sophomore running Mark Calvin caught a pass good for 10 yards and a first down, and also scored on a running play that, thanks to a nifty cutback, netted 13 yards.

Cole McCormick caught the coach's attention with a second-half interception and a defended pass.

Rajan Patel, a freshman kicker, booted a 32-yard field goal for the Sharks just before the end of the third quarter to extend the Shark lead to 31-21—his first points as a high school football player.

Photos by Jerry Norton



#45 Duncan Van Kouteren strips the football from the Fletcher quarterback.



#24 Cade Macri strips the ball from the Senator quarterback.



Nick Tronti gets off a pass for the Sharks.

PV Girls U11 win 'Back to the Beach' tournament

The Ponte Vedra Girls 04/05 U11 soccer team won the "Back to the Beach"

soccer tournament. Held in Davis Park in Ponte Vedra this past weekend, the

tournament attracted five teams from Orlando to Ponte Vedra Beach.



Front row (from left): Shea Braun, Bella Murphy, Stella Murphy, Molly Schmachtenberger, Bella Salzbrunn, Hadley Conway and Peyton Hendricks. Back row: Taylor Worthington, Malia Roberts, Coach Jay Sheppard, Andie Needham and Rebekah Powers. Not Pictured: Sophia Magdalein.



#39 Zach King uses the stiff arm to elude a tackler.



Kyle Barker can't quite make the catch for the Sharks.

Municipal bonds: Safe or risky?



Frederic Schilling
Columnist

In the midst of current stock market volatility and continuing low yields on investment grade corporate bonds, the returns on municipal bonds, while not outstanding, have caused sales of these securities to hold steady.

Municipal bonds may not be exciting, but most have delivered a predictable return for some time, which makes them attractive compared to the unpredictability of the stock and corporate bond markets. Interest paid on municipal bonds is free from federal income tax and may be tax free from state income depending on individual state rules.

In my opinion, there are several reasons why the trend favoring municipals may be overblown:

- 1) As stated above, the tax-free nature of municipal bond interest is something that only pencils out of a 35 percent+ tax bracket taxpayer; if you are not in that bracket, then you may do better to buy taxable bonds and pay the tax.
- 2) As our country's demographics shift

from more people working and few retired or not working to one in which more people are retired or not working than those who work – a state that we are closing in on rapidly – government at all levels is going to encounter greater difficulty in generating the tax or other revenues needed to pay their expenses, including bond principal and interest. Just look at the ration of credit downgrades versus upgrades by rating agencies such as Moody's or Standard & Poor's to get a sense of the direction of municipal finances.

- 3) While it is widely known that state and local governments have varying degrees of unfunded pension liabilities, the true magnitude of this crisis has yet to be reflected in most municipal financial statements. I saw a recent study that estimated that unfunded obligation at \$3.4 trillion and climbing. Needless to say, if state and local governments have to raise billions to meet their pension funding requirements, their ability to provide services to citizens and pay their debt obligations may suffer.

These trends will not cause municipal bond issuers to all crash and burn at the same time; these are circumstances

that will erode their debt capacity over a period of time. It has already begun, however, as we witnessed in Detroit, Birmingham and Harrisburg just to name a few. If you are thinking about adding municipal bonds to your portfolio, consider how to do so in a way that mitigates some of the risk. Owning a slice of a pool of bonds can reduce the impact of a default, and owning bonds which all mature in a couple of years can mitigate interest-rate risk. Knowing and understanding your options is key.

Frederic "Ric" Schilling is a Florida native, born in Jacksonville, FL. Ric is President of Senior Guardians of America, a local North Florida firm specializing in tax reduction, long term illness planning, asset protection, probate avoidance and life income planning. Ric is a National Speaker and Advocate on Senior Issues and has been featured by the Florida Times Union and WJXT, TV-4 in Jacksonville as an authority on Estate Planning and Retirement Issues. Senior Guardians has an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau and is a member in excellent standing with the National Ethics Association. Contact Frederic: 904-371-3302 or 888-891-3381 Please visit: www.seniorguardian.com

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Help me help you



Harry Pappas
Columnist

As with any newspaper, you, the reader are sovereign. Therefore, my writing should never be about me as it should always be about you, the reader! In fact, while writing each column for our excellent community newspaper, The

Ponte Vedra Recorder, I always ask myself the following questions before submitting my column to the Recorder for their review and potential submission: Do my words solve a problem for the reader? Why is this relevant to the reader? What does this mean to the reader? Why am I telling this to the reader? Why should the reader care? How does the reader benefit? Is the idea or suggestion user-friendly? Will this approach produce enthusiasm in my reader? Furthermore, my goal when writing each column is to be simple, credible, consistent, different, motivational, inspiring, sincere and always remember that I serve the reader, not vice versa. In other words, you are the boss! Without folks like you, people like The Ponte Vedra Recorder and me do not exist.

I understand that perhaps at times

my words may seem a bit overconfident or pompous, which is certainly not my intent. There are words other than eloquent that could be used to describe me: energy, passion, conviction, enthusiasm, confidence, spot on, and real world. I am steadfastly dedicated to my profession and beliefs and want to share information with you that I faithfully believe is in your best interest. If I fail to be eloquent, please understand that I write so that the reader understands. I want the reader to "get it," which is why I go after your heart as well as the mind. I know that my written words lack much of the passion and electricity that I display when speaking to a broad audience. Nevertheless, much of what you read, I write as if I am delivering a keynote address.

With the above in mind, please permit me to express four powerful words, "Help me help you." These four simple but effective words define what many people need and are seeking but often do not ask. If you have something that is keeping you up at night, financially speaking, send me an e-mail or give me a call, and I will do my best to provide you with a clear, concise, and genuine answer. If your concern is something that The Ponte Vedra Recorder and I believe may benefit others, we will consider

making it a topic of a future column. Fair enough? Go ahead, send me one of your most pressing questions, and help me help you!

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SHORT TAKES

American Lung Association's 18th Annual Gala: The White Affair

The American Lung Association will host its annual gala, the White Affair, on June 11 at the Atlantic Beach Country Club, 1600 Selva Marina Drive, Atlantic Beach. The gala will feature a live and silent auction, music by Cloud 9, food and cocktails. Tickets are \$120 and available for purchase online at www.jaxgala.org.

The American Lung Association organization strives to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, through research, education and advocacy. The work of the American Lung Association is focused on defeating lung cancer and improving the air we breathe. For more information about the American Lung Association, visit www.lung.org.

THEME: GARDENING 101

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ACROSS

- "Sisterhood of the Traveling ____"
- Pavlova's step
- Southeast Asia food staple
- Fire starter
- "My ____ Private Idaho," movie
- Red Cross supply
- Indian soldier in British Army, historical
- CSI evidence
- U in UV
- *Climber support
- *Light recommendation for some plants
- Computer network acronym
- Green stroke
- Olympic chant
- Cry like a baby
- Depletes
- X-ray units
- *Organ of photosynthesis
- Nary a soul
- Doing nothing
- Reduce pressure
- Tolkien villains
- Spy's other name
- Judo gym
- Same as Celt
- *Cross between plant varieties
- They don't mix with water
- Hi-____ graphics

DOWN

- Attention grabber
- Copycat
- Back of neck
- Chatroom agitator
- First U.S. space station
- *Where peas live
- Barley bristle
- Big mess
- Auction off
- ____ and crafts
- Buddhist teacher
- Yemen's neighbor
- Brunei's ruler, e.g.
- Altogether
- Beehive State native
- Stone's Oscar winner
- Dickens's ____

SUDOKU

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Help

- Lamentably
- Impromptu
- *Garden intruder
- Pippin's last name, "The Hobbit"
- More painful
- Cry of surrender
- *Cabbage Worms and Potato Beetles
- One way to prepare Ahi
- *Popular apple
- ____ bear
- Soliciting of a bribe for a church office
- Bad-mouth
- Glucose and fructose, e.g.

- Chopin's composition
- On the fritz
- Intersection of two arcs
- Hahn or von Bismark
- Fogginess
- Elizabeth Gilbert's "Eat, ____ Love"
- "My bad!"
- Org. with a mission
- Rotten and stinky
- ____ pit
- Ice-T on "Law & Order: SVU"

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