

Ponte Vedra Recorder

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

February 2, 2017
Volume 47, No. 5
75 cents

PonteVedraRecorder.com



Valentine's Day Gift Guide:

Pages 20-24



Sports: Tronti commits to Indiana

Page 29



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

A medical marijuana treatment clinic has opened in Ponte Vedra Beach. Read more on page 5.

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INSIDE

One of Us
Page 6

Calendar
Pages 14-15

Valentine's Day
Pages 20-24

Business Weekly
Pages 18-19

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.**



Visit our new website at www.pontevedrarecorder.com

Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

F	R	E	T	S	C	F	C	R	S	V	P	
L	I	C	H	I	H	U	H	O	U	T	E	R
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8	7	6	3	2	5	4	9	1
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7	3	2	9	8	1	5	4	6
6	4	5	2	3	7	1	8	9
9	8	1	4	5	6	2	3	7
5	1	8	6	9	2	3	7	4
4	6	3	5	7	8	9	1	2
2	9	7	1	4	3	6	5	8

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer to jennifer@opcfla.com by Monday 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.

Two readers correctly identified last week's photo as Mainstream Boutique. Winner of the random drawing was Stacey Cowart – congratulations, Stacey! You may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during regular business hours.



ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Jag and I am a 4-year-old male cat who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center as a stray. As this animal was a stray there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit us today here at the pet center! #35647



DOG OF THE WEEK

Hi, my name is Mason and I am a 3-year-old male hound mix who is looking for a new home. My owner gave me up because he did not want to take care of me. I'm super friendly and I love to



go out and run about with my puppy pals and wag my tail all day long. Nothing makes my day like a big bone and a nice warm spot to sit and relax with it in. Come visit me today at the pet center! #35524

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

St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions at the St. Johns County Pet Center 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., 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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U.S.P.S. (705-300) Periodical Postage Paid at Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Postmaster: Send change of addresses to: Ponte Vedra Recorder, P.O. Box 501, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, 32004. (904) 285-8831
Subscription Rates, Bulk Mail: One year, \$35; six months, \$20. Rates not applicable in Canada or overseas.
To subscribe, call Circulation Manager Rob Conwell at (904) 686-3936.

The Recorder is published every Thursday at 1102 A1A N., Unit 108 Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082



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SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 18, 2017

Celebrate one of Florida's most beloved and endangered residents through the art of conservation.



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Photo courtesy of Ocean Palms Elementary

Nine Ocean Palms Elementary School students recently participated in the Wonder League Robotics Competition, with "The Sis Squad" tying for number one in the state of Florida.

Ocean Palms students tie for first place in robotics competition

Students from Ocean Palms Elementary School tied for number one in the state of Florida in an international robotics competition recently.

OPE's "The Sis Squad" – comprised of second grade student Lily and fifth grade student Morgan – received 245 points in the Wonder League Robotics Competition, landing them a spot in the top 30 for the 9 to 12 age bracket and tied for first place in the state. That score placed the team in the top 1 percent of more than 5,000 competition registrants; the team will now go on to compete for a \$5,000 STEM grant and other prizes.

A total of nine OPE students participat-

ed in the competition. Working under the direction of S.T.E.A.M. Teacher Lauren Wade, the students worked in teams of two or three to complete five challenges involving two robots named Dash and Dot. The students began working with their teacher in October to learn how to code the robots using the Wonder coding language. They then designed solutions to each challenge by programming the robots. Upon completing each challenge, each team was required to submit the code that they wrote, as well as a video of their code in action. Each team's code and video were then reviewed by computer

ROBOTICS continues on **Page 16**

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This beautifully built John Kenney home boasts bright, open rooms with hardwood floors, quality cabinetry, crown moldings and other fine details throughout. Spend your afternoons enjoying spectacular lake to golf course views from the covered lanai or spacious great room. MLS 851385

SALT CREEK ISLAND
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Nestled in the heart of Salt Creek, this meticulously maintained home offers tranquil water to golf views from the generous screened lanai. With large, open living areas you will be able to entertaining your visitors with ease. MLS 854223

SOUTH JACKSONVILLE BEACH
\$990,000

Celebrate the sun, sea and sand! To be constructed by local contractor John Denneen, this coastal cottage will embody the essence of beach living. Watch the sun rise on the ocean from one of the two balconies or take a quick stroll in the afternoons to local boutiques, coffee shops and restaurants. MLS 862409

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COMMENTARY

We Marched

Returning from the Women's March on Washington D.C., it felt good to return finding my house just the way I left it. There is great comfort in having things the way they always were. I slip into a favorite pair of pants, the ones that don't pinch at the waist, pour a cup of tea, and sink into the couch to watch another hour of Queen Victoria on PBS. Nice. Very nice.

However, ease and comfort were not what added the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that gave women the right to vote – a right known as woman suffrage. Before this law went into effect, women couldn't own property and had no legal claim to the money they might earn. Their marches and meetings were a 70-year struggle that included incarceration and force-feeding.

Today, marching with other women and men was not about the right to vote, per se. Yet, I know first-hand that not all American women feel empowered to vote. The women who whisper into the phone, "I can't talk now. He's home." Or the woman whose husband controls whom she can see and if she can use the car, or the physically abused woman who tip-toes so as not to arouse her spouse's roars.

We marched on Washington for equal pay. In the United States, the median annual pay for women with full-time, year-round jobs is \$40,742 while for men it is \$51,212. So for every 80 cents a woman makes a man makes \$1. The wage gap for women of color is typically 63 cents on the dollar and Latinas are paid 54 cents for every \$1 paid to white men.

We marched for equal rights of our bodies. I listened to the chorus of young women chant, "My body, my choice" followed with thousands of deep men's voices, "her body, her choice."

We marched for equal representation in government. Today, less than 20 percent of the U.S. Congress is women. We want to hear the soprano and baritone voices from the pulpits of Capitol Hill.

We marched to say: Women should have the same opportunity as men for career advancement and women who choose to stay home and take care of their family should be valued. In this writer's opinion, all stay-at-home-parents should receive a monthly stipend – society's expression of the value and importance of this work.

We marched to remember that we are a

tapestry of colors – black, white, brown, yellow and red. We are black braids and yellow locks, smooth skin and wrinkled faces. When a marcher yelled, "Tell me what democracy looks like," we responded with "this is what democracy looks like."

The march was a balm for those looking for support, for others to have their voices heard, and for one historic day, we immersed ourselves in a sea of citizens. It was civil, inclusive and supportive. A day in history that I shared with women in my native country, adopted country, and women all around the world— a solidarity of sisters like one the world has never seen before.

Edith Andersen
Ponte Vedra



Mickler's Landing Beachfront Park open to the public

Mickler's Landing Beachfront Park has reopened to the public after being closed for Hurricane Matthew recovery efforts. The park offers off-beach parking and pedestrian

access to Ponte Vedra Beach at 1109 Ponte Vedra Boulevard. St. Johns County would like to thank residents and beach visitors for their patience during the brief closure.

Ponte Vedra High School to host college fair Feb. 22

Ponte Vedra High School will host a college fair at the school from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22.

Representatives from dozens of colleges

and universities from across the nation will be on hand to meet with prospective students and parents and answer any questions students may have regarding the admissions process.

Applications available for Sunset Rotary 'Service Above Self' scholarship

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset is accepting applications for its "Service Above Self" scholarship.

The club will award two \$1,000 scholarships to an Allen D. Nease or Ponte Vedra High School junior or senior who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to community service and who exemplifies the Rotary Club motto, "Service Above Self." Eligible students will be evaluated on their completed applications, scholastic achievement, community service and an essay on the Rotary ideal

of "Service Above Self."

Applications must be received no later than March 3; incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Scholarships will be awarded in early April. Completed applications may be mailed to Janeene Hart, president, Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset, P.O. Box 612, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004. To receive an application or more information, contact President Janeene Hart at (904) 412-5409 or email jwhart1208@gmail.com.

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SHORT TAKES

Anne Frank: A History for Today

The international exhibit that inspired a community-wide initiative will open to the public at the Museum of Science History (MOSH) in Downtown Jacksonville. Through Feb. 12, visitors will enjoy free admission to the museum and exhibit, which has informed visitors all around the world through excerpts, photographs and events held throughout the city. The exhibit will

be presented as part of "Voices of Hope," a larger community initiative guided by MOSH that will incorporate several coordinated programs by leading organizations throughout Northeast Florida. "Anne Frank: A History for Today" and "Voices of Hope" will aim to generate conversation among Jacksonville communities, from school children to prominent leaders and professionals, on the theme of universal acceptance.

Medical marijuana clinic opens in Ponte Vedra Beach

By Jon Blauvelt

A medical marijuana treatment clinic has opened in Ponte Vedra Beach and is now accepting appointments for consultations.

Located in the Winn-Dixie plaza on Solana Road, the clinic is one of several that has opened in Florida after voters in November overwhelmingly approved Amendment Two, a constitutional amendment that expands the medical use of marijuana for individuals with debilitating conditions. According to the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections website, it was approved by approximately 70 percent of voters in Ponte Vedra. The amendment officially went into effect Jan. 3.

Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MMTC) of Florida opened the clinic in Ponte Vedra in January after opening its first facilities in Tallahassee and The Villages. MMTC's Chief Medical Officer and Co-Founder Dr. Joseph Dorn said the clinic is solely providing patients with consultations to determine if they are eligible.

"It's just a physician's office," said Dorn, who has 20 years of medical practice in general medicine, having spent much of the past 12 years as a hospice and palliative medicine physician. "We don't have product."

When deciding where to open offices, Dorn said MMTC analyzed the state's demographics and identified areas with high populations, and Ponte Vedra was one of them.

Dorn also said they found a property owner in Ponte Vedra that was receptive to renting space to his organization, which he said is not always the case.

"Not everybody wants to have anything to do with medical marijuana, even close by," said Dorn, who is renting space from the owner of A1A Pharmacy. "When you find someone like that, it's refreshing, and we foster those relationships."

Dorn said MMTC also opened an office in the Tampa Bay area this week and plans to open additional offices on the east coast of Florida over the next four to six weeks.

Amendment Two enables physicians to order medical marijuana for patients with cancer, epilepsy, glaucoma, HIV, AIDS, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease and multiple sclerosis (MS). The amendment also gives physicians the discretion to qualify patients for medical marijuana after determining that they have some other debilitating medical condition that is similar to those explicitly listed.

Lynnette Horwath, program coordinator

for PACT Prevention Coalition, said this is when the situation starts to get dangerous.

"You start to get to the point where the physician is making a determination of what qualifies, of what's a debilitating condition," said Horwath, whose organization focuses on preventing and reducing underage substance abuse in St. Johns County. "It just seems to be the kind of thing that opens the door for a lot of people to be able to get a card for medical marijuana that don't really need it. It's going to be very hard to control."

Patti Greenough, CEO of Epic Behavioral Health, added that a consequence of the amendment is how it could potentially skew the thinking of adolescent marijuana users.

"They see it as a medicine or that's it okay to use, when in fact research shows that young people age 18 and younger who use marijuana and abuse it are very at risk for potential problems in their life," said Greenough, whose organization assists individuals and families impacted by substance abuse and related co-occurring disorders.

According to Dorn, the medical marijuana industry is tightly regulated and the law is cumbersome because it requires a patient to establish a three-month relationship with a physician or have an established three-month relationship before the product can be ordered.

Once a patient is deemed qualified and has waited three months, Dorn enters the patient's information into a computerized system called the Compassionate Use Registry, which is regulated by the Department of Health. The patient can then go to any dispensary to pick up the order. Dorn said there is a dispensary in the Jacksonville area, adding that he expects two or three more to open within the next three months.

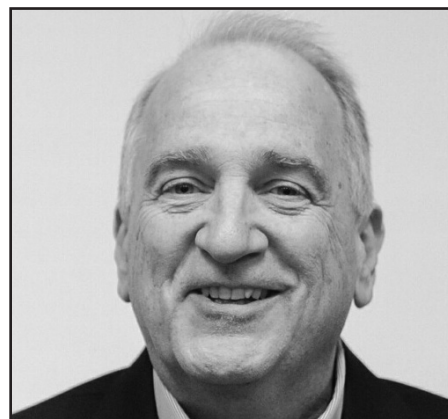
Physicians must complete an eight-hour course and exam every two years to order medical marijuana, Dorn said, adding that they must have a full medical license and be in good standing with the state of Florida.

There is still uncertainty, however, concerning certain elements of the amendment's regulation and implementation. The new law requires the Department of Health to set regulations for the issuance of identification cards, qualifications and standards of caregivers and rules for registration of medical marijuana treatment centers within six months of the amendment's enactment in January. Dorn said the state then has three months to implement the rules. Dorn doesn't expect to have total clarity until



Photos provided by Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MMTC) of Florida

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MMTC's Chief Medical Officer and Co-Founder Dr. Joseph Dorn said the Ponte Vedra Beach clinic is solely providing patients with consultations to determine if they are eligible.

September.

Dorn previously served as the medical director of Surterra Therapeutics, which is one of the seven medical marijuana dispensary organizations approved by the Department of Health. With hopes of returning to private practice, he resigned Nov. 8. State law prohibits medical directors of dispensing organizations from ordering medical marijuana for patients. He officially started with MMTC Nov. 10.

Just two years ago, Dorn said he was against the use of medical marijuana because he didn't know much about it. After providing care for terminally ill patients using traditional medications, which he said were often less effective, he was forced to consider alternative treatments, most notably cannabis-derived products.

"My approach is general improvement in the quality of life," said Dorn. "It's making people feel better. It's not addictive, and it can't kill anybody. It's a different alternative."



Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (MMTC) of Florida opened the clinic in Ponte Vedra in January after opening its first facilities in Tallahassee and The Villages.

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As president of The Pineapple Corporation, Spencer Calvert oversees one of the First Coast's premier luxury home builders. The firm, which recently opened a new design studio, recently broke ground on its first model home at Nocatee's The Vista at Twenty Mile.

Spencer Calvert

By Jennifer Logue

What brought you to the First Coast?

After serving as controller and VP of business development with a regional title insurance company in the Midwest, I moved to the First Coast in 2002 to pursue business opportunities with The Pineapple Corp., which was founded by my father-in-law, Jim Ash. I attended the University of Kansas and attained a Bachelor's of Science degree in Business Administration and Accounting.

What do you think distinguishes The Pineapple Corporation from other luxury home builders?

We pride ourselves on being a value-driven organization offering a unique opportunity for our clients to work with one organization from design through construction. We work tirelessly to identify and implement the most sophisticated building sciences, which lends to our superior quality. Lastly, I think we differ from other luxury builders in our sharp focus on architectural integrity and timeless home design.

What are First Coast buyers currently looking for in a luxury home?

In my experience with our design-build clients, they desire a high degree of architectural integrity. They are typically informed and educated and comprehend the differences of what we do, in terms of additional measures we take in the building process to create a home that exemplifies architectural excellence. Our clients also express the need to have open, functional, multi-purpose living/dining/kitchen areas, along with a focus on usable outdoor spaces that seamlessly flow indoors.

Tell us about The Vista at Twenty Mile.

We are extremely honored to have been invited by The PARC Group to join their vision of Twenty Mile and participate in such an amazingly successful community. The Vista is a Pineapple-exclusive, gated neighborhood and features 44 estate lots surrounded by marsh preserve. The homes will have a Spanish architectural theme and courtyard-designed floor plans; pricing will start in the low \$900s and home plans range in size from approximately 4,000 square feet to more than 5,500 square feet. We have broken ground on our first model and will begin construction of our second model within a few weeks, which will serve as our design and sales center. This community will truly be like no other on the First Coast!

How does your new design studio support the overall home building process?

We recently moved our office to San Pablo Office Park, where we designed an interactive space that serves as our design studio; it showcases our exclusive designer offerings and selections available to our clients to which the general public may not have access. It's sort of a one-stop shop where our team of design professionals provide one-on-one client attention and personalization. Our design-build business model allows our clients to save time by expediting the decision-making process and provides peace of mind because they can have a tangible experience with one of our many selection offerings and they know exactly what's going to be delivered in their home.



What do you enjoy most about living on the First Coast?

Obviously the first thing that comes to mind is the incredible weather and the abundance of natural surroundings. You can really get out and enjoy all the First Coast has to offer, whether it's one of our beautiful beaches, the St. Johns River or the marshes and Intracoastal Waterway. The First Coast has a wonderful community feel, which lends itself as a great place to raise a family. The strong community leadership and a healthy business

environment make the First Coast a fantastic place to do business!

Photo courtesy of The Pineapple Corp.

A sample of our listings



1299 PONTE VEDRA BLVD.
\$5,750,000

Under Contract
241 N ROSCOE BLVD.
\$3,295,000 - with dock

New Listing
113 CUTTER COURT
\$2,599,000

9707 OAK HAMMOCK CT.
\$2,000,000 - 40 Acres in Deerwood

New Listing
124 TEAL PONTE LANE
\$1,545,000

Oceanfront
349 1ST STREET, JAX BEACH
\$1,399,000

117 TEAL PONTE LANE
\$1,100,000

618 IBIS
\$1,100,000 - Marsh Landing Lot

132 CLEARLAKE DR.
\$999,500

616 IBIS
\$950,000 - Marsh Landing Lot

MARINA SAN PABLO #401
\$995,000

New Listing
228 GNARLED OAKS
\$989,000

109 LAMPLIGHTER ISLAND CT.
\$979,000

101 ANTLER POINT CT.
\$949,000

MARINA SAN PABLO #201
\$949,000

7240 OAKMONT CT.
\$889,000

REDUCED
7300 OAKMONT CT
\$819,000

108 PALM FOREST PLACE
\$699,000 - Marsh Landing Lot

Found Forest
210 DEER COLONY LOT #4
\$695,000 - Marsh Landing Lot

New Listing
3858 BRAMPTON ISLAND CT.N.
\$675,000 - Jacksonville Golf & CC

145 KINGFISHER DR.
\$549,000 - Marsh Landing Lot

Under Contract
204 GREENCREST DR.
\$549,000

5010 BENTGRASS CIRCLE
\$549,000 - Marsh Landing Lot

450 ROYAL TERN RD-S LOT #24
\$478,500 - Marsh Landing Lot

New Listing
MARINA SAN PABLO #802
For Rent - \$3,800/mo.

New Listing
4300 S. BEACH PKWY #1113
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165 SEASIDE CIRCLE
\$395,000

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SOLD
141 LIPIZZAN TRAIL
\$380,000 - St. Augustine

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New Listing
2649 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD.
\$699,000

SOLD
325 S. OCEAN GRANDE #102
\$399,000

SOLD
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\$335,000

212 HIDDEN DUNE COURT
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All properties listed are in Ponte Vedra unless otherwise noted



Photos courtesy of South Kitchen & Spirits

South Kitchen & Spirits, Primrose School to open in Nocatee

By Jennifer Logue

A full-service restaurant specializing in Southern cooking and craft cocktails and an early education center are the latest businesses to announce plans to open in Nocatee Town Center.

South Kitchen & Spirits will open its second location in a new building currently under development east of Crosswater Parkway, behind Dunkin' Donuts and M Shack. According to an announcement on the Nocatee resident blog, the new 4,050 square-foot restaurant is scheduled to open in December, and will feature a covered patio and spacious bar area serving hand-

crafted cocktails, beer and wine.

While a Nocatee menu is currently being refined, South Kitchen's Avondale location features such savory Southern fare as fried catfish and grits, oyster po' boys, blacked eye pea and tomato stew, and fried chicken. The menu also features a variety of soups and "superfood" salads featuring quinoa, kale and edamame alongside biscuits, cornbread and collard greens.

Currently, South Kitchen serves weekday lunch as well as weekend brunch, dinner and happy hour.

"Initial response to the South Kitchen & Spirits concept in Avondale has been

overwhelmingly positive, so we're really looking forward to being able to bring SKS's brand of southern hospitality to Nocatee," owner Jason Motley said in the announcement. "It's an area that we've been considering for a second location since day one, based on the opportunity to be one of the first full service dining & bar options, as well as the long-term potential for growth."

Primrose School

In other Nocatee news, an

18,000 square-foot early education center is expected to open in the Town Center area this summer. To be located at 785 Crosswater Parkway at the Nocatee Town Center roundabout, the Primrose School early education center will offer 15 classrooms capable of serving more than 250 children. In addition to classrooms featuring wireless technology, the center will feature four secure, age-appropriate playgrounds, a water play area, a pavilion for events and a "Primrose Patch" garden for gardening and nature activities.



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Project SOS to host annual 'Grand Anchor Gala' March 18

Cruise attire will be the dress code at Project SOS's upcoming "Grand Anchor Gala: Port of Call - Hawaii."

To be held from 6 to 9 p.m. March 18 at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa, the annual gala will feature dinner and live entertainment by comedian John Crist. A wine drawing will also be held, while live and silent auctions will give guests a chance to bid on a variety of items and experiences, including vacations, mission trips and more.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Project SOS (Strengthening Our Society), a nonprofit organization aimed at equipping teens with

the critical life skills needed to make positive choices and protect themselves from unhealthy situations and relationships. Working with middle and high school students, Project SOS's youth development specialists go into the classroom and teach kids age-appropriate strategies for dealing with issues in eight key areas: goal setting, boundaries, refusal strategies, healthy and unhealthy relationships, media influences, substance abuse, sexual risk avoidance, and anti-bullying/self-harm/suicide.

Tickets for the Grand Anchor Gala are \$125 per person. For tickets or more information, visit www.projectsos.com.

Chamber of Commerce hosts Health & Wellness Expo

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach was the setting for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's recent Health & Wellness Expo.

Organized by the chamber's Ponte Vedra Beach Division, the free event brought together representatives of numerous health, medical,

wellness and fitness organizations to share information with local residents. Participating businesses include AIA Pharmacy, Pure Barre, the YMCA, Willness Fitness, Connect Hearing, Balanced Physician Care, Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery, Ponte Vedra Wellness Center and more. Refreshments were provided by KC's Kitchen.



Photos courtesy of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce
KC's Kitchen



Dr. Sharyl Truty, Balanced Physician Care



Ponte Vedra YMCA

St. Augustine Amphitheatre to present Tony Award-winning actress and singer Idina Menzel



The St. Augustine Amphitheatre will present Tony Award-winning actress and singer Idina Menzel May 26.

Menzel will embark on a tour of more than 50 cities around the globe throughout the spring and summer. The tour begins March 29 and includes stops in Osaka, Nagoya and Tokyo before the North American leg starts in April, featuring songs from her self-titled fifth solo studio album "idina." as well as a selection of personal, classic pop and musical theater favorites.

Menzel's diverse career traverses stage, film, television and music – most notably in Disney's global box office smash "Frozen," in which she sings the film's Oscar-winning song "Let it Go." After her performance of

the multi-platinum song at the 86th annual Academy Awards, Menzel made history as the first person with both a Billboard Top 10 hit and a Tony Award for acting. She capped 2016 with the release of "idina." and filmed Lifetime's remake of "Beaches," in which she portrays CC, the role originated by Bette Midler.

Menzel reached superstardom on Broadway with her Tony Award-winning performance as Elphaba, the misunderstood green girl in the blockbuster "Wicked," and in her Tony-nominated role as Maureen in the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Rent." Menzel's most recent Broadway role as Elizabeth in the original production "If/Then" earned her a third Tony nomination.

Other notable projects include "Glee" and Disney's "Enchanted." In addition to cast albums, Menzel's prolific recording career includes the solo albums "I Stand," "Here" and "Still I Can't Be Still."

Doors open at 6 p.m. with the show starting at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$54 and are on sale at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall box offices.

Customers can save on fees by purchasing tickets at the box office, scouting potential seats and having first pick when tickets go on sale. Tickets will also be available at ticketmaster.com, all authorized TicketMaster outlets or by phone at 800-745-3000. For more information, visit www.staugustineamphitheatre.com.

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PV2-LV34960

OBITUARIES



Steven Lief
Steven M. Lief of Ponte Vedra Beach died Jan. 21 at the age of 64. He was the son of Ginger Lief and the late Robert W. Lief of New York City; devoted father to Bobby and Wyatt Lief; brother to James

Lief, Johanna Lief-Socolow and Mark "Tiger" Locks; brother-in-law to Cathy Berson Lief and John M. Socolow; uncle to Justin Lief, Lauren Lief Feldman, Max Feldman, Alison, Jake and Sam Socolow; and ex-husband to Sandra Diamond Lief. Steven will be remembered for his passion for fast cars and boats, his zest for life and his sense of humor. He will be forever loved and missed. Services were held Jan. 29 at Ponte Vedra Valley. The family kindly requests that in lieu of flowers, please donate to the American Diabetes Association at www.diabetes.org. Please sign the online guestbook at www.pontevedravally.com.

Sue H. Zauke

Sue H. Zauke, age 84, died Jan. 25 at Ashford Court Assisted Living in Jacksonville Beach. She was born April 22, 1932 in Danville, Virginia to Wayles and Sue Harrison. She grew up dancing, horseback riding and modeling. She was also a talented artist. She earned her degree in interior design.

Mrs. Zauke has been a resident of the Jacksonville area since 1982, coming from Old



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OBITUARIES

Greenwich, Connecticut to the Ortega area. After moving to Jacksonville with her family, she turned her love of antiques into a business in Avondale called Piccadilly Circus. In 1994, she and her husband moved to Ponte Vedra Beach.

She was predeceased by her husband Max D. Zauke, son Max Harrison Zauke, brother Wayles Harrison and sister Caroline Newton. She is survived by her son Harrison Randolph Zauke (Nicole) of Ponte Vedra Beach; sister Mae Moore of Roanoke, Virginia; and three grandsons Max, Jacob and Owen Zauke. A visitation and celebration of her life were held Jan. 29 at the Hardage-Giddens Beaches Chapel. Interment will take place at H. Warren Smith Cemetery in Jacksonville Beach. Arrangements

are under the direction of Hardage-Giddens Beaches Chapel. Please offer condolences at www.hardage-giddensbeacheschapel.com.



Virginia Newton Warden

Virginia Newton Warden, 99, of Jacksonville, died Jan. 22. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery. 904-285-1130 www.pontevedravally.com

SHORT TAKES

Adventures in the Arts

The Friends of the Library, Ponte Vedra Beach and Cummer Beaches, a support group of the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens will sponsor Adventures in the Arts, an art-oriented series of programs. The February program features photographer Craig O'Neal as he presents "Nature Adventures." This program will take place in the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library on Thursday, Feb. 9 starting at

2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. For additional information, call Marianne Stein at (904) 280-2976.

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Photos courtesy of The Pineapple Corporation

Located at 5300 Chandler Bend Drive, The Pineapple Corporation's showcase home at Pablo Creek Reserve is priced at \$2,179,000 and includes a fully designed pool package.

Pineapple Corporation opens new showcase home at Pablo Creek Reserve

The Pineapple Corporation recently opened a custom showcase home in Pablo Creek Reserve.

Located at 5300 Chandler Bend Drive, the five-bedroom, six-and-one-half bathroom courtyard home features 5,067 square feet of living space. Distinctive architectural elements include exposed rafter tails, white stucco, traditional barrel tile roof, cedar beams and vaulted tongue-in-groove ceiling in the rear porch. The design of the house is completed

by a secluded side courtyard and a large central courtyard that boasts authentic stone columns lining the promenade and encircling the warm ambiance of one of four masonry fireplaces in the home.

"As our new showcase home in Pablo Creek demonstrates, the art of timeless design complements today's modern lifestyle," said Pineapple Corporation President Spencer Calvert. "From the foundation to the finish, every home by The Pineapple Corporation is designed

for life, reflecting our company's genuine love of building."

The single-story estate home features the use of both natural stone and hardwood flooring. The kitchen has a spacious island with built-in seating, a combination of quartz and natural stone countertops and includes a professional appliance package.

The owners' suite showcases a barrel vault ceiling and opens to a walk-out patio. In addition, it includes a walk-in closet with a freestanding island, a built-

in coffee bar, custom vanities with built-in storage and a bath with walk-in shower and freestanding tub. The home also has a three-car garage and lush landscaping. The Pineapple Corporation prices the home at \$2,179,000, which includes a fully designed pool package.

Pablo Creek Reserve, an exclusive gated residential community, is located near Mayo Clinic, the St. Johns Town Center and the beaches of Jacksonville and Ponte Vedra.

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The kitchen has a spacious island with built-in seating, a combination of quartz and natural stone countertops and includes a professional appliance package.

SHORT TAKES

Forward Leadership St. Johns

Ever wonder how Supervisor of Elections Vicky Oakes decides how many ballots to print and what happens to them once you cast your vote? Be a part of the 2017 Forward Leadership class and find out! Designed to equip active adults age 50 and over with insights and first-hand knowledge to enhance positive change in the community through advocacy and volunteerism, this six-week program will take students behind the scenes of education,

healthcare, tourism, history and government in St. Johns County. To be held Wednesdays, Feb. 15 through March 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the sessions will enable participants to meet with local leaders, including St. Augustine Mayor Nancy Shaver, Tax Collector Dennis Hollingsworth and Sheriff David Shoar. For more information on how to apply, call Sue Richerson, program manager, St. Johns County Council on Aging at (904) 209-3631.

Donate to Hugs Across the County



We need your donations!

Oceanside Cleaners is a proud supporter of this wonderful effort to provide new or gently used clothing for St. John's County children K-12 in need. Collections taking place now through March 31.

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Thursday, Feb. 2	Friday, Feb. 3	Saturday, Feb. 4	Sunday, Feb. 5
<p>'A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline' Alhambra Theatre & Dining will present "A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline," showing through Feb. 19. Starring Gail Bliss, this show is endorsed by the Patsy Cline Estate as "the most authentic Patsy story ever told." Bliss traces Cline's career from her first time singing on the radio until her untimely death in a plane crash. Featuring a live band with Grammy Award-winning musicians, "A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline" is an Alhambra favorite that always sells out. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.alhambrajax.com/show/closer-walk-patsy-cline.</p> <p>Pre-K Storytime Class The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library invites all children ages 3 and older and their caregivers to a newly launched Storytime Class event from 11-11:45 a.m. Including lengthier themed stories, singing, Shaky Egg dancing, fingerplays and Circle Time interaction that culminate in a craft that focuses on teaching scissor, glue, and coloring skills, this class is specifically designed for children who can sit independently. Pre-K Storytime Class also serves to help children become ready for VPK, Kindergarten, and beyond. Call Youth Services Librarian Anne Crawford at (904) 827-6950 with any questions.</p> <p>Dementia Caregiver Presentation Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra will host a free presentation titled "Dementia and Caregiver Burnout: How to Know When it's Time to Get Help" Thursday, Feb. 2 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the dedicated memory care facility, located at 5125 Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra Beach. The presentation is designed to assist those who are caring for someone in cognitive decline. Refreshments will be provided. To register, RSVP to ithrasher@arborcompany.com or call (904) 834-7578.</p> <p>Life Enrichment Group This group is designed for those with memory changes who want to remain mentally, physically and socially active, while giving caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. The program is offered daily, serving the Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra area. For more information call: 904-417-7354 or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Parent's Night Out St. Augustine Alligator Farm offers to entertain children in a safe and educational environment while parents have a night on the town with "Parent's Night Out." This event includes two slices of pizza per person, drinks, hands-on animal presentation, twilight zoo tour, a craft, nocturnal games and more. Set to take place the first Friday of most months from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., the price is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members (price is per child). Pre-registration online is required. Register at www.alligatorfarm.com. The St. Augustine Alligator Farm is located at 999 Anastasia Blvd. For more information, visit www.alligatorfarm.com.</p> <p>Coastal Wine Market Wine Tasting Coastal Wine Market hosts Friday wine tastings from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B, Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p> <p>PV Professionals Networking Group The Ponte Vedra Professionals Networking Group meets Fridays at 9 a.m. at Watson Realty Corp., 615 Highway A1A S., Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call Gloria at (904) 635-6103, visit www.pvpng.com or email pontevedrapng@gmail.com.</p> <p>New York Times Bestselling author Tim Dorsey at the Auditorium St. Johns County will host New York Times Bestselling author Tim Dorsey at 3 p.m. Feb. 3 at the St. Johns County Administration Auditorium, located at 500 San Sebastian View. Dorsey, author of "Florida Roadkill," "Coconut Cowboy," and multiple other top titles, will be speaking on his newest book, "Clownfish Blues." This free event is open to the public. For more information, call the Main Library at (904) 827-6940.</p> <p>Live Music at Table 1 Table 1 at 330 A1A N will host Robbie Litt live starting at 7:30 p.m. in addition to the entertainment, guests can enjoy bar bites starting at \$7 and 2-for-1 well drinks, domestic drafts and house wine by the glass.</p>	<p>Art Auction to benefit Ayla's Acres More than 150 works of art will be available at an art auction Feb. 4 to benefit Ayla's Acres No-Kill Animal Rescue. To be held at the Doubletree by Hilton in St. Augustine's Historic District, the event will begin at 6 p.m. with a preview of the available artworks followed by the auction at 7 p.m. Arin Ross Auctions will conduct the auction, which will feature lithographs, etchings, serigraphs, animation cels, watercolors, original oils signed by the artists, and documented sports and entertainment memorabilia. Featured artists include Kinkadee, Wooster Scott, Picasso, Chagall, Dali, Renoir, Boulanger, Neiman, Rockwell and Shaviko. Most the art will have opening bids ranging from \$45 to \$300. Tickets are \$10 and include hors d'oeuvres; a cash bar will be available.</p> <p>St. Johns Reads Hootenanny at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre On Saturday, Feb. 4 the St. Johns County Public Library System and the St. Augustine Amphitheatre invite the community to the St. Johns Reads Hootenanny, celebrating 12 years of St. Johns Reads, the community-wide reading project. The St. Johns Reads Hootenanny will feature music by The Wobbly Toms and a showing of the 2010 film "True Grit" based on the classic western novel by Charles Portis. Doors open at 4 p.m. and music at 4:45 p.m., with the movie following at 5:45 p.m. The event is free and open to all ages with free parking.</p> <p>Book Fair Learn to Read will present a book fair at Barnes Noble Saturday, Feb. 4. From noon to 5 p.m., guests are invited to enjoy a Lego building competition for ages 5-16 for prizes, a reading by St. Augustine Mayor Nancy Shaver, book signing by author Susan Calfee and more. This event is free and open to the public. A percentage of all Barnes and Noble book and café sales from the event day as well as online sales through Feb. 9 will be donated to Learn to Read. Participants must use the Barnes and Noble voucher number 12079729 at purchase to ensure credit to Learn to Read.</p>	<p>Art Fusion in Hemming Park Join Jacksonville's Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) Feb. 5 from noon to 3 p.m. for a family-friendly tradition held on the first Sunday of each month in Hemming Park. MOCA's professional art educators present a hands-on art-making project inspired by pieces currently displayed in the museum with Richard Anuskiewicz's "Mediterranean" as this month's theme. In addition to the project, guests can explore the Imagination Playground, play giant chess or checkers and listen to live music.</p> <p>Katz 4 Keeps Adoption Weekends Join Katz 4 Keeps Feb. 4-5 for a weekend adoption event helping cats and kittens find their forever homes. This event will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Katz 4 Keeps facility located at 935B A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information about this event or organization, call (904) 834-3223 or email info@katz4keeps.org.</p> <p>UniverSoul Circus The 2017 production of UniverSoul Circus takes fans of all ages on a journey of light, soul and sound. Hailed as the most interactive circus in the world, this event plays Jacksonville in the parking lot of the Prime Osborn Center for the last day Feb. 5. This fusion of circus arts, theater and music running the gamut from Latin to Hip Hop is rated one of the top three circuses in America alongside Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey and Cirque du Soleil. As has become its trademark after 24 years, UniverSoul Circus will present a multicultural/multinational cast of rock-star performers in 2016. Tickets are on sale via Ticketmaster.com or by phone at 1-800-745-3000. Visit www.universoulcircus.com for more information, show times, and schedules.</p> <p>Collection Tour Join the Cummer 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. in Jacksonville, Fla.</p>



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Sweetheart Supper
Wine & dine your sweetheart with our elegant Valentine's Dinner Buffet
Sunday, February 19th | 5:00 - 9:00 PM | \$25.00++

For complete information on our dining and social events, visit our website at <http://www.tpc.com/sawgrass-dining>. For more information or to make a reservation in NINETEEN or for a Social Event, please contact the dining room at 904.273.3238.

Monday, Feb. 6	Tuesday, Feb. 7	Wednesday, Feb. 8	Thursday, Feb. 9
<p>Christ Church Academy Concert Singer and violinist Gaelynn Lea will perform live to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the North Florida School of Special Education Feb. 6. Beginning at 10 a.m., the concert will take place at Christ Church Academy located at 10850 St. Augustine Road in Jacksonville. The Minnesota-born musician was named the winner of NPR Music's Tiny Desk Contest in March of 2016, rising to the top of more than 6,000 entries nation-wide. She released a 6-track EP titled "The Songs We Sing Along The Way" in August featuring a blend of original songs, traditional fiddle tunes and her poetry.</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 at karnold@stjohnscoa.com.</p> <p>Adult Day Health Volunteers Needed Ponte Vedra Therapeutic Adult Day Health Care at 1050 A1A North is in need of a volunteer any weekday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This volunteer will help participants in activities such as games, music, chair exercises and simple arts and crafts projects. Certified pet therapy dogs are also welcome. Call (904) 209-3686 or email aleach@stjohnscoa.com for more information.</p> <p>Tapas Tuesday The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Café. Every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. take in the sunset on the Cummer Café patio while listening to local musicians with beer, wine or artfully inspired tapas for sale at the Café. Reserve your table by calling (904) 899-6022. For more information, visit www.cummermuseum.org. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave..</p>	<p>Art History Leisure Course St. Johns River State College will offer an art history leisure course this spring on the St. Augustine campus. The non-credit course will be taught by local artist and Florida School of the Arts instructor David Ouellette. The class will meet from 2:30 to 4p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from Feb. 7 to March 9 in room S-114 on the St. Augustine campus (course #CWR 0519). Registration for the course is \$50. To register, download the continuing education registration form from the college website at www.SJRstate.edu/continuinged.html. For additional information, call (904) 808-7400, ext. 5 or email davidouellette@sjrstate.edu.</p> <p>First Coast Card Club The First Coast Card Club invites community members to its weekly "Let's Play Cards!" event. On Feb. 7, the club will meet at the St. Augustine Main Library located at 1960 N. Ponce De Leon Boulevard. This club activity begins at 1:30 p.m.</p> <p>Senior Singles Social Club The Council on Aging invites single seniors to the Senior Singles Social Club. Join the group Feb. 7 at 11:30 a.m. for a lunch gathering at La Pentola located at 58 Charlotte St. in St. Augustine's historic district. There is limited parking behind the restaurant. Seating is limited; reservations are required and can be made by calling River House at (904) 209-3655.</p> <p>Sunset Rotary Club Meeting The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset meets Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Community leaders are welcome to attend. For more information, call club President Janeene Hart at (904) 412-5409 or email jwhart1208@gmail.com.</p>	<p>Newcomers of the Beaches Newcomers of the Beaches invites new members to its birthday bash luncheon Feb. 8 at the Sawgrass Golf Clubhouse. This event offers a chance to meet other women who have recently moved into the area or have recently been divorced, widowed or retired. The cost is \$24 and reservations are required. Visit www.newcomersofthebeaches.com for more information.</p> <p>Toastmasters Club Toastmasters Club #5199 of Ponte Vedra Beach meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at the Players Community Senior Center. These meetings will help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane. Email Carmen at carmenjsardinas@gmail.com for additional information.</p> <p>Chair Yoga St. Paul's By-the-Sea's youth ministries will host chair yoga classes Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. Participants of all skill levels are welcome to join. St. Paul's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church is located at 465 11th Avenue N in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Coastal Community Senior Center Volunteers Needed The Coastal Community Senior Center located at 180 Marine Street in St. Augustine is in need of volunteers to serve coffee and lunch and to encourage participation in activities such as games and crafts Tuesday through Friday from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. As volunteers will lead chair exercises, exercise enthusiasts and those with a background in physical education are preferred. Call (904) 209-3686 or email aleach@stjohnscoa.com for additional information.</p>	<p>Adventures in the Arts The Friends of the Library, Ponte Vedra Beach and Cummer Beaches, a support group of the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens will sponsor Adventures in the Arts, an art-oriented series of programs. The February program features photographer Craig O'Neal as he presents "Nature Adventures." This program will take place in the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library on Thursday, Feb. 9 starting at 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. For additional information, call Marianne Stein at (904) 280-2976.</p> <p>Yoga for Survivors at the Y Share a restorative experience as a yoga instructor certified by the Christina Phipps Foundation guides cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations through a gentle and safe yoga practice. This free event is open to the community. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The event will take place at the Y Healthy Living Center in the Ponte Vedra YMCA at 170 Landrum Lane. Class begins at 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>Life Enrichment Day Retreat Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra hosts a Life Enrichment Day Retreat every Tuesday, Wednesday 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) 834-7578 and ask for Ilene Thrasher or visit www.at-pontevedra.com.</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 jasmine@opcfcla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.



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PV2-LV34910



The Lodge & Club

February
Activities
for Members

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<p>2-4-1 Mondays at The Sea View Grille Every Monday Evening</p> <p>Wing Wednesday Every Wednesday Evening</p> <p>Party Bridge Every Thursday Noon</p> <p>Thirsty Thursday Every Thursday Evening</p> <p>Low Country Boil Every Friday Evening</p> <p>Kids Yoga Workshops February 8 & 22</p> <p>Kids Valentine's Bake Shop Saturday, February 11</p> <p>Cupids Brunch Saturday, February 12</p>	<p>Trivia Monday, February 13</p> <p>Valentine's Prix Fixe Tuesday, February 14</p> <p>Speaker Series Charles Spencer FBI Thursday, February 16</p> <p>Kids Movie Night Friday, February 17</p> <p>King Estate & NxNw Wine Dinner Friday, February 17</p> <p>Book Club Tuesday, February 21</p> <p>Italian Night Friday, February 24</p>
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133 LINKSIDE CIR
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Robotics

Continued from 2

science teachers and programmers that awarded points based on completion of the challenge.

In addition to "The Sis Squad" three additional teams were admitted into the "Perfect Score Round" for getting scores of 235 points. Those teams include the "King Coders" – Adam (Landrum Middle School) and Bobby (grade 5); "Team Terabyte" – Ray (grade 5) and TJ (grade 5); and "World Wonders" – Lance (grade 3), Lucas (grade 4) and Xander (grade 5). These teams will compete in a final

challenge that will then be submitted to a team of peers. The teams will review the submissions and provide feedback and commentary regarding the solutions. Completing this challenge will enter the teams into a drawing to win five Dash robots and a one-year premium curriculum subscription for OPE.

International winners will be announced March 15.

"These teams from OPE are well-prepared," Wade said, "and will certainly excel in the next round of competition!"

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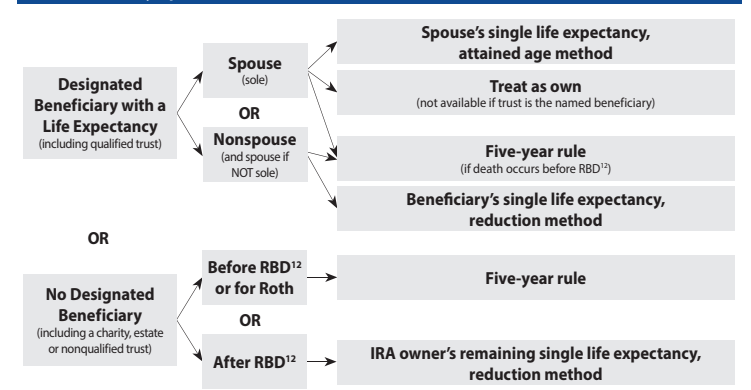
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2017 TAX REFERENCE SHEET

Uniform Lifetime Table			
Use to calculate Required Minimum Distributions from IRAs and qualified plans during owner's life. Do not use this table if owner has spousal beneficiary more than 10 years younger. Instead use Joint Life Table from IRS Pub. 590.			
Taxpayer's Age	Life Expectancy	Taxpayer's Age	Life Expectancy
70	27.4	93	9.6
71	26.5	94	9.1
72	25.6	95	8.6
73	24.7	96	8.1
74	23.8	97	7.6
75	22.9	98	7.1
76	22.0	99	6.7
77	21.2	100	6.3
78	20.3	101	5.9
79	19.5	102	5.5
80	18.7	103	5.2
81	17.9	104	4.9
82	17.1	105	4.5
83	16.3	106	4.2
84	15.5	107	3.9
85	14.8	108	3.7
86	14.1	109	3.4
87	13.4	110	3.1
88	12.7	111	2.9
89	12.0	112	2.6
90	11.4	113	2.4
91	10.8	114	2.1
92	10.2	115+	1.9

Single Life Table			
Use to calculate Minimum Required Distributions from IRAs and qualified plans after owner's death. See IRS Pub. 590 for complete table of ages 0 through 111+.			
Age	Multiple	Age	Multiple
39	44.6	64	21.8
40	43.6	65	21.0
41	42.7	66	20.2
42	41.7	67	19.4
43	40.7	68	18.6
44	39.8	69	17.8
45	38.8	70	17.0
46	37.9	71	16.3
47	37.0	72	15.5
48	36.0	73	14.8
49	35.1	74	14.1
50	34.2	75	13.4
51	33.3	76	12.7
52	32.3	77	12.1
53	31.4	78	11.4
54	30.5	79	10.8
55	29.6	80	10.2
56	28.7	81	9.7
57	27.9	82	9.1
58	27.0	83	8.6
59	26.1	84	8.1
60	25.2	85	7.6
61	24.4	86	7.1
62	23.5	87	6.7
63	22.7	88	6.3

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Local attorney urges Chamber of Commerce members to implement policies on distracted driving

By Jon Blauvelt

Wayne Hogan, a personal injury attorney at Terrell Hogan Law Office, recently advised a group of local business professionals to implement policies that prohibit employees from using cell phones or other forms of distraction while driving.

"This is something to take very seriously," said Hogan at a Jan. 26 luncheon hosted by the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Beaches Division and the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. "From your standpoint, it is something for you to consider because you have, in a business with personnel driving, vicarious liability."

Hogan told the audience that he started speaking about this issue after a distracted driver killed his friend's daughter in 2009. He said his friend established a program where lawyers across the country visit schools to try to change the behavior of students in regards to the use of cell phones or other devices while driving. Hogan said a collection of lawyers, including himself, have spoken to 500,000 students since the program started.

"Nearly 4,000 people every year die as a result of distracted driving-caused accidents," Hogan said. "Almost half a million people every year are seriously injured as a result of the use of this kind of device or

some other device that's in the vehicle. It's an epidemic."

Hogan and his colleagues realized that this issue isn't limited to students. So, they decided to amplify the message to the workforce as well. As a result, his firm created the Terrell Hogan Law Distracted Driving Awareness Campaign, which offers complimentary distracted driving presentations for both teens and the workforce.

Business implications

Many companies, Hogan said, expect their employees to answer their phones while driving and are unaware of the potential risks they face. If a company were to be found vicariously liable in a distracted driving-caused accident, Hogan said, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) would fine the business \$70,000 for structuring a workplace that presented these hazards. Next, the company's insurance rates would increase, and the employee's workers compensation costs would kick in. The company could also potentially face a lawsuit and ultimately punitive damages.

To avoid such a situation, Hogan recommended that businesses first avoid structuring employee work schedules in a way that requires them to use their phones while



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

Wayne Hogan, a personal injury attorney at Terrell Hogan Law Office, spoke to Jacksonville and St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce members at a joint luncheon about the need for companies and small businesses to implement policies that prohibit cell phone use and other forms of distractions while driving.

driving. He then advised them to create a policy for their respective businesses, ensure that their employees understand it and agree to abide by it, and develop a plan to enforce and monitor the policy.

"These things are going to happen until we have driverless cars," said Hogan, who offered to speak to any specific business about the issue. "We need to try and do everything we can to prevent them."

According to the Terrell Hogan Law Office website, the Terrell Hogan Distracted Driving Awareness Campaign has reached nearly 6,500 teens and adults on the First Coast through its presentations.



Lin Jones, Greg Voss and Sandra Goode

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Ellis joins The Quick Law Group

Attorney Sheryl Ellis has joined The Quick Law Group, focusing on family law and protecting the rights of women and children.

Ellis brings to the firm experience handling a myriad of legal cases including family law, civil litigation, business law and injury claims. She has represented clients at evidentiary hearings, depositions and mediations, and is a member of the Young Lawyers division of the Florida Bar Association.

“We are thrilled to add Sheryl to our team,” CEO Heather Quick said. “Sheryl is a resilient litigator as well as a strong advocate for women’s rights. We are confident that her knowledge and experience will greatly benefit our clients.”



LIANG

Girls Inc. to honor Liang as 2017 Woman of Vision

Girls Inc. of Jacksonville will honor Paula Liang as its 2017 Woman of Vision at the organization’s Celebration Luncheon, to be held April 18 at WJCT.

The Celebration Luncheon recognizes remarkable leaders across an array of companies, industries and sectors who are examples of success and leadership. The keynote speaker for this year’s luncheon will be Arun Gandhi, a descendant of Mahatma Gandhi, who will talk about the importance of educating and investing in a girl as an avenue for creating strong families and communities. National Girls Inc. CEO Judy Vredenburg will also be on hand for the event.

An attorney, Liang has an extensive background in the nonprofit sector leading capital campaigns and fundraising campaigns. The co-chair of the Florida Women’s Funding Alliance, Liang also serves on the board of the Women’s Collective Giving

Grantmaking Network and is the immediate past president of the Women’s Giving Alliance. She served as a director of the Jacksonville PACE Center for Girls and is currently on the advisory board of Donasity, a Jacksonville-based online fundraising start-up.

Cultural Center welcomes new board members

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach recently welcomed its 2017 board of directors.

Board officers and members include President Jessica Richardson; President-elect Mike Kleiman (2018); Immediate Past President Kip Zebroski; Treasurer John Tancredi; Secretary Pamela Bomba; and members Mary Jayne Derderian, Suzanne Flamm, Art Hayden, Becky Jewett, Mark Macco, Dee Pope, Dick Williams, Janet Wilson, Dawn Wolf and Steve Wyman.

NEXT Financial Group names Cowan president

St. Augustine native Cary Cowan has been appointed as the next president of NEXT Financial Insurance Services.

Cowan is the chairman, CEO and division manager of Cowan Financial Group, Inc. as well as the author of “The Lifetime Financial Strategies, a 21st Century Financial Planning Process.” With more than 46 years of financial services experience, Cowan he has been with NEXT since 2003, serving on the broker-dealer’s board as director since 2006.

“I am ready to take on this new role and maintain the quality support and services that NEXT Representatives have become accustomed to over the years, while adding some new value of my own,” Cowan said.



SNOWBERGER

Snowberger joins BUZZ Media Group as president

Joe Snowberger has joined the BUZZ Media Group as president, overseeing its growth.

Snowberger has a record of success in both the private and public sector. He served as director of operations for Downtown Vision, Inc.; campus director and community relations coordinator for Columbia College; and program manager and executive producer at PRC Digital Media. He most recently served as community consultant and economic liaison for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and continues to serve as the CEO of the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association, whose mission is to establish Florida’s First Naval Warship Museum on the USS Adams and locate the ship at the former Jacksonville Shipyards.

Snowberger spent 24 years in the U.S. Navy, retiring in 2000 as lieutenant commander. While enlisted, he graduated summa cum laude from Troy University with a bachelor’s degree in management. He also earned his MBA from Webster University.

“I am excited to join BUZZ as we expand our operations to provide the Jacksonville community with an excellent resource,” Snowberger said. “We are more than just a magazine, we are a way for local businesses to connect with the Jacksonville community on a new platform. I look forward to using my experience to take BUZZ to the next level.”

Advantage Dermatology expands staff, offers new products and services

Jacksonville’s Advantage Dermatology recently expanded its practice through the addition of new medical and support staff. The office recently underwent extensive renovations and has also added new aesthetic and dermatology procedures to its offerings. In addition, Founder Dr. Oliver Perez has launched a private-label skin care line, “The Skin Advantage,” that technology with botanicals for individuals with targeted dermatology, surgical, oncology and aesthetic issues.

Freedom Wealth President Bill Constain to discuss financial well-being, retirement

Freedom Wealth President Bill Constain will host an exclusive event at the Sawgrass Country Club featuring discussions on retirement and financial well-being.

Constain will present information during the educational dinner on topics such as the difference between tax-free and tax-deferred, managing growth and retirement assets and strategies to protect oneself from market volatility. The event will take place Thursday, Feb. 2 at 6 p.m. at Sawgrass Beach Club, and again on Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. at Sawgrass Golf Club.

Due to limited seating, reservations will be taken on a first-call basis. Those interested in attending the event may call (800) 762-4997 to make a reservation or RSVP online at www.YesRSVP.com using the code 165161.



Chamber of Commerce photo

Seaside Bank opens in Ponte Vedra

Representatives from the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce joined with Seaside Bank officials to celebrate its 10th anniversary with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

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Gifts from the heart: locally made gifts for her

By Jasmine Marshall

The perfect Valentine's Day gift can be a source of anxiety for anyone. The typical trappings of the holiday come to mind – assorted chocolates in a heart-shaped box, life-sized plush bears, diamond tennis bracelets and a candlelit dinner for two are the fall back for

most gift seekers, often with scant time to spare before the big day. And while the quintessential V-Day presents aren't bad choices, shopping local could offer a range of gifts more rewarding for both giver and recipient.

Couture Jems

Trade in the polished jewels for unique, lo-



cally made jewelry. Jacksonville Beach-based Couture Jems specializes in handmade jewelry

hammered from gold and carved from natural materials such as abalone, shark teeth and agate slices. Designer Julianne Elise Marie has been creating a collection of jewelry utilizing raw materials like stardust druzy, gemstone slabs and deerskin cords since 2010. Her pieces can be found and purchased at www.shopcouturejems.com.

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Ponte Vedra Soap Shoppe

Handmade soaps and body care make for a thoughtful, pampering gift; Ponte Vedra's Soap



Shoppe offers a wide selection of materials for custom soap creation as well as pre-made soaps and gift baskets. Among the offerings are scented oils, molds and mica powders as well as finished soaps in scents like amber patchouli, anise lavender and chai vanilla. The shop also offers soap making classes, books, botanicals and herbs and salts. Shop Ponte Vedra Soap Shoppe's storefront at 820 A1A North, Ste W-19 in Ponte Vedra Beach or online at www.pvsoap.com.

Ponte Vedra Floral Emporium

Though flowers may seem cliché, a creatively presented bouquet shakes up the long held tradition of red roses on Valentine's Day. Ponte Vedra's Floral Emporium is



a local florist offering special Valentine's Day bouquets, including unusual blooms in pops of purple, peach and yellow such as violets, lavender and peach spray roses, asiatic lilies and yellow daisy spray chrysanthemums. Ponte Vedra's Floral Emporium is located at 870 A1A North in Ponte Vedra, and flowers can be purchased online at www.floralemporium.com

Alleycakes Bakery Co.



Swap blindly assorted chocolates for more decadent sweets such as cake pops, macarons and mini pies from Neptune Beach-based Alleycakes Bakery Co. The three-year-old bakery offers fare as thematic as raspberries and cream, passion fruit and biscoff and the more traditional chocolate for its selection of macarons, in addition to more unorthodox selections like its salty and sweet chocolate covered bacon and champagne vanilla cupcakes. Alleycakes is located at 1517 Atlantic Boulevard.



Local matchmaker launches 'Love Starts with You' tour in Jacksonville

what to send back, when it's time to move on, personal style makeovers, and meeting the right person.

Topics will cover healing the past, new relationship skills, the power of meditation, work life balance, dating techniques, style, appearance, personality types and intimacy techniques, and breaking down barriers to include covenants vs. contracts. Additionally, key issues will be discussed such as communication techniques, the five-hour and 72-hour rule, money personality, what men and women want, strengths and weaknesses, communication, couch talk, plus the "breaking down the wall" experience when attendees can formally meet each other upon conclusion of the tour program. "We believe that happiness begins with the individual," said Steilberg, whose upscale matchmaking business is based in Riverside. "Our mission is to guide clients through a positive and well-defined journey to find happiness in life and love."

Often when individuals try to orchestrate their own dating activities, Steilberg said, people can "get in their own way," with heart-breaking results.

"We're here to help guide people through a more positive experience," she said.

In her practice work and during the February event, Steilberg includes leaders and

presenters in licensed psychology, energy and body work therapy, makeover specialists, photographers, and more. During 2017, tour plans include additional dates and locations in Orlando, Tampa, Miami, and Atlanta.

Tickets for the one-day event are \$100 per

person. Event registration will begin at 8 a.m. Feb. 4, with the event occurring from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To purchase tickets for more information, call (904) 437-7345 or visit www.reneerichel.com or www.steilbergandcompany.com.

A local professional matchmaker and relationship coach is taking her skills on the road, launching the "Love Starts With You" tour this weekend in Jacksonville.

Renee Richel Steilberg will kick off the tour Saturday, Feb. 4 at the Omni Hotel in downtown Jacksonville. According to Steilberg, the daylong event will feature dating and relationship coaching and interpersonal skills for single, divorced and married individuals and couples. In addition to learning how to better approach their love interest, attendees will gain an understanding of why a mate becomes distant, how to heal a broken heart and more. Men and women attendees will experience individual and group activities.

The session also includes tips on how to approach a potential partner and get to the first date, dating skills, dating success, sending the right text messages to keep the interest, and

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Sweet deals: Candy Apple Cafe and Cocktails takes Valentine's Day dining to new levels

Diverse range of dining options on the First Coast



By Jasmine Marshall

The Candy Apple Café and Cocktails' mood is decidedly whimsical; most fittingly, as the eatery shares floor space with Northeast Florida's largest candy shop and factory, Sweet Pete's. First opened in December of 2014, the cafe found strong foothold with a menu of chocolate- and candy-inspired fare conceived by a culinary team led by Executive Chef Jamey Evoniuk. Two months later, the restaurant would unsurprisingly become a hotbed for date-night during Valentine's Day season, with trips bookended by tours around the store and dinners equal parts fun and romantic.

As obvious a choice as a restaurant neighboring a chocolate factory might've been for Valentine's Day, Evoniuk has still been pleasantly surprised. Bringing the restaurant-within-an-establishment formula that had already seen success in the Cummer Museum's Cummer Cafe, as well as executive chef experience with The Chef's Garden and CG Dinner Club, Evoniuk was well-equipped to handle the ropes at Candy Apple.

"(The restaurant) is definitely unique,"

he said. "Being located inside of the largest candy store in Northeast Florida makes it very interesting – we have a southern and French vibe going on and we tie a lot of candy into our menu and cocktails to make sense of the building. We didn't really...see what it (would) turn into but it's definitely turned into a destination sort of establishment."

Now approaching his third Valentine's Day with restaurant, Evoniuk says the team faces the holiday with the same tailored focus that sets it apart year after year – and that's made it a hit for couples and friends alike.

"We're really keying in on Valentine's Day," he said, noting the cafe's week-long promotion as one distinguishing factor. "There's great deals – and we'd like to give people the chance to enjoy a nice romantic dinner for a nice price, but it doesn't necessarily have to be with a significant other. It can be a celebration of friendship."

That week kicks off with an "Eat Your Heart Out" Dinner Feb. 9, featuring a three course dinner of she crab soup, a dual entree of short rib and shrimp,



cauliflower puree and truffle frites, and a dessert of flourless chocolate torte, all alongside unlimited champagne. The dinner will also include themed candy demonstrations; one chocolate tempering demo by Peter "Sweet Pete" Behringer himself and an interactive strawberry dipping party for guests.

The festivities continue with a Valentine's Day Prix-Fixe to be held Feb.

10-11 and Feb. 14. This option will be available in addition to the cafe's regular menu during dinner service and consists of a three-course dinner with champagne. First course options are butternut squash and red pepper bisque with crème fraiche and pumpkin seeds or beef tartare with salt cured egg yolk, dijon aioli and capers.

Sweet Deals

Continued from 22

Second course options are petit filet with crispy brussels sprout leaves and sauce béarnaise with fingerling potato confit; pan roasted salmon and farro with braised kale, pomegranate and sweet potato purée or lemon thyme risotto with fennel, baby carrots and leeks. Rounding out the dinner is a chocolate passion fruit torte with hazelnuts and passion fruit crème anglaise.

With the specialized menu, Evoniuk trusts that the cafe will be able to set itself apart for yet another year, and that the

crowd will continue to show the unique small business some love.

“We’re a locally owned small business, so it’s always nice to (receive support),” he said. “Our dining is whimsical, romantic and fun ... and everything you eat is, fresh, made by a talented culinary team.”

To learn more about The Candy Apple Cafe and Cocktail’s Eat Your Heart Out event and to purchase tickets, visit bit.ly/EatYourHeartOut2017. For information about the Prix-Fixe specials and to make a reservation, visit www.thecandyapplecafe.com/reservations.

The Candy Apple Cafe and Cocktails isn’t the only dining option for beach-dwellers on Valentine’s Day. Fun, romantic fare is bountiful all along the First Coast.

Ovinte

10208 Buckhead Branch Drive
Jacksonville, Fl. 32246
www.ovinte.com/reservations

This tapas-style restaurant specializes in Spanish and Italian inspired fare and has a host of specials planned for V-Day. Duck rillettes served with gherkins, whole grain mustard, blackberry jam and crostini; tuna carpaccio served with shaved radish, mustard greens and miso vinaigrette; shrimp carbonara served with Nueske’s bacon, green peas, roasted garlic and linguini; and a 12 oz grilled New York strip served with whipped red bliss potatoes, rapini and maple bourbon gastrique round out the menu Feb. 14.

Cafe Alcazar

25 Granada St.
St Augustine, Fl. 32084
www.thealcazarcafe.com/cafe-alcazar

New American and Greek fair meet at Cafe Alcazar in St. Augustine. On Valentine’s Day, patrons can expect a menu of escargot, blackened shrimp alfredo pesto and crepes alcazar among other specials from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Reservations are recommended.

Bob’s Steak and Chop House

80 Amelia Village Circle
Fernandina Beach, Fl. 32024
www.omnihotels.com/hotels/amelia-island-plantation/dining/bobs-steak-chop-house

This Texas-based haunt specializes in prime steaks, seafood and wine. Valen-

tine’s specials include an oyster trio of choice including classic oysters in half shells, rosemary butter oysters and oyster Rockefeller, wagyu filet with king crab Oscar and red velvet creme brule.

Ponte Vedra Inn and Club

200 Ponte Vedra Boulevard
Ponte Vedra Beach, Fl. 32082
www.pontevedra.com/dining

Ponte Vedra’s own Inn and Club will offer up a Valentine’s menu for guests of the Seahorse Grille and Golf Club; among the specials are strawberry salad and black pepper pork belly at Seahorse Grille and crab and cream sherry bisque at Golf Club.



St. Augustine art auction to benefit Ayla's Acres



More than 150 works of art will be available at an art auction this weekend to benefit Ayla's Acres No-Kill Animal Rescue.

To be held Saturday, Feb. 4 at the Doubletree by Hilton in St. Augustine's Historic District, the event will begin at 6 p.m. with a preview of the available artworks followed by the auction at 7 p.m. Arin Ross Auctions will conduct the auction, which will feature more than 150 custom framed and matted works of art, including lithographs, etchings, serigraphs, animation cels, watercolors, original oils signed by the artists, and documented sports and entertainment memorabilia.

Featured artists include Kinkadee, Wooster Scott, Picasso, Chagall, Dali,

Renoir, Boulanger, Neiman, Rockwell and Shaviko. The majority of the art will have opening bids ranging from \$45 to \$300. Opening bids are generally 50 percent less than traditional framed gallery prices.

Tickets are \$10 and include hors d'oeuvres; a cash bar will be available.

Proceeds from the auction will support the mission of Ayla's Acres No-Kill Animal Rescue, a nonprofit that supports animal adoption, spaying and neutering services while also maintaining a 45-acre sanctuary for "unadoptable" animals.

The organization receives no government funding, relying on private donations and funds raised through items sold at Ayla's Acres Thrift Shop, which was severely damaged by Hurricane Matthew and had to be completely gutted. In addition, 95 percent of the shop's inventory and merchandising fixtures were lost in the flooding. Community out-



reach and donations enabled the thrift shop to reopen last week.

"We missed the whole Christmas season, which was a shame," Executive Director Fran Charlson said. "Fortunately, local food drives, events and fundraisers like this auction have kept the more than 250 animals in our care well-fed and healthy."

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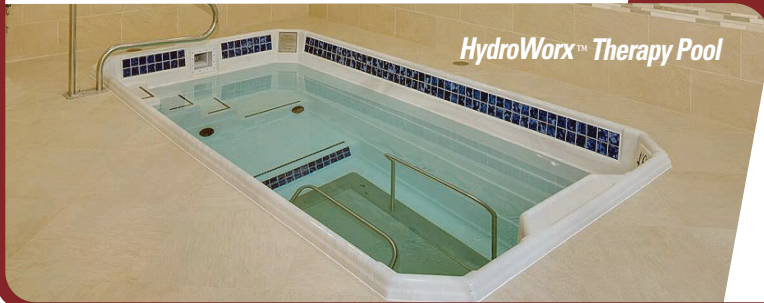
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PVS-LV34775

Sharks soccer boys advance despite loss

By Jerry Norton

The Ponte Vedra boys' soccer team beat Orange Park to earn the right to defend their Class 3A district 4 title against Matanzas last Friday night, but came out on the short end of the 2-1 final score against the Pirates. As district runner-up, Ponte Vedra still advances to regional play.

The closely contested match against Matanzas wasn't decided until the game's final three seconds. At that point, with Ponte Vedra trailing 2-1, the Sharks were awarded a direct kick from 30 yards out. Jack Bingemann took the

shot, which looked to be on the mark but was deflected off-line by a teammate. The game ended on that play setting off a wild celebration by the Pirates who won their first district title ever. The Sharks – perennial winners – had to settle for the runner-up trophy this time.

Matanzas jumped in front at the 20th minute on a throw-in header by Nathan Hubbs, the Pirates' leading scorer. Sophomore Rendon Crowley answered for Ponte Vedra just minutes before the end of the first half when he headed home a pass from Steven Sifontes.

The Pirates regained the lead with 17 minutes left then managed to hang on for the win.

Ponte Vedra's 5-0 victory over Orange Park – putting them in the title game – was never in doubt. Their 35 shots on goal bested the Orangemen by a wide margin.

The Sharks picked up their first goal at the nine-minute mark, when Bingemann surprised the OP keeper on a shot off a goal kick from about 20 yards out. Ten minutes later Bingemann set up the second Shark goal with a cross to Donovan Crowley.

Ponte Vedra took a 3-0 lead into the break, when Rendon Crowley's shot found its way past the harried OP keeper. A pair of second half goals – one by Sifontes and the other by Rendon Crowley – sent the Sharks on to the title game.

Looking to defend their state championship, the Sharks will have their work cut out. They must first face Paxon and if successful, either Matanzas again or Stanton to make it to the regional finals. Said an optimistic Coach Danny Villarreal, "We'll be OK. We've been down this road."



Rendon Crowley looks back to see his header get past the Pirate keeper for the Sharks only score.



Photos by Chris and Jerry Norton
#15 Steven Sifontes battles for control of the ball with a Pirate defender.



#9 Jack Bingemann gets a shot off against Matanzas.



The Sharks can't find the net on a corner kick against Matanzas.

Lady Sharks advance with mercy win over Parker

By Jerry Norton

The Ponte Vedra girls' soccer team posted an 8-0 mercy win over visiting Parker High School Friday to advance to the Class 3A regional semi-finals. It was the team's fourth consecutive win and fourth straight shutout. It was the ninth shutout of the season for Shark goalkeeper Hannah Suder

Ponte Vedra took complete control of the game almost immediately. Tatum Taucher's header on a Piper Dotsikas pass six minutes in just missed, but it was one of the few chances on which the Sharks failed to convert all evening and was an indication of what was to come. It was also the first of several setups the junior, Dotsikas, would make.

The Sharks took an early lead at the 27-minute mark when Dotsikas sent a perfect cross to Julia Worman stationed in front of the visitor's goal and Worman's shot found the back of the cage. Three minutes later Dotsikas set up Molly Miller to put the Sharks up 2-0. When Makayla Parkes' feed to Caroline Lesher eluded the Parker keeper, a mercy win seemed possible. Reilly Tarbet's goal then made it 4-0 Sharks.

Sophie Lesher bumped the lead to 5-0 five minutes before the first half ended setting the stage for a rare Shark mercy win.

Coach Silverberg gave most of his starters the rest of the night off but Ponte Vedra's offense never really missed a beat. After Cassidy Bierwagen scored at the 45th minute mark, the Lesher sisters combined for the seventh goal – Sophie scored and Caroline got the assist.

Despite the fact the many of the Shark starters were resting on the sideline, the Shark defense remained stout. Parker managed just two shots on goal the entire game and neither was a challenge for Suder.

Lydia Merete's blistering shot from 10 yards out was the Sharks' eighth goal, ending the match and sending Ponte Vedra (10-5-6) to the regional semi-finals against the Stanton Blue Devils (12-6-3).

Ponte Vedra is playing their best soccer of the season; their defense has been superb – vintage Silverberg. In

Silverberg, the Sharks have a coach whose playoff record is second to none. In Piper Dotsikas, a UCF commit, Ponte Vedra has a dominant player capable of controlling the game anywhere on the pitch.

With such evenly matched teams, the winner may, unfortunately, be decided by a penalty kick shootout.



Lydia Merete, #23, gets off a long shot against Parker.



10 Kia Hayes moves up-field for the Sharks against Parker.

Photos by Chris and Jerry Norton



#14 Caroline Lesher's header eludes the Parker keeper for a goal.



#9 Sophie Lesher shoots and scores for the Sharks as #10 Kia Hayes and #20 Leah Cills looks on.

SHORT TAKES

Toddler Movement Class

All active walkers up to 3 years old and their caregivers are invited to join the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library Feb. 2 for Shaky Egg dancing and singing as they move our way through active storytelling. Set to take place from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., this class is specifically designed for the interactive reader with their caregiver's participation and for families with multiple children, including babies. Call Youth Services Librarian Anne Crawford at (904) 827-6950 with any questions.

Prenatal Yoga

Share experiences with other women with empowerment through yoga, meditation, and guided visualization. This approach is gentle and safe for women in all stages of pregnancy. Participants are asked to bring a yoga mat, towel and water. This event will be held Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. and there is a \$13 class fee per attendee. For additional information or to register, call (904) 202-5376 or visit baptistjax.com/ymca. Prenatal yoga classes will take place at the Y Healthy Living Center in the Ponte Vedra YMCA located at 170 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach.

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Nick Tronti switches commitment from UNC-Charlotte to Indiana

By Jon Blauvelt

Ponte Vedra High School quarterback Nick Tronti has switched his commitment from University of North Carolina-Charlotte to University of Indiana after recently taking a visit to the Hoosiers in Bloomington, Indiana.

“I really liked everything about it,” said Tronti, who announced his decision via Twitter Jan. 24. “I liked the coaches, facilities, the people and just the feel. The feel is really what gets you when you go there.”

As the recipient of the 2016 Florida Dairy Farmers Mr. Football award, Tronti was recognized as the state’s top high school football player. The quarterback led Ponte Vedra on a magical playoff run that ended in a heartbreaking 35-33 loss to American Heritage High School in Ponte Vedra’s first ever-state championship appearance. He passed for 3,333 yards and 34 touchdowns and rushed for 662 yards and 19 touchdowns throughout the season, which ultimately resulted in him being crowned Mr. Football in December by a statewide panel of high school football coaches and media representatives.

Tronti said he’s looking forward to the opportunity to help revitalize Indiana’s football program, which hasn’t had a winning season since 2007. He helped to place Ponte Vedra on the map, and he said a similar challenge awaits him as a

Hoosier. Tronti will play for Tom Allen, who replaces Kevin Wilson as head coach of the Hoosiers after Wilson resigned in December. Allen was the defensive coordinator at Indiana in 2016 and previously the defensive coordinator at University of South Florida in 2015.

Tronti said he’s also excited to play against the stout competition of the Big Ten and experience some of the more historic and prominent stadium atmospheres in college football at universities like Michigan, Ohio State, Penn State and Wisconsin.

“It’s going to be an unbelievable experience that I know I’ll remember for the rest of my life,” he said. “But I don’t want to go in there just to play. I want to go in there to win.”

Ponte Vedra head coach Matt Toblin said the opportunity at Indiana was one his three-year starting quarterback couldn’t pass up.

“We’re excited about Indiana, and we’re excited about the opportunities he’s going to have,” said Toblin. “It will be awesome to watch him.”

Tronti reiterated his coach’s comments and said it was tough to inform UNC-Charlotte of his decision. But committing to Indiana, he said, is what’s best for him moving forward. The Ponte Vedra quarterback made his decision official Feb. 1 on National Signing Day.

“I am 100 percent Hoosier,” he said.



Photo courtesy of Nick Tronti

Nick Tronti with Indiana Recruiting Coordinator Noah Joseph.

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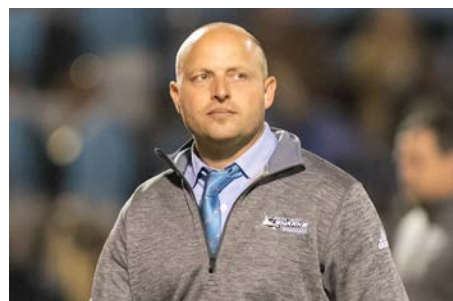
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Sharks coach Matt Toblin attends Pro Bowl as nominee for 2016 Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year Award



By Jon Blauvelt

Ponte Vedra football coach Matt Toblin was a VIP guest at the NFL Pro Bowl in Orlando this past weekend as one of 32 nominees for the 2016 Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year Award. Toblin was nominated for the national award by the Jacksonville Jaguars in January for his character, integrity, leadership, dedication to the community and his commitment to player safety and on-field success.

Randy Allen from Highland Park High School in Dallas ultimately won the award, as announced during the Pro Bowl Jan. 29. Toblin was nevertheless proud of the nomination.

"I was so proud of our kids and our coaching staff for all their hard work that made it possible for me to get the nomination," said Toblin, who led the Sharks on a magical playoff run this past year that ended in a heartbreaking 35-33 loss to American Heritage High School in Ponte Vedra's first ever-state championship appearance. "All individual awards are the result of a group effort, and I am so thankful for them."

As a nominee for the award, Toblin visited Pro Bowl practices, participated in the USA Football National Conference and attended the Pro Bowl, itself, at Camping World Stadium. Jaguars Director of Player Development and Youth Football Marcus Pollard said Toblin is a perfect representative for the Jacksonville community.

"Coach Toblin pours his heart and soul into his football program and his players are better because of it," said Pollard. "He is a symbol of hard work and dedication and puts others ahead of himself."

Ponte Vedra quarterback Nick Tronti said Toblin is responsible for transforming the Ponte Vedra football program.

"I can't tell you how many things I've learned from him," said Tronti. "He loves football, and he loves making an impact on other peoples' lives. He's truly changed my life."

Toblin has 15 years of coaching experience, including the last three as the head coach at Ponte Vedra where he has accumulated a 24-11 record. He previously coached at Southern Oregon University as a defensive coordinator and Clay High School as head coach, leading the Blue Devils to back-to-back district championships. Toblin started his coaching career at Nease High School, where he coached defensive backs and helped the Panthers win a state championship and advance to two others. A native of Jacksonville, he played high school football at Mandarin High School.

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72						73				74				

ACROSS

- 1. a.m. slice
- 6. "___ humbug!"
- 9. French Sudan, today
- 13. Opposite of bonjour
- 14. *Jesse Owens' team
- 15. Take exception to
- 16. Brightest star in Cygnus
- 17. Snowmobile runner
- 18. On the rocks
- 19. Highest level
- 21. *"Hidden ___," movie (2016)
- 23. ___ Luis Obispo
- 24. Goes with rave
- 25. Scepter's partner
- 28. Heat in a microwave
- 30. Greek poet from Lesbos
- 35. Road shoulder
- 37. Irritate
- 39. Lively olden-day dance
- 40. Diva's delivery
- 41. *Public ___ hip hop group
- 43. Wild ox of India
- 44. Tropical smoothie flavor
- 46. Charades, e.g.
- 47. ___ Pound, poet
- 48. Chest pain
- 50. Pop group "N ___"
- 52. Mary Kay's last name
- 53. A long walk
- 55. To boot

DOWN

- 1. Little bit
- 2. Lyric poem, pl.
- 3. Hokkaido native
- 4. "___ Like Old Times"
- 5. *Railroad conductor
- 6. Portrait sculpture
- 7. Pose a question
- 8. Israeli port
- 9. Carte du jour
- 10. Gulf V.I.P.
- 11. Playwright Clare Booth ___
- 12. Wraths
- 15. Soldier's ID
- 20. Habituate
- 22. Opposite of outs
- 24. News announcement to the press
- 25. *44th President
- 26. Was rebroadcast
- 27. Carry something
- 29. *Espoused civil disobedience
- 31. 1950s pin-up Bettie
- 32. Eloise's residence

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

- 33. Meryl Streep's "The ___" (2002)
- 34. *Philanthropist Winfrey
- 36. Gaspar, Balthasar and Melchior
- 38. *Harry Belafonte, first African-American to win one (1960)
- 42. Gossipmonger
- 45. Wait on a phone
- 49. Be unwell
- 51. Pupa's shelter
- 54. "Little ___ fact"
- 56. Giraffe's cousin
- 57. "Mad ___" word game
- 58. Lightbulb over head?
- 59. Whiskey without water
- 60. Nurse's attention
- 61. * ___ Gibson, "the black Babe Ruth"
- 62. a.k.a. The Islamic State
- 63. Europe's highest volcano
- 66. *1831 slave rebellion leader
- 68. *Obama before becoming President

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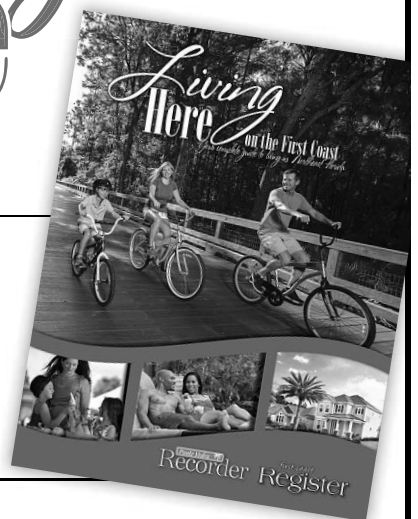
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BASKETBALL

Nease girls basketball finishes regular season with big win on senior night

By Jon Blauvelt

The Nease girls basketball team capped off an impressive regular season with a dominant 83-28 win over Ridgeview Jan. 26 on senior night.

The game was tight early on, with Nease (21-3) just barely leading Ridgeview (5-13) at the end of the first quarter, 23-18. Yet defensive adjustments by Nease Head Coach Sherri Anthony made all the difference as Nease limited Ridgeview to 10 points throughout the rest of the game.

“We weren’t defending the shot,” said Anthony, whose team captured the St. Johns River Conference title Jan. 24 with a 47-45 overtime win over Middleburg. “We were just sitting back in the zone. Once we started contesting, things changed.”

Sophomore guard Kiya Turner led Nease’s offensive push with 29 points, seven assists, four steals and eight rebounds.

Turner, who is one of the team’s three captains, has averaged 21 points, four assists, six steals and eight rebounds per game throughout the season. Anthony attributes Turner’s success on the court to her tireless work ethic and her experience as a freshman. She started on the varsity squad last year, said Anthony, with four seniors in the lineup. The Nease head coach said many players would have folded under that type of pressure, but Turner has exceeded expectations and become a leader.

“She has put this team on her back this year,” said Anthony, who has coached Nease for 31 years.

Sophomore center Peyton Carter was



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

Nease captured the St. Johns River Conference title Jan. 24 with a 47-45 overtime win over Middleburg.

a formidable presence in the paint with 16 points, two assists, three steals and 10 rebounds, nine of which were offensive rebounds. Freshman guard Karissa Niles added 13 points, two assists, two steals and a rebound.

Anthony refers to the trio of Turner, Carter and Niles as the team’s “three-headed monster,” saying they have been the key to Nease’s success all year.

Before Nease’s last game of the season, the team celebrated seniors

Kendall Miller, Kiara Morisseau and Sarah Gray. Anthony has been especially impressed with this group of young women.

“It was awesome to see how all three, along with their teammates, jelled this year,” she said. “Their leadership skills, attitude, camaraderie and work ethic were second to none, and that’s huge.”

As Nease attempts to make a run in the playoffs, which start this week, Anthony said her team still needs to work

on ball control, making the extra pass, ensuring players are in the right place for rebounds and snatching the ball instead of just holding it. As seen in the Ridgeview game, Anthony said her team needs to defend the shot for all four quarters of the game. But overall, the Nease head coach feels fortunate about where her team stands.

“God’s blessed us,” said Anthony. “We’re 21-3.”



The Nease girls basketball team celebrated seniors Kendall Miller, Kiara Morisseau and Sarah Gray before its 83-28 win over Ridgefield Jan. 26.



Sophomore guard Kiya Turner attempts a free throw. She led Nease with 29 points, seven assists, four steals and eight rebounds.

BASKETBALL

Sharks hope to lick their wounds in final week of the season

By Jim Moyes
Special to the Recorder

It was a topsy-turvy week for the Ponte Vedra basketball team last week. There was some good, some bad and the week concluded with a big question mark as Coach Bud Beech's Sharks head into the final week of the regular season.

The Sharks enjoyed a rare home game played last week when they made amends for an earlier 21-point blowout loss on the road at Bartram Trail with a well-earned 74-67 win over the always competitive Bears. The two games played on the road, however, were less than rosy for the locals. A day earlier, the Sharks played one of their poorest games of the season in a narrow two point 43-41 loss to Clay Co, the first win ever for the Blue Devils over Ponte Vedra in basketball.

It appeared that Ponte Vedra was again going to hold the whammy over the host Blue Devils when they raced out to an

early 11-1 lead. The Blue Devils took control of the contest for the next two quarters as the Sharks were only able to score three points in the pivotal third quarter.

Shaking off his rust after missing the previous five games, J.D. Pirris kept the Sharks close to the Blue Devils by scoring 10 of his game-high 16 points in the final quarter.

Despite their district loss to Clay, the Sharks will still enter the upcoming playoffs beginning Feb. 7 in Palatka as the district's No. 1 seed. Ponte Vedra will open up the tourney at 6 p.m. against the winner of the Feb. 6 game between Menendez and Matanzas.

The Sharks recovered quickly the following evening after the loss to Clay when they returned to the Shark Tank for only the second time in 14 games. Eston Hensley lit up the scoreboard in the first quarter when he ripped the nets for 14 points, as the Sharks raced out to an early

lead and never looked back. Hensley would finish the evening with a career-high 25 points while Pirris was close behind with 23. Coach Beech received a big lift from his 6'8" junior center Jack Johnson in the Bartram win with nine points and seven blocked shots.

Friday's loss at Providence to the area's top rated team was certainly not unexpected, but their poor shooting and sloppy passing were the least of their concerns in the defeat. Three-year starting guard Pirris, while frustrated with his driving layups that agonizingly hung on the rim before falling into the waiting arms of a Stallion player, left the game with a sprained ankle in the third quarter, leaving his status for this week, and the upcoming playoffs, up in the air.

The Shark duo, who combined for 48 points in Wednesday's victory over Bolles, had a complete 180 reversal against Providence as they paired up to make but 2-19 of their two-point shot

attempts.

It was clear that many of the Sharks were either intimidated or in awe of the tall and talented Stallions, coached by Jim Martin, the coach for prep basketball's most prestigious post-season event at the McDonald's classic. Providence was led in scoring by former Menendez player Zachary "Scooty" Bryant, this year's odds-on favorite to take home player of the year honors for the First Coast.

The Sharks now will take their still impressive 13-9 overall record into this week's final three regular-season contests beginning with this past Tuesday's home game against neighboring Fletcher High.

Following a Thursday road trip west on Interstate 10 to play a very good Baker County five, the Sharks will play their final home game of the season Friday night in front of what surely will be a packed and enthusiastic crowd when they host arch rival Nease.

SHORT TAKES

Salem Neighbor: Syrian Families Living as Refugees

On Feb. 4, World Relief Jacksonville and the St. Augustine Film Society will sponsor a showing, discussion and exhibit about the challenges refugee families face abroad and in the U.S. as they struggle to care for their children while trying to overcome personal loss and cultural barriers. "Salem Neighbor: Syrian Families Living as Refugees" will be shown at The Foundation Academy as part of the Museum of Science History's "Voices of Hope" city-wide initiative. Admission is free. For more information, contact staugustinefilmsociety@gmail.com or bboydston@wr.org, or call (904) 535-4575 or (904) 254-9524.

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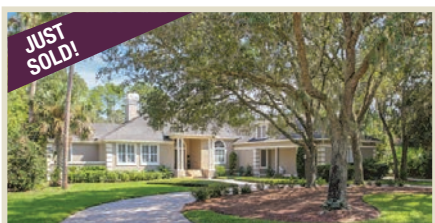


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Landrum girls and boys varsity soccer teams take championship

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The Landrum Middle School girls' varsity soccer team took home the St. Johns County Championship Sunday, Jan. 8 at Gamble Rogers Middle School in St. Augustine.

The team, coached by Tammi Noon and Sam Wooten, went undefeated for the first time ever this season. Entering the county playoffs as the first seed, the Lady Lions won four straight playoff games to get to the finals. The girls defeated Liberty Pines Academy 3-0 to end their season with a 15-0 record.

That same day, the Landrum Middle School boys' varsity soccer team won their St. Johns Soccer Championship against the Fruit Cove Flyers in a 2-1 game. Following a first goal by Lucas Bouquot, the boys broke a tie in the final minutes of the game when Josh Cills scored the winning goal with an assist from Cade Greenwald.



Photo courtesy of Laura Bob

SOCCER continues on **Page 35**

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Soccer

Continued from 34



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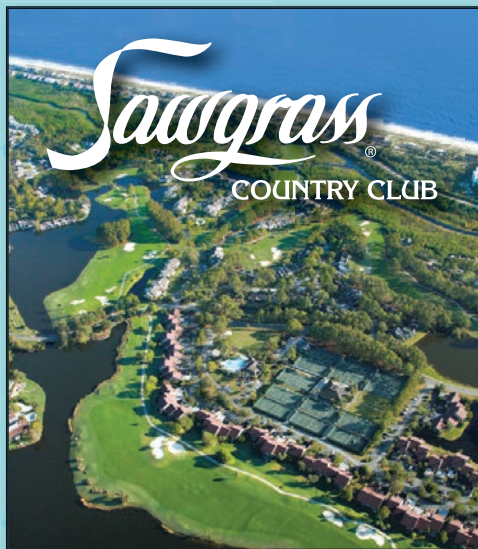
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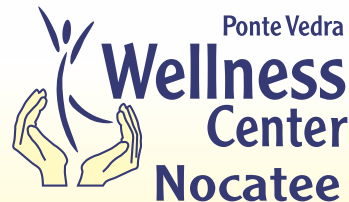


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