

Ponte Vedra Recorder



August 17, 2017
Volume 47, No. 33
75 cents

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com



First Coast Register
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A Cosmic Event
Pages 16-17



Business Weekly
Pages 22-26



THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP TO MOVE BACK TO MARCH

Photo by Don Christian

Si Woo Kim celebrates winning THE PLAYERS Championship, which will be moved back to March starting in 2019. Read more about the announcement on page 33.



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Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening.

E-mail submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com

or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



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Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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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

WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer with your first and last name to jonb@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.

16 readers correctly identified last week's photo as The Fresh Market. Good job, everyone! The winner of the random drawing was Joanne Firsty.

Congratulations, Joanne – you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Georgia, and I am a 5-year-old female 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 me today here at the pet center! #39059



DOG OF THE WEEK

My name is Dallas, and I am a 6-year-old male dog 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 me today here at the pet center! # 38899

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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Ponte Vedra woman arrested, charged with aggravated assault with deadly weapon without intention to kill

By Samantha Logue

A Ponte Vedra woman was arrested Wednesday, Aug. 9 and charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon without intention to kill.

According to a St. Johns County Sheriff's Office police report, Nocatee resident Judy Shivers approached three construction workers who were working outside her home at 7:29 a.m., with a .22 caliber rifle in her hands. Shivers allegedly then pointed the rifle at the workers and yelled at them to leave. When officers arrived at the scene, the construction workers were found hiding behind their concrete trucks.

Shivers, who lives at 656 Coconut Palm Parkway, is a resident of The Palms at Nocatee neighborhood. She was released from St. Johns County Jail after posting a bond amount of \$2,500.



Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Sheriff's Office
Judy Shivers

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This fantastic home would be perfect for entertaining with a generous open floor plan, a large kitchen with plenty of food prep space that opens to the sizable great room and deep backyard with a covered patio. MLS 894159

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DOLPHIN COVE

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Spend your afternoons enjoying the relaxing views of lush flora from the enclosed porch of this well maintained home constructed in 2014. The interior offers wide-plank wood floors in most rooms, coffered ceilings in the great room and custom cabinets/granite in the kitchen and baths. MLS 895524

Elizabeth Brockelman 904.451.0043
EBrockelman@WatsonRealtyCorp.com

SJSO nabs 17 in child exploitation sting

By Samantha Logue

In a press conference Aug. 11, St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar announced that 17 men, ranging in age from 19 to 60 years old, have been arrested for soliciting sex from minors as a result of a county-wide undercover operation entitled “Operation Cruel Summer.”

The operation, which was the fourth of its kind led by the St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office (SJSO) over the past six years, was a five-day operation in which undercover detectives posed as children online to locate and identify suspects wishing to sexually exploit minors.

“It took place about two weeks ago, here in our county,” Shoar said. “All of you are familiar with the method of operation that

we use. We start chatting people up on these e-commerce sites, and invariably, some of these people are looking to travel here – to our county – thinking that they are going to have some kind of sexual relationship with an underage female or an underage male.”

Shoar explained that suspects are often aware that they could be speaking with undercover law enforcement when they are seeking out children online, but that the compulsion that drives them is just too great for them to exercise more caution.

“People that engage in this behavior, there’s no 12-step program and there’s no therapy for them,” he said. “We’ve learned that the hard way over many, many years.”

Shoar advised that, even with some suspects’ carelessness, advancements in technology are making it easier for predators

to sexually exploit children.

“One of the issues that we have is that the bad people, the people who come down and try to do these things to 10-year-old girls and boys, they’re not as dumb as you might think,” Shoar said. “Things are evolving with technology—I call it the ‘dark side of technology.’ It’s evolving in the child porn industry... and we’ve got to stay one step ahead of them because if we don’t, our children are going to be victimized.”

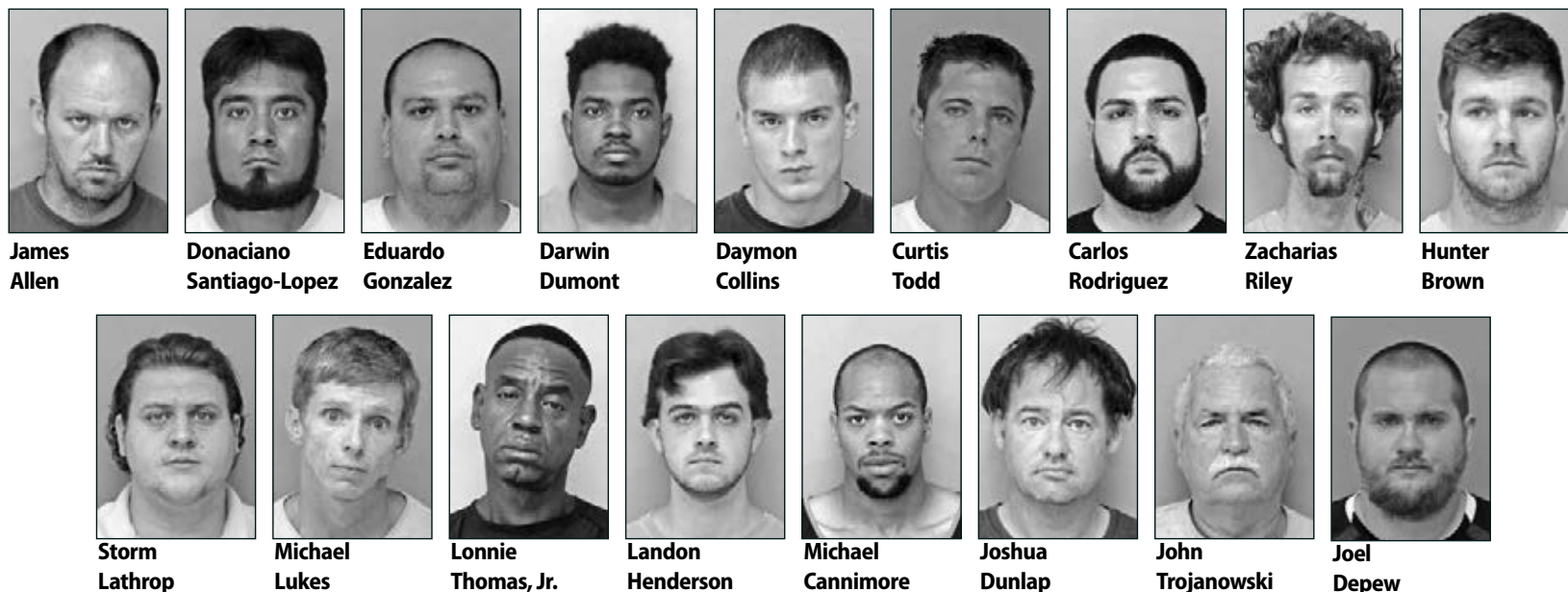
Though most of the 17 apprehended men were Florida residents, some traveled from out of state to solicit sex from children. Of those arrested, eight were from Duval County, five were from St. Johns County, one each were from Clay and Flagler Counties, and two traveled from Richmond, Virginia and Charleston, South Carolina, respectively.

Shoar stressed that while SJSO managed to capture 17 suspects, the number of other offenders out there committing these crimes is unknowable.

“For every arrest that we may make involving this particular type of crime, I can’t even venture to guess how people get through and actually are able to victimize our children,” he said.

Nonetheless, Shoar expressed his gratitude for the collaboration that took place throughout the county in order to make Operation Cruel Summer possible, stating, “We are all in this fight together... and there’s nothing worse than seeing children victimized by anybody—especially these types of people who are looking to sexually manipulate and exploit these kids.”

Photos courtesy of St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office



Former St. Johns County Tax Collector employee arrested for defrauding customers

Employee worked at both main office in St. Augustine and branch office in Ponte Vedra

By Jon Blauvelt

A former customer representative of the St. Johns County Tax Collector (SJTC) who worked at both the main office in St. Augustine and branch office in Ponte Vedra Beach was arrested Aug. 11 for defrauding nearly 600 customers of over \$13,000 spanning the course of nearly four years.

Melissa Bush, a 50-year-old St. Augustine Beach resident, was arrested on charges of scheme to defraud property value under \$20,000 and official misconduct. She was booked into St. Johns County Jail upon her arrest but subsequently released after posting a bond amount of \$2,500.

According to a St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office (SJSO) police report, deputies were notified in April by the Tax Collector’s office

that Bush had allegedly been stealing money from customers. Video surveillance showed her in one particular situation charging a customer too much money for a duplicate driver’s license and placing the cash difference in her purse.

The report states that Bush admitted to the fraudulent activity upon being accused. She explained that she had been charging customers more than the actual fees for several years, destroying the transaction receipts and pocketing the difference to support her illicit drug habits. The report indicates that Bush’s crimes spanned from June 2013 to April 2017. According to a SJTC press release, she was employed with the office starting in December 2007.

SJSO’s investigation concluded that Bush defrauded 593 customers of \$13,433.53.

SJTC said all victims identified in the investigation will receive a complete refund for any portion of their transaction that was fraudulently overcharged. SJTC will be reimbursed by restitution paid to the state attorney’s office.

SJTC noted that this incident has prompted a review of procedures regarding monetary transactions. Several new measures, the office added, have already been implemented, including regular, random audits of customer service representatives’ tills, random drug screenings, automated change machines, enhanced security surveillance and supervisor training.

“I realize people are fallible, and processes may be flawed, but I believe the measures we have implemented will significantly reduce the likelihood of this happening again,” said

St. Johns County Tax Collector Dennis W. Hollingsworth. “You have placed your trust in me, and I can be certain that we have learned from this, we are a stronger organization because of it and will strive to maintain your faith in our services.”



Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office
Melissa Bush

MSD board: county aims to complete construction on new Mickler's Landing Beach walkover in spring 2018

By Jon Blauvelt

At this Monday's Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District (MSD) meeting, Trustee Brad Wester said the county's parks and recreation department is aiming to start construction on the new Mickler's Landing Beach walkover and other improvements in the winter and complete that construction in spring 2018.

Wester added at the Aug. 14 meeting at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library that the county is hoping to "go out to bid" for the project within the next three to four weeks.

In other news, Trustee Kitty Switkes said a beach renourishment project will start at St. Augustine Beach this fall. Switkes noted that the project is part of a 50-year federal plan and not related to Hurricane Matthew recovery. 780 cubic yards of sand will be taken from the St. Augustine Inlet, she said, to replenish the beaches. Switkes added that the project will cost \$10-15 million and will mostly be paid by federal and bed tax dollars. The last beach renour-

ishment project at St. Augustine Beach was in 2012.

Also at the MSD meeting, Ponte Vedra resident Carl Blesing asked the board to address yard trash and debris that he says is piling up in his neighborhood.

"It really gets to be unsightly at times," he said. "I'd like to request that the MSD do some type of research as to how we can eliminate this problem if we possibly can."

MSD Chairman John Wegl said the homeowners are responsible for instructing contractors to haul these piles away. He further explained that yard debris pickup is controlled by the county. Wegl said the county has implemented rules directing Republic Services not to pick up anything on vacant lots or anything that exceeds the normal crew pickup size.

Trustee John Cellucci, who is responsible for managing the district's relationship with Republic, said the MSD's contract with the company states that when a property owner's yard waste is out of compliance, Republic must tag

it and tell the property owner why they didn't pick it up, as well as what can be done to correct the problem. Cellucci added that he recently met with Republic representatives to clarify these policies, as well as to ask to make the tags more legible and put them in plastic sleeves so that they're protected from the weather. Cellucci said information regarding the MSD's yard waste policies can be found on the district's website (<http://www.pvmsd.org/>).

During Wegl's update, he said he recently received a letter from County Administrator Michael Wanchick, asking the MSD for input on the county's legislative action plan that it submits to Tallahassee for funding. The MSD board concluded that support is needed for water drainage improvement throughout the district, as well as for the replacement of the Miranda Road bridge.

In addition, Wegl reported that the final Ponte Vedra/Palm Valley traffic study is currently sitting with the county for approval. Following the county's approval and the release of

the document to the public, Wegl said a survey will be sent to residents to gain their input regarding the final suggested improvements.

Wegl also said he recently spoke with county representatives regarding code enforcement and discovered that the county is "swamped" with code enforcement complaints from the MSD. As a result, he said they discussed setting priorities to mitigate the situation moving forward.

"The most important issues to us would be addressed as soon as they're identified, and the lesser issues will be pushed off to the side to be addressed when time permits," he said. "I think we're in a situation now when we're 'crying wolf' too many times."

At the conclusion of the meeting, the board decided not to implement a roll back rate following its decision last month to maintain the MSD's millage rate at .375.

At the next MSD meeting Sept. 11, the board will vote on its final budget for fiscal year 2017-2018.

SHORT TAKES

The Bookmark's 27th Birthday

The BookMark is celebrating its 27th birthday on Saturday, Aug. 26 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The event will feature Story Time with Miss Pat for children ages 3 - 8 and other festivities throughout the day, including treats and a chance to win

prices. The Bookmark is located at 220 1st St. in Neptune Beach, Florida.

Lincolville Festival

This free event celebrates the Lincolville community, established in 1866, and features live music, dancing, food, drinks, local vendors and fun activities for youth.

The festival will take place at 399 Riberia St. in St. Augustine from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sept. 16 and 1 to 6 p.m. Sept. 17 at Eddie Vickers Park.



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Gary Jurenovich is the vice chairman of the Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District (MSD) board and a longtime resident of the area. He is also a partner in a Visiting Angels franchise that operates in the San Marco/Mandarin area of Jacksonville.

Gary Jurenovich

By Jon Blauvelt

What are your roles and responsibilities as a MSD trustee?

I am currently serving as vice chairman and the past two years served as chairman. My individual responsibilities as MSD trustee are to serve as the liaison for the sheriff's office deputies that are assigned to patrol the MSD. I also am responsible for roads and bridges as well as street signs and safety.

You've served on the MSD Board for 11 years. What makes it so important to you?

It is an opportunity to give back a little to the community, to the neighborhood that I call home. I think everyone desires to live in a nice place and to have a welcoming neighborhood. It only takes a few who can motivate many to help make this happen, and that is what will make the difference. I have had the chance to serve with so many wonderful people who were MSD trustees that became mentors. All of that hard work is what makes the MSD a great place to live.

What other civic efforts do you take part in around the community?

I regularly attend our county commission meetings to keep informed on issues that will affect the MSD. I help and support the annual 5K race held on the Fourth of July here in the MSD and support any athletic event in our area such as the Donna and the BFAST Triathlons at Micklers. I just recently graduated from the 27th class of the Sheriff's Civilian Law Enforcement Academy.

Can you please tell us about your professional background?

I am a partner in a Visiting Angels franchise that operates in the San Marco/Mandarin area of Jacksonville. We provide homecare services for seniors. I have worked with my business partner since 1999, and he was recently voted to be president elect for his Rotary club. We are both civic-minded and try hard to work for seniors as well as for our individual communities.

What brought you to Ponte Vedra?

I accepted my first job out of college with a company that put me in Jacksonville. It wasn't long before I discovered the beach and bought a beach cruiser, spending every weekend riding around and soaking up the sun. One day I decided to ride south to see what was down that way. When I finally turned around, I found that I was in a stiff breeze so I got up on the street that was Ponte Vedra Boulevard. Right where I got on the road, there was a sign advertising a lot for sale. I came back the next day, bought the lot and built a house. That was in 1982.

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

I am an early riser and nature lover. I just have to be outside whenever possible. North Florida is absolutely beautiful and has so much to offer. My wife and my son and I are always at the beach, riding bikes, fishing or just walking and looking for shark teeth. I've been to a lot of places and different cities. I've enjoyed having dinner with friends at some nice restaurants. But, take a cup of coffee and go watch the sun come up at the beach. It will make you appreciate each and every day you have had



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

the privilege to be on this earth.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I spend time with my family. My son just graduated from Ponte Vedra High and will be starting college this fall, so I am very proud of him. We like to fish, ride bikes

on the beach and wash the mud off of our trucks. My wife is my best friend; I could not do the things I enjoy without her by my side. Naturally when she wants to do something, I will lean that way. But what guy wouldn't?

OBITUARIES

Lucille Bierman

Lucille Bierman, 93, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Aug. 10, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com.

Nancy Stack DeBiase

Nancy Stack DeBiase, 61, died Aug. 6, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com.

J.W. Gilbert

J.W. Gilbert, M.D., 93, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Aug. 9, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com.

SHORT TAKES

Sing Out Loud Music Festival

The Sing Out Loud Music Festival, which will be held for three weekends in September, is the largest free music festival ever held in St. Johns County. Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from Sept. 8 through Sept. 24, music venues throughout St. Augustine will host various musical artists in a range of genres. Artists will include Steve Earle, Lake Street Dive, Wolf Parade, Dirty Dozen Brass Band and more. For the full schedule of performances and events, visit www.singoutloudfestival.com.

Labor Day Savory Faire Food and Wine Tasting

Celebrate Labor Day with a three-hour food and wine tasting tour in St. Augustine, starting at 1:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 4. Guests will visit various local restaurants and eateries as they sample their way around the Ancient City. Admission is \$59 per person. The tour will begin at the City Walks office at 4 Granada St. For more information, call (904) 825-0087 or visit www.staugcitywalks.com.

Ponte Vedra Auto Show

The 15th annual Ponte Vedra Auto Show will take place Sunday, Sept. 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Nocatee Town Center. Hosted by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, the event will feature 180 collectors' cars, including classic cars, exotic cars, trucks and motorcycles. Local food trucks and other vendors will also be onsite throughout the show. Admission and parking for the event are free. Nocatee Town Center is located at 245 Nocatee Center Way in Ponte Vedra.

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**STARS
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NEW ON THE MARKET

You can now own where the Marsh Landing developer constructed his family's home. You can imagine how this 5-bedroom, mostly one-story home captures the beauty of the marsh! Warm wood floors, updated open kitchen/family room and spectacular master suite! Hurry! \$1,245,000.

PRIVACY + STYLE

This custom 5br + study Plantation home features weathered wood floors, an enormous lanai with extended covered area and oversized pool, custom kitchen with crisp marble counters, on a lot backing to conservation land. Plus Beach/Tennis/Fitness/Golf/Dining excellence that comes with Plantation membership! \$1,150,000.

INTRACOASTAL VIEWS

Not a condo, but a 4-story townhome with a private courtyard and 2-car garage, plus an elevator - Watersedge at Harbortown offers Mediterranean architecture and a one-of-a-kind style in northeast Florida, with almost all rooms marina and ICW views. You'll be impressed with all you get for \$849,900. Boat slip available!

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PV2-LV41147

Ponte Vedra High student selected as Bank of America Student Leader, attends leadership summit in Washington, D.C.

By Samantha Logue

Each year, Bank of America selects more than 200 students from around the country to participate in its Student Leaders program. This year, Ponte Vedra High School senior Harrison Snowden was among those selected.

The primary purpose of the Student Leaders program is to provide service-oriented high school juniors and seniors with the knowledge and skills to become future leaders in their communities. Selected students are awarded a paid summer internship at a local nonprofit in addition to participation in a weeklong Student Leaders Summit in Washington, D.C.

Snowden said he applied for the program in January and found out that he had been selected in the spring. The eight-week program lasted from the beginning of June through the end of July.

“I was paired with Communities in Schools, which is a nonprofit in Jacksonville with a mission statement of empowering kids to achieve in school and to graduate and achieve in life,” he said. “I spent a couple weeks working in their main office in Downtown Jacksonville, learning how nonprofits run and meeting with the CEO, CFO and with different managers there and seeing what they do and how they work. Then I spent five weeks at a summer program where I worked with kindergartners and first graders, and then I spent one week at the national leadership summit in Washington, D.C.”

The summit, Snowden said, provided students with valuable knowledge to help improve their leadership skills and

encourage civic involvement.

“Their first target was to show us all how businesses, governments, nonprofit organizations and individuals interact to create change in a community,” Snowden said. “We had a seminar on better money habits, we had a seminar about leadership, we went to different memorial sites and monuments; so it was kind of a blend of financial responsibility, history, politics and leadership.”

An active member of his community, Snowden strives to make service an integral part of his daily life. In addition to volunteering weekly at the Arbor Terrace memory center in Ponte Vedra Beach, he participates in several service-oriented clubs and organizations. For instance, as an officer of the Helping Betty/ Hubbard Club at his school, Snowden founded the “Teens Take a Stand” benefit concert to raise funds for two local domestic violence shelters—the Betty Griffin Center in St. Johns County and Hubbard House in Duval County.

“I recruited the club members and the other officers of the club and reached out to performers all over the community,” Snowden said. “We had adult performers, we had student performers, we had a comedian, we had dancers, we had our high school a cappella group, we had a jazz band; so, a whole bunch of different types of performers. We solicited corporate sponsorships from local businesses, we had a silent auction, we reached out to the Jaguars, who donated, and we auctioned off tickets to a Jaguars game... In total, we ended up raising over \$10,000.”



Harrison Snowden (top left) and other Student Leaders visit the White House during the week-long summit.

Photo courtesy of Harrison Snowden

As a community-minded individual, Snowden said that his experience with the Bank of America Student Leaders program served as an affirmation for the principles his family always instilled in him.

“None of my family works in nonprofit organizations, but all of them have really taught me since I was

young the importance of still being involved in service,” he said. “I think I’ve been fortunate to have a family who’s showed me the importance of that, and especially because I think that... coming from a home of privilege and financial stability, I think that it kind of lies on us to help out those that don’t.”

SJCSD releases student counts after first day of school

The student count for the St. Johns County School District (SJCSD) on opening day, Aug. 10, was 36,253, an increase of 1,347 students or 3.85 percent over last year’s first day number of 34,906. SJCSD has continued to be one of the fastest growing school districts in the state.

The high school student count was 11,509 with 2,453 students at Bartram Trail High School; 2,107 at Creekside High School; 1,324 at Pedro Menendez High School; 2,248 at Allen D. Nease High School; 1,739 at Ponte Vedra High School and 1,638 at St. Augustine High School. There were also 262 students in attendance at St. Johns Technical High School.

Middle school attendance totaled 7,426, with student headcounts ranging from 634 at Sebastian Middle School to 1,429 at Pacetti Bay Middle School. The other first day figures were Alice B. Landrum Middle School with 1,255; Fruit Cove Middle School with 1,162; R. J. Murray Middle School with 758; Gamble Rogers Middle School with 873 and Switzerland Point Middle School with 1,315.

The district’s K-8 schools totaled 4,369. Liberty Pines Academy had a first day headcount of 1,424, while Patriot Oaks Academy had 1,453 and Valley Ridge Academy had 1,492.

The elementary school population totaled 12,344, which included students

attending the district’s new elementary school, Picolata Crossing. This count only includes approximately 25 percent of all kindergarten students since schools stagger the kindergarten start date over a four-day period. Another 207 students are enrolled at the district’s alternative, charter and Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) schools. First Coast Technical College has 238 students enrolled in its adult education programs at the St. Augustine, Palatka, Barge Port and North campuses. This number does not include those students enrolled in night programs.

“Today was a great first day,” said Superintendent Tim Forson last week. “The dedication, time and ef-

fort that was put into preparations this year was proven in the smiling, happy students who walked through our doors today. I could not be more pleased with our principals, teachers and staff who enthusiastically stood ready to support and instruct each and every child.

“Transportation, food service, custodial and maintenance staff did a stellar job in handling challenges and celebrating success realized on the first day,” Forson continued. “The St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office, public service assistants and crossing guards were incredible in supporting our operations. Lastly, I want to say a huge thank you to our parents and families as we manage the beginning of the school year.”

'Filling the Gap' fundraising event to be held Aug. 26 in St. Augustine

Stephanie Kinsey, DDS, owner and founder of Palencia Dental in St. Augustine, along with support from patients, sponsors, friends and family, will hold the third annual "Filling the Gap" fundraiser Saturday, Aug. 26, from 7-10 p.m., at the Pioneer Barn in the Old Florida Museum at 259 San Marco Ave. in St. Augustine.

The event will feature live music by Take Cover, a high-energy dance band. The cost of attendance is \$75 per person and includes drinks, hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction.

According to Dr. Kinsey, the fundraising efforts have expanded this year due to the practice's community partnership with the ALS Association. ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, claimed the life of Dr. Kinsey's father last year. Additionally, the event continues to support the Wildflower Clinic, which provides free

medical and dental care to needy individuals and families in St. Johns County. Last year, Filling the Gap helped to fund the Wildflower Clinic with more than \$20,000 in donations.

Corporate and private sponsorships are available, and silent auction items are requested. Donations and sponsorships are tax deductible on behalf of Filling the Gap, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. For more information, call Katrina Denny at (904) 826-4343 or visit fillingthegap.org.

Uppity Art is the top sponsor and other key sponsors include Ancient City Accounting, First Coast Wealth Advisors, Orthopedic Associates of St. Augustine, Stat Courier, and Transworld Business Advisors. In kind sponsors are Burkhart Sales and Service, Cousart Studios, and Thrivent Financial.



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Chabad at the Beaches to host Holiday Cultural Festival

Chabad at the Beaches will host a Jewish cultural festival on Aug. 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach located at 55 Executive Way.

The event will feature Jewish art displays,

kosher meals, gourmet cooking and music. Additionally, event goers will be able to create their own shofar at the Shofar Factory and watch Chef Masha's gourmet healthy Latin cooking demonstration.

"The first Kosher Festival was held in 2007, it was followed by a Cultural festival the next year and we've been rotating them every year or so," Rabbi Kurinsky said. "As the community grows here, the need for addi-

tional Jewish cultural events is more apparent than ever."

To register for the festival, visit www.chabadbeaches.com/festival.

Spanish after-school classes now open for enrollment

Registration for the fall semester of the Language Exploration Enrichment (LEE) after-school Spanish program is now open.

LEE's mission is to encourage students to explore world languages and cultures and to give donors an opportunity to invest in the future of children. A fun, intensive, literacy-based language instruction, LEE prepares students for middle and high school Spanish. The

classes meet for 15 weeks, once a week for 90 minutes. Classes meet right after dismissal.

Students are grouped based on their age and proficiency in the language. Classes are taught by experienced, native Spanish-speaking instructors. There is a formal lesson plan with assessments and an end of semester fiesta. LEE students have been recognized statewide as Spanish Scholars for the last 11 years.

The after school Spanish classes are offered to all regular and extended day students at the following 16 St. Johns County elementary school locations: Cunningham Creek, Durbin Creek, Hickory Creek, Julington Creek, Ketterlinus, Liberty Pines Academy, Mill Creek, Ocean Palms, Palencia, Patriot Oaks Academy, Picolata Crossing, PVPV-Rawlings, R.B. Hunt, Timberlin Creek, Valley Ridge

Academy and Wards Creek. Net proceeds benefit the participating schools.

For more information and to register online, please visit <http://leestjohns.pbworks.com/> or email LEEestjohns@aol.com. You may also leave a message with Donna Guzzo/Janet Robles at 904-770-5331. LEE is now hiring for substitute positions.

Volunteers needed for St. Johns County Sea Turtle and Beach Steward Program

St. Johns County is seeking volunteers for its Sea Turtle and Beach Steward Program.

Once sea turtles hatch from their nests, according to the county, they swim in search of a large mass of seaweed in the ocean. Storms and high tides often push the seaweed back onto the beach creating a wrack line and stranding the turtles. The county is looking

for people to help survey these wrack lines to recover stranded sea turtles and conduct beach cleanups from August through November.

Volunteers will be scheduled for bi-weekly beach cleanups and will remain on call to survey the wrack lines when needed. All people assisting the Sea Turtle and Beach Steward

Program must complete a county volunteer application, pass a background check, possess a Florida driver's license, complete the online orientation session and attend one mandatory survey training that is conducted on the beach. Remaining trainings are scheduled for Aug. 19 from 9 to 10 a.m. at Butler Beach-front Park (5860 A1A South) and Aug. 21

from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the South Ponte Vedra Recreation Area (2993 S. Ponte Vedra Blvd.).

Children under the age of 18 are welcome to volunteer, but they must be accompanied by an adult or guardian. For more information, please visit www.co.st-johns.fl.us/HCP/Volunteer.aspx or call (904) 209-3240.

United Way to host celebration at Casa Monica Resort

United Way of St. Johns County is hosting a celebration for its community supporters, donors and volunteers to celebrate the organization's 2016-2017 campaign and community impact efforts at the Casa Monica Resort in St. Augustine Aug. 24 from 5 to 7 p.m.

At the event, attendees will be able to socialize poolside, and United Way-SJC officials will provide an update on the last year while sharing plans for the future. According to United Way, the organization raised nearly \$1.3 million in St. Johns County last year,

surpassing its goal of \$1.25 million.

United Way is a leadership and support organization with a network of nearly 1,800 community-based locations in 45 countries and territories. According to the nonprofit's website, it is focused on "creating commu-

nity-based and community-led solutions that strengthen the cornerstones for a good quality of life: education, financial stability and health." To give, advocate, or volunteer with United Way-SJC, visit www.unitedway-sjc.org or call (904) 829-9721.

Boys and Girls Club and Project SOS celebrate merger in Palm Valley

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida and Project SOS celebrated their merger and the retirement of long time founder and CEO of Project SOS, Pam Mullarkey Robbins, on Aug. 5 with a barbecue at Board Member Paul Price's home in Palm Valley.

The two organizations merged on July 1. Project SOS will now be under the direction of the Boys and Girls Clubs at their headquarters.

Mullarkey founded Project SOS 20 years ago when she felt compelled to help teenagers with goal setting, boundaries, bullying, avoiding drugs/

alcohol and more. Through her organization, Mullarkey also helped teens in North Florida and Southeast Georgia deal with violence and suicide. According to Project SOS, the organization has impacted the lives of over 470,000 teenagers since 1993 by presenting critical life skills in middle schools and high schools during the school day.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida and Project SOS complement one another in mission and operations to serve youth and teens. BGCNF serves nearly 5,000 youth in after-school programs, and Project SOS

serves over 10,000 youth annually through in-school programs.

There are currently 25 Boys and Girls Club sites throughout Northeast Florida, and plans are in the works to eventually have two state of the art teen centers, one in Springfield and one in Arlington. These centers will provide teenagers quality programming, a variety of activities and entrepreneurial skills to meet their needs and give them something productive to do after school.



Photo courtesy of Marie Monahan

Tom Perry poses with Pam Mullarkey Robbins and her retirement cake.



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<p>Yoga for Survivors The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a "Yoga for Survivors" class Aug. 17 at 11:30 a.m. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations are invited to join in this gentle and safe yoga practice, which is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.</p> <p>Concerts in the Plaza St. Augustine's Plaza de la Constitución will host the oldest city's summer-long concert series, "Concerts in the Plaza." The series provides free concerts featuring local musical entertainment every Thursday night at 7 p.m. Aug. 17, Ancient City Slickers will play an eclectic mix. All of the "Concerts in the Plaza" shows are free to attend and visitors are encouraged to bring lounge chairs for seating. Picnic dinners are allowed, but alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the plaza.</p> <p>Boardwalk Talk: Manhattan Beach As part of its Boardwalk Talk series, the Beaches Museum & History Park will host a presentation entitled "Manhattan Beach: More than a Lost Landmark" Aug. 17 at 6 p.m. Speaker Brittany Cohill will give the story behind the creation of Florida's first African-American beach and its impact upon Jacksonville's African-American community in the early 20th century. The event is free for museum members with a suggested \$5 donation for non-members. The talk will be held in the Beaches Museum Chapel at 505 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville. For more information, call 904-241-5657.</p> <p>Serendipity at the Corazon Cinema and Cafe A couple searches for each other years after the night they first met, fell in love and separated, convinced that one day they will end up together. Serendipity is showing at the Corazon Cinema and Cafe at noon. The cost is \$10, which includes a meal, popcorn, small drink and showing of the movie. The Corazon Cinema and Cafe is located at 36 Granada St. in St. Augustine.</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>Cannon Firing Demonstration at Castillo de San Marcos National Parks Service volunteers and personnel demonstrate a cannon firing at the Castillo de San Marcos every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rangers and volunteers will demonstrate the weapons and relate the experiences of the colonial Spanish soldier of 1740s St. Augustine. Firing times are subject to change depending on weather conditions and staff availability. Castillo de San Marco is located on 1 South Castillo Drive in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Women's Center of Jacksonville 2017 Gala The Women's Center of Jacksonville will present a gala Aug. 18 featuring live and silent auctions, dinner and dancing. To be held at the Queen's Harbour Yacht & Country Club on 1131 Queens Harbor Blvd. in Jacksonville, the event starts at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 10:30 p.m.. Cost to attend is \$100. Proceeds from the gala will benefit the Women's Center's programs and services for the community, including rape recovery, affordable mental health counseling, expanded horizons family literacy and more. For ticket information visit www.womenscenterofjax.org or call (904) 722-3000.</p> <p>Blue Jay Listening Room Grand Opening Blue Jay Listening Room will host its grand opening event with special guest touring musician Randall Bramblett Aug. 18, from 8 to 11 p.m. at 2457B 3rd St. S. in Jacksonville Beach. The event will feature drinks, live music and entertainment. Blue Jay Listening Room is a new venue, owned by Cara Burky, that provides visitors with an intimate space to listen and expand their musical knowledge. Visit www.BlueJayJax.com for more information.</p>	<p>MOSH Boat Tours St. Johns River Taxi and MOSH host a St. Johns River boat tour every Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. The tour features a history host who explains the historical significance of the river and various landmarks in Jacksonville. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$12 for children. MOSH is located at 1025 Museum Circle in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Old City Farmers Market The Old City Farmers Market features fresh produce, baked goods, handcrafted items and plants along with live entertainment. Fresh seafood in season will be available for purchase as well. The farmers market takes place every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre on 1340 A1A South. Admission is free.</p> <p>Art Adventures: Self-Portrait To be held at Cummer Museum from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., this class will offer students the chance to view examples of self-portraiture throughout art history before working in the studios to create a work of their own likeness. Open to children ages 6 through 12. Class size is limited. For further information, email education@cummermuseum.org or call (904) 355-0630. Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Alex's Capes and Tiaras 5K This 5K race begins and ends at the Riverview Club in St. Augustine Shores, starting at 8 a.m. All proceeds will benefit the Alex Landis Difference Maker Scholarship and NMD United, an organization that helps those living with neuromuscular diseases. Registration ranges from \$25-\$35. To be held at 790 Christina Dr.</p> <p>Beach Exploration at the GTM Research Reserve Join the GTM Research Reserve on the third Saturday each month for this family friendly beach walk at the Guana South Beach location at 1798 Ponte Vedra Blvd. from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Participants will learn about the animals that live at the beach as well as other interesting beach facts. Parking is \$3 per vehicle.</p>	<p>Sandals, Shorts and Steel Drum Service Every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church invites guests to put on sandals and shorts for a more casual worship service featuring the tropical sound of steel drum music. The church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Life Enrichment Group The Life Enrichment 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>The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee The Limelight Theatre at 11 Old Mission Ave. in St. Augustine presents the "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" musical comedy Sunday at 2 p.m. This musical tells the story of six quirky students competing in the bee at the fictional Putnam Valley Middle School and the three equally quirky grown-ups in charge of the competition. Tickets cost \$26. Visit www.limelight-theatre.org for more information.</p> <p>Nature & Wildlife Exhibit Located at 22 Marine St. in St. Augustine, this exhibit (running through Aug. 27 from noon to 4 p.m.) at the St. Augustine Art Association-features more than 125 original works of art depicting the wonders of nature submitted by artists from across the U.S. and abroad. The installation features an array of wild animals, from apes to zebras, as well as plants, landscapes and marine life, represented in paintings, sculpture, photography, drawings, collages, fiber and more. For more information, call (904) 824-3210.</p> <p>Game of Thrones Free Showing Season 7 of Game of Thrones is showing every Sunday night at 9p.m. at the Corazon Cinema and Cafe in St. Augustine. Attendees are encouraged to purchase snacks and drinks. The Corazon Cinema is located at 36 Granada St.</p>

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Monday, Aug. 21	Tuesday, Aug. 22	Wednesday, Aug. 23	Thursday, Aug. 24
<p>MOSH Daily Programs Join Jacksonville's Museum of Science and History for its Daily Animal shows. On Monday at 2 p.m., explore "Skin and Scales" in the Florida Naturalist's Center, during which guests learn about the cold-blooded world of reptiles and amphibians. Prior to the program at 1 p.m., museum-goers can witness the exploration of space in the Bryan-Gooding Planetarium during "Astronaut," an interactive venture lead by a test astronaut named Chad. For tickets and additional information, visit www.themosh.org.</p> <p>'Friends for the Arts' Get involved in the arts by joining a team of fellow art supporters at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. Help develop and support fundraising projects and help initiate special projects to benefit and promote the Cultural Center and the arts in our community. For more information, visit www.ccpvb.org/friends-for-the-arts.</p> <p>Jacksonville Job Fair FlourishNow will host a job fair Aug. 21 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Church of Eleven22. Employers committed to attending include: City of Jacksonville Beach, Florida Baptist Medical Center, J-Tech, Regions Bank, Pottery Barn Kids, Chartwell's, Student Transportation of America, Omni Jacksonville Hotel, Leaderquest, Fickling Construction, Aarow Sign Spinners, The Loop, Ovation Credit, Lending Bear, G4S, Daily's, USHealth Advisors, Turner Pest Control, Fanatics, ERC, Pizza Hut, Max Vision Satellite, FSCJ - I Tech Grant Program, Voya Financial, DeVry University and more. The Church of Eleven22 is located at 14286 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Little's Playgroup This social gathering is for caregivers and their little's, with developmental sensory toys and books provided by friends of the library. It will be held Aug. 21 at the St. Johns County Library's Southeast Branch at 6670 US 1 S., St. Augustine from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.</p>	<p>Free Admission at Cummer Museum Every Tuesday, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens offers visitors free admission to its galleries and gardens, for their "Florida Blue Free Tuesday" promotion.</p> <p>Tapas Tuesday The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Cafe every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. View the sunset on the Cummer Cafe patio while listening to local musicians and enjoying beer, wine or artfully inspired tapas for sale at the Cafe. Reserve your table by calling (904) 899-6022. For more information, visit www.cummuseum.org. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave.</p> <p>Prenatal Yoga Prenatal Yoga class offers women the chance to destress through yoga, meditation and guided visualization. Participants are encouraged to bring a yoga mat, towel and water. There is a \$13 class fee per attendee. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit baptistjax.com/ymca to register. Class will be held at 170 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>The Art of Susanne Schuenke The public is invited to view artwork from international artist and St. Johns County resident Dr. Susanne Schuenke. The exhibition is on display from Aug. 1 to Sept. 21. at the St. Johns County Administration Building at 500 San Sebastian View in St. Augustine. Visitors must pass through a security station to reach the building's main corridor. The facility is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.</p> <p>Free Self-Defense Class Grow strength, balance and coordination in this free self-defense class designed to build knowledge of safety measures and increase self-confidence. To be held Aug. 22 from 6 to 6:45 p.m. at Florida Blue Center at 13141 City Station Dr. in Jacksonville.</p>	<p>Total Control: What You Need to Know About Pelvic Health Join Lee Epstein, MD Aug. 23 at 6 p.m. for a discussion on female urinary and pelvic floor issues and ways to reclaim your life. Learn how to take back control as we cover incontinence, urgency, and treatment options. This free event is held in the Conference Room at Baptist Beaches. Reserve your seat by visiting www.4herPresents.eventbrite.com. The Baptist Medical Center Beaches is located at 1350 13th Ave. S. in Jacksonville Beach.</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 in Ponte Vedra Beach. Email Carmen at carmenjsardinas@gmail.com for additional information.</p> <p>Music by the Sea Concert Series The "Music by the Sea" concert series returns to the St. Johns County Pier for its 15th year, bringing free weekly concerts in a variety of genres from 7 to 9 p.m. every Wednesday. Visitors are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket. Dinner is offered for \$10 or less beginning at 6 p.m. The Aug. 23 concert will feature Maggie Baugh. The St. Johns County Pier is located at 350 A1A Beach Blvd. in St. Augustine Beach. For more information, visit www.sabca.org.</p> <p>'The Dixie Swim Club' at the Alhambra The Alhambra Theatre & Dining will present "The Dixie Swim Club" from Aug. 16 through Sept. 24. Starring Morgan Fairchild, the comedy follows five southern women who met on their college swim team, through 33 years of friendship. The opening performance will take place Aug. 16, with a three-course dinner to be served starting at 5:50 p.m., and the show to follow at 7:50 p.m. The Alhambra is located at 12000 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville. For more information, call (904) 641-1212, or visit www.alhambrajax.com.</p>	<p>Yoga for Survivors The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a "Yoga for Survivors" class Aug. 24 at 11:30 a.m. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations are invited to join in this gentle and safe yoga practice, which is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.</p> <p>Concerts in the Plaza St. Augustine's Plaza de la Constitución will host the oldest city's summer-long concert series, "Concerts in the Plaza." The series provides free concerts featuring local musical entertainment every Thursday night at 7 p.m. Aug. 24, The Gotorbone Band will play jazz music. All of the "Concerts in the Plaza" shows are free to attend and visitors are encouraged to bring lounge chairs for seating. Picnic dinners are allowed, but alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the plaza.</p> <p>Resume Writing the Right Way Christ Episcopal Church will host a "Resume Writing the Right Way" presentation on Aug. 24 by Cari Andreani, the associate dean of academic affairs at Keiser University. Immediately following the workshop program, Budder Webster, partner and president of LEADERS Professional Recruiting Inc., will review resumes during a personal "Five-Minute Resume Review" session. Christ Episcopal Church is located at the Parish Center Conference Room at 400 San Juan Dr. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>MOCA Jacksonville Book Club: Hamilton – The Revolution Hamilton: The Revolution explores the inner workings of Hamilton. This book club will take place at MOCA Jacksonville, located on 333 North Laura St. in Jacksonville. For more information visit mocajacksonville.unf.edu.</p> <p>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to recorderintern@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using</p>

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PV2-LV41282

Protect your eyes while viewing the upcoming solar eclipse



Dr. S. Akbar Hasan
Guest Columnist

By Dr. S. Akbar Hasan
Special to the Recorder

A solar eclipse will be visible across the United States on Aug. 21 for the first time since 1918. While the eclipse is certainly exciting, looking directly at it can cause permanent damage to your eyes. With a few simple precautions, you can view this rare astronomical event while ensuring the safety of your vision.

How the eclipse affects your eyes

An eclipse occurs when the earth, moon and sun are aligned. As the sun moves across the sky, it is blocked by the moon to create an eclipse. Although a total eclipse will be visible for a few minutes in a small part of the U.S., we will see a partial eclipse in Northeast Florida during the early afternoon on Aug. 21.

During the partial eclipse, most of the sun will be covered, but part of it will still be visible. This means there is a chance for serious eye damage. The sun is never safe to look at because it emits ultraviolet (UV) radiation – powerful invisible wavelengths shorter than visible light – that can damage the cells in the eye. Overexposure to UV radiation can increase the risk of serious eye diseases like cataracts, macular

degeneration, growths on the eye and cancer.

However, the chief concern with the eclipse is “eclipse blindness” or retinal burns. The retina converts light into neural signals and sends these signals to the brain so that it can interpret what you’re seeing. When the retina is exposed to intense UV lights, it damages the cells inside, which can lead to temporary or permanent vision loss.

How to keep your eyes safe

To safely view the eclipse, you will need special purpose solar filter glasses, which are specifically designed to block solar UV radiation. Regular sunglasses, no matter how dark the lenses, will not provide you with protection.

You can buy these glasses in the store, but when you do, make sure that they comply with international standard ISO 12312-2. If they don’t, they may not be true eclipse glasses. You can test them by looking through them at normal lights. If they are real eclipse glasses, you will not be able to see ordinary lights.

On the day of the eclipse, make sure your glasses are free of any scratches or damage. Then, put them on before you look at the eclipse and turn your head away before removing them. With the glasses, you will be able to view the eclipse for as long as you want without discomfort or damage.

Other ways to protect your eyes

The solar eclipse isn’t the only time you need to



take care of your vision. Living in the sunshine state means it’s always a good idea to protect your eyes from the sun, especially during the summer. The best ways to do so are by wearing UV-blocking sunglasses and broad-brimmed hats. Sunglasses should absorb and block 99 percent of UV lights and be large enough to shield your eyes, eyelids and surrounding areas. For hats, look for ones with at least a 3-inch brim, as they can block nearly half of UV lights. As with all eye-related issues, you should regularly see an eye doctor for check-ups.

This is the time of year we love to be outdoors, and the solar eclipse is certain to make this summer a memorable one. By following these easy tips, you can fully enjoy these experiences while maintaining the health of your eyes.

Dr. S. Akbar Hasan is a Ponte Vedra resident and a board-certified, fellowship-trained ophthalmologist at Florida Eye Specialists. For more information on Dr. Hasan and his practice, visit FloridaEyeSpecialists.com.

Events in the area to view the eclipse

The solar eclipse will be clearly visible Aug. 21 to observers across the United States as the path of totality spans the nation from coast to coast. The following events, gathered by the Recorder, are viewing parties and other associated events taking place in the Ponte Vedra, Jacksonville, and St. Augustine area leading up to and on eclipse day.

Eclipse Live Stream and Learning Lab

The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library will await the eclipse with a live nationwide stream on the library’s big screen with surround sound. Attendees can view the stream, read new astronomy books and create solar eclipse viewers (bring your own cereal box). The event will be held Aug. 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 101 Library Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa to host solar eclipse viewing party August 21

The Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa is hosting a solar eclipse viewing party on Cascades Deck at 1 p.m. Aug. 21. To be held at 1000 PGA Tour Blvd., attendees can celebrate the moon’s path crossing in front of the sun with eclipse-themed activities such as “make your own pinhole viewer,” sun catcher painting and other earth-moon-sun crafts. The event will also feature live entertainment, specialty cocktails (the Eclipse Martini and the Sudsy Eclipse with

layered drafts Guinness and Shock Top) and culinary options like pork sliders, calzone, salads and desserts. The entry fee is \$18.

Stories for Young Children: Solar Eclipse Edition

To be held Aug. 21 at the Jacksonville Public Library’s Main Library at 303 N Laura St., this event is for children birth to 5 years old with an adult caregiver. Starting at 11 a.m. and ending at noon, the event includes solar eclipse stories, books, fingerplays, nursery rhymes and songs that promote language development, vocabulary building and comprehension.

The Great American Eclipse at the Jacksonville Public Library

The Jacksonville Public Library will also present an eclipse watch party on Aug. 21 at 1 p.m. in which attendees can explore the science behind eclipses with hands-on projects and activities before viewing the eclipse at 2 p.m. in the Main Library Courtyard. Eclipse glasses will be available while supplies last.

Eclipse Viewing Party at Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve

The Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve will host a solar eclipse viewing party Aug. 21 from 1 to 4 p.m. at 12713 Ford Caroline Road in Jacksonville. Handheld solar viewers will be available in the parks, but numbers are limited.

Solar Eclipse Party at University of North Florida

The UNF Physics Department, UNF Student Union and UNF Campus Life will host an eclipse viewing party from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Aug. 21 at the Coxwell Amphitheater next to the student union, building 58. Physics students and faculty will be onsite to answer questions. A limited number of viewing glasses and telescopes will be provided to safely view this event. Hawaiian shaved ice will be available for students with a valid Osprey 1Card. This event is free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to park in Lot 18, near Harmon Baseball Stadium, building 27. Visitor parking costs \$2.

Fort Matanzas Solar Eclipse Experience

Rangers and volunteers at Fort Matanzas National Monument have several activities planned to commemorate the solar eclipse. Aug. 18 through Aug. 21, activities for the whole family will be available. Attendees can earn eclipse Jr. Ranger stickers and view special videos about the history and science of solar eclipses. The Aug. 21 event will take place at the visitor center at 1 p.m. A ranger will host a presentation on the history and cultural perspectives of solar eclipses. Fort Matanzas is located at 8635 A1A South in St. Augustine. For additional information, call (904) 471-0116.

Events

Continued from 16

The Big Cover Up: Shining A Light on Solar Eclipses

The Bryan-Gooding Planetarium at MOSH (Museum of Science and History) will host a presentation Aug. 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. on noteworthy past eclipses and everything Florida residents should know about the Aug. 21 Great American Eclipse. Special guests for the event will include Action News Jax Chief Meteorologist Mike Buresh and NASA Solar System Ambassadors Bharath Muthyala and Sam Turley.

MOSH is located at 1025 Museum Circle in Jacksonville.

SJC's Solar Eclipse Event

St. Johns County, in partnership with NASA@MyLibrary, is hosting a free solar eclipse viewing celebration from 1 to 4 p.m. Aug. 21 at Collier-Blocker-Puryear Park, 10 N. Holmes Blvd in St. Augustine. Residents and visitors are encouraged to bring lawn chairs. Safety glasses, provided by the Space Science Institute, as well as solar-filtered telescopes and binoculars will be provided to participants to view the eclipse. For more information, call (904) 827-6944.

SJCSD to count absence or early dismissal on day of solar eclipse as excused absence

The St. Johns County School District (SJCSD) sent an email to parents this week regarding the solar eclipse, notifying them that if they are concerned and decide to keep their children at home, the district will treat it like other weather situ-

ations and count it as an excused absence. If parents decide to check their children out of school early, the district will also count it as an excused absence. The district encourages anyone to contact their child's school if they have questions.

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St. Johns County Cooperative to help residents purchase solar panels at a reduced price



Photo courtesy of Jackie Hird

Historical reenactors stand with signs at the solar cooperative launch event.

By Benjamin Naim

The St. Johns County Solar Cooperative launched in front of the Lightner Museum in St. Augustine Aug. 8 to help organizations and homeowners purchase solar panels at a cheaper price.

Florida Solar United Neighborhoods (FL SUN) partnered with Compassionate St. Augustine to start the cooperative, which will group residents together and allow them to sign contracts with pre-approved solar panel distributors. FL SUN, a project of Community Power Network that helps Floridians organize solar co-ops, will facilitate negotiations and the heavy lifting involved with contracts, pricing and installation.

“By Florida Sun facilitating the process, we hold the hands of the homeowners from their interest through them picking an installer,” said Angela DeMonbreun, director of Florida Solar United Neighborhoods. “We, on the consumer side with consumer education, really can speak on their behalf to the contractor. We make sure the contractor is abiding by the agreement that they have and the contract that they signed with co-op members.”

The process begins when solar co-op members provide their criteria during the sign-up process to various pre-screened installers through FL SUN.

After receiving a response, the organization will help co-op members sort through the information while remaining neutral in the process. FL SUN will then train the chosen installer on how to work with a cooperative and how to interact with its members before the solar distributor assesses the project.

According to DeMonbreun, FL SUN will help homeowners understand solar terminology and their actual savings.

“We come into a community and host solar information sessions and we take that intimidation out of the process by providing basic solar technology terminology,” she said. “We talk about the process; we talk about the economics of going solar. We’ll help a homeowner review their proposal and define these terms, giving them as much information as we can give them so they can make the best decision on their own.”

DeMonbreun added that FL SUN’s goal is to empower co-op members to “make the best-informed decision moving forward.”

The FL SUN director said the cooperative’s launch on Aug. 8 was a successful event with “great turnout” and positive media coverage. The theme of the press conference, which featured historical re-enactors, was “making history.”

Warren Clarke, a lead volunteer and co-founder of the St. Johns Solar Cooperative, asserted that the launch event

will serve as a catalyst for the transition to clean energy.

“This is going to be a nice start but it’s not going to be a huge start on the transition from dirty and dangerous fossil fuels to clean energy,” he said. “But it’s probably going to be a kick-starter for it.”

Clarke suggested that a series of solar installations in St. Johns County could generate more cooperatives in the future.

“We’ll have solar panels in a lot of neighborhoods and neighbors are going to talk to neighbors and this may not be the only solar cooperative we do in St. Johns County,” he said. “There may be a number more because more neighbors are going to want to do it.”

Additionally, Clarke revealed that he wanted to install solar panels on his roof six months ago, but the process was daunting.

“We got bids from three different contractors and the bids were very different and the equipment was very different and we couldn’t really assess completely which we thought would be the best company to go with,” explained Clarke. “So, we put it off.”

That is, until he and his wife Pam saw signs for a cooperative in St. Petersburg that inspired him to start one in St. Johns County. Clarke brought the idea to Caren Goldman, the executive director of Compassionate St. August-

tine, and put the plan in motion.

“We said, ‘Let’s have this be the first thing we do as a new initiative of Compassionate St. Augustine, an environmental rights initiative,’” Clarke recanted. “So that’s how it got started, and that’s what led us into it.”

He contended that vetting installers as a group and working together with other clean energy advocates will help cooperative members know they’re going to get “the best option” using “a lot more wisdom than just doing it individually.”

The co-op will drive the price down markedly, Clarke said, because it will cut the price of the installer; they won’t have to spend as much money on installations, and they can buy in bulk quantity.

Clarke, a retired pastor, emphasized the significance of the cooperative and its potential impact on future generations. Citing the “golden rule,” he said it is the responsibility of the current generation to treat young people the way they would want to be treated by cutting down on fossil fuels that are “dangerous to their thriving in the future.”

The cooperative will host two more information sessions: one at the Village Church at World Golf Village on Sept. 13 and another at the Palm Valley Community Center in Ponte Vedra Beach Oct. 10.

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Local families learn more about community through Nocatee Resource Day

By Jon Blauvelt

Local families had the opportunity to meet with representatives from various St. Johns and Duval county schools, the St. Johns County and Jacksonville sheriff's offices and several nonprofit organizations at Nocatee Resource Day Tuesday, Aug 8.

Held at Crosswater Hall and the Splash Water Park, the event first featured a meet and greet with school district principals and representatives. Deputies from the sheriff's offices then conducted a few presentations regarding laws that affect children, with specific topics including the consequences of texting and social media, as well as Internet safety for parents.

Throughout the night, representatives from numerous nonprofit organizations, including PACT Prevention Coalition and the Ponte Vedra YMCA, were on hand to answer questions and provide information on the resources they provide to the

community. Children enjoyed games and activities that were managed and supervised by Nocatee counselors and deputies from the sheriff's offices. Children also had the opportunity to check out fire trucks and ambulances from the St. Johns County Fire Rescue Division, as well as interact with K9s from the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office.

"We have a lot of events here at Nocatee," said David Ray, PARC Group community manager. "We bring in entertainment, we socialize and in general have a lot of fun. But this event is much different. It gives people an opportunity to connect with school principals and administrators and learn about issues affecting our children's safety as well as their ability to learn. We also help connect families with resources that can make a dramatic difference in their life."



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

Bartram Springs Elementary School Assistant Principal Katherine Kirkland, Principal Kim Wright and Assistant Principal Cynthia Bartley



Shadi Masri, Nease High School Principal Lisa Kunze and Pete Camacho



Daniel Outley, Javier Figueroa and James Christman from St. Johns County Fire Rescue

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Mayo Clinic ranked top hospital in Florida by U.S. News & World Report

Mayo Clinic was named the best hospital in Florida and the Jacksonville metro area in U.S. News & World Report's annual list of top hospitals, published on the U.S. News & World Report website.

"I congratulate the thousands of staff of Mayo Clinic for their continued dedication and leadership in health care," said Gianrico Farrugia, M.D.,

vice president of Mayo Clinic and chief executive officer of Mayo Clinic in Florida. "The rankings reflect Mayo Clinic's truly integrated approach to finding answers for the most highly complex medical conditions, as well as our staff's focus on the needs of the patient."

Mayo Clinic's Florida campus ranked nationally among the top 50 hospitals

in cancer; cardiology and heart surgery; ear, nose and throat; gastroenterology (GI) and GI surgery; geriatrics; neurology and neurosurgery and pulmonology.

The Florida campus also was highly ranked in nephrology, orthopedics and urology.

SHORT TAKES

Seminar on Funeral Pre-Planning

The Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home will host a free seminar on the benefits of funeral pre-planning to be held on Tuesday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Special and important information for veterans will also be discussed. Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home is located at 3600 Third St., Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 249-1100.

Understanding the Civil War Discussion Group

The monthly meeting of the "Understanding the Civil War" discussion group will resume at 1 p.m. Sept. 5, at the Anastasia Island Branch Public Library located in the Seagrove Subdivision on Rt A1A S. The meeting is open to the public.

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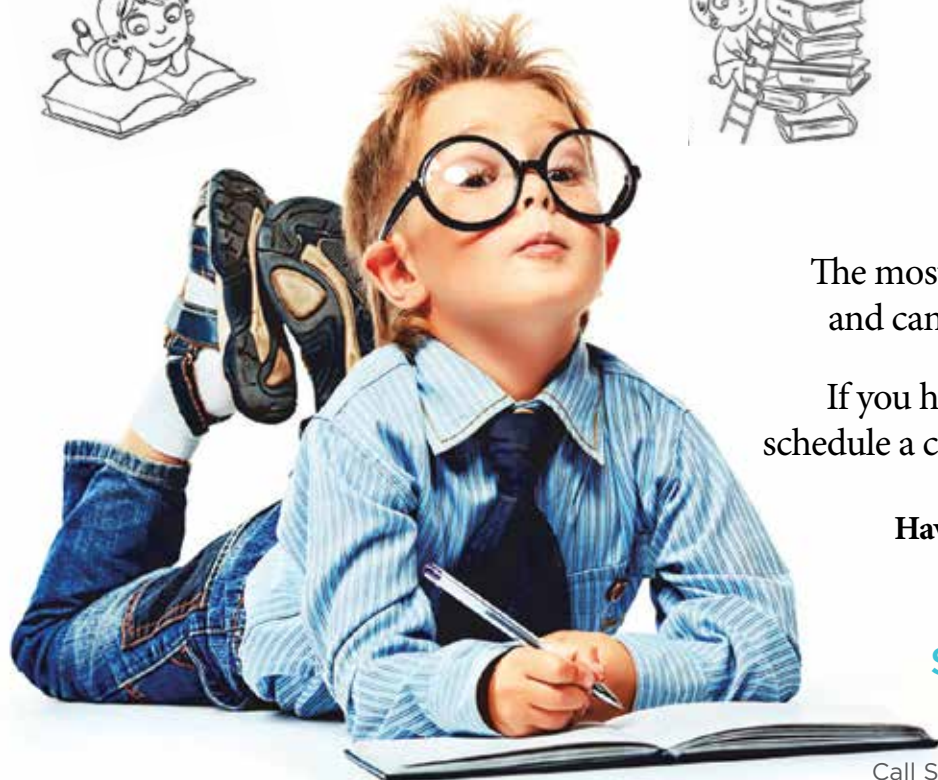
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PV2-LV41326

New 23-home development to be built in Ponte Vedra Beach

By Jon Blauvelt

EvenTide, a new 23-home development encompassing approximately 36 acres, is coming to Ponte Vedra Beach.

To be located on Ponte Vedra Boulevard between Sawgrass Drive and Mickler Road, the community will be developed by GreenPointe Communities and marketed by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty. Construction on the lots is expected to begin in late 2017.

“EvenTide is a remarkable property, the perfect blend of luxury and serenity and one of the most exciting new projects in Northeast Florida,” said Ed Burr, GreenPointe Holdings president and chief executive officer. “23 families will have an opportunity to commune together and have a sense of place and enjoy what is already a great community in Ponte Vedra.”

Lots will range in size from about one-third of an acre to more than 1 acre, noted Burr, who added that square footage of the homes has yet to be announced. Home prices are expected to start at \$1.2 million and go up to

around \$2 million. Burr said this is probably the last piece of land in Ponte Vedra Beach that can be developed for such a community.

The homes will feature a “coastal-eclectic” style, with home design elements including natural materials, open living spaces, high ceilings, expansive windows, mixed material roofs and spacious outdoor lanais/porches. Burr said the community will offer private beach access and a neighborhood park with a deck that features views of the Guana River.

According to GreenPointe, homes will be elevated because the topography of the property encourages elevated design to maximize the views of the preserve.

Homebuyers will have the option to use one of the developer’s preferred custom home builders, which are expected to be announced within the next few weeks, or contract their own approved builders and architects. Development of the community is underway, and preconstruction sales opportunities are available for a limited time. Burr said already a few people have made offers on lots.

For more information about EvenTide and its available homesites and pre-construction



Photo courtesy of Kyle Gray: K2 Media & Photography

EvenTide will be located on Ponte Vedra Boulevard between Sawgrass Drive and Mickler Road.

pricing, call Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Realtors Elizabeth Hudgins or Lee Elmore at (904) 285-5499 or visit www.EvenTideLiving.com.

“EvenTide is a crown jewel and certain to be the area’s preeminent address for buyers looking for that perfect homesite to build their

new beach home,” said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Founder, President and CEO Linda Sherrer. “We encourage everyone interested to contact us soon. The opportunity is here now, but it won’t last long.”

PVARC recommends approval of PGA Tour’s application to modify development plan, consolidate property for new headquarters

Application to next be reviewed by PZA and BCC

By Jon Blauvelt

The Ponte Vedra Architectural Review Committee (PVARC) last week recommended approval of the relevant and applicable parts of the PGA Tour’s application to modify its development plan and combine parcels of its existing land

in Ponte Vedra Beach with the County Courthouse Annex parcel on Palm Valley Road for a new and consolidated headquarters.

As required by the Land Development Code, the PVARC limited the scope of its review to requested waivers to the requirements of the Palm Valley Over-

lay District. The board recommended approval of all waivers, subject to one revision regarding signage. In addition, the board recommended approval for the company to replace the existing lattice tower on the annex parcel with a monopole that will be relocated to the north end of the PGA Tour’s property,

The PVARC’s recommendation of approval on Aug. 9 represents the completion of the first of three hearings for the PGA Tour’s Major Modification request, which will go before the Planning and Zoning Agency (PZA) today, Aug. 17,

PGA

Continued from 22

and the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Sept. 19. A companion Development of Regional Impact (DRI) and other aspects of the PGA Tour's applications that were not presented to the PVARC will also be reviewed by the PZA and BCC.

Bill Schilling of Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., the PGA Tour's engineering and project management partner, explained at the PVARC meeting at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library that the PGA Tour received approval from the county on a few of the requested waivers in 2014 and asked at the meeting that they be extended to the soon-to-be acquired annex parcel.

The 1.8-acre annex parcel is currently owned by St. Johns County, but county staff explained at the PVARC meeting that the PGA Tour is in the process of acquiring the property. As a result, the annex's services will be relocated to another location, staff said, with that exact location and timing of relocation to be determined and outside of the jurisdiction of the PVARC.

Schilling explained that one of the waivers requested to be extended to the annex allows the company to build structures with a roof slope less than 5/12. The second waiver is regarding the maximum length of buildings and enables the PGA Tour to have buildings in excess of 120 feet. Schilling noted that the third waiver provides the tour with relief from a provision that requires 10-foot perimeter buffers along project property lines. This waiver was outside of the PVARC's purview and will be discussed at the PZA and BCC hearings.

The PGA Tour requested a new waiver at the PVARC meeting regarding signage allowances at entrances to the company's property. Palm Valley Overlay District regulations currently limit parcels of 5 acres or more in size to one ground sign that has a maximum Advertising Display Area (ADA) of 60 square feet. Previously, the PGA Tour received approval to build two 35-foot-tall decorative features (e.g. towers) at future entrances. This new waiver allows the tour to install one wall sign on each of these entry features that has an ADA of 100 square feet. The PVARC approved the waiver with one condition, requesting that the verbiage on the signage be specific to PGA Tour properties.

Schilling explained that the tour's request before the PVARC also included the relocation of the existing cell tower on the annex property. The tower that currently stands there is a 250-foot tall lattice tower that has one of the lowest wind storm ratings in the county compared to other towers used for intergovernmental communication systems. Schilling explained that the new tower will be a 250-foot, galvanized finish monopole that will be upgraded

to a higher windstorm rating capable of withstanding a Category 5 windstorm event. The proposed monopole will be located approximately 500 feet west of the Palm Valley Road right of way, directly south of the post office.

PGA Tour attorney Ellen Avery Smith of Rogers Towers, P.A. explained that the company is requesting these overall changes to its development plan to further elevate the experience of its properties for THE PLAYERS Championship. She also said the changes are part of the company's due diligence process in evaluating the potential consolidation of staff offices in a central location.

In June, the PGA Tour issued a statement explaining that a consolidated headquarters facility is a priority for the company given the global nature of its business and the fact that tour employees currently occupy space in 17 different buildings throughout Ponte Vedra Beach and St. Augustine.

The proposed consolidation of tour-owned properties into one Master Development Plan covers more than 500 acres of land, including parcels on TPC Boulevard, Palm Valley Road and A1A, as well as the annex parcel on Palm Valley Road.

Response from residents

Following presentations at the PVARC meeting, Palm Valley resident Mary Kohnke expressed her frustration about the relocation of the county annex.

"I think before you agree with the tour having the annex property, you should consult with the community and find out what is convenient for us, not the tour," she said. "I'm not really interested in constantly genuflecting to the tour, especially since this is a community that uses that annex."

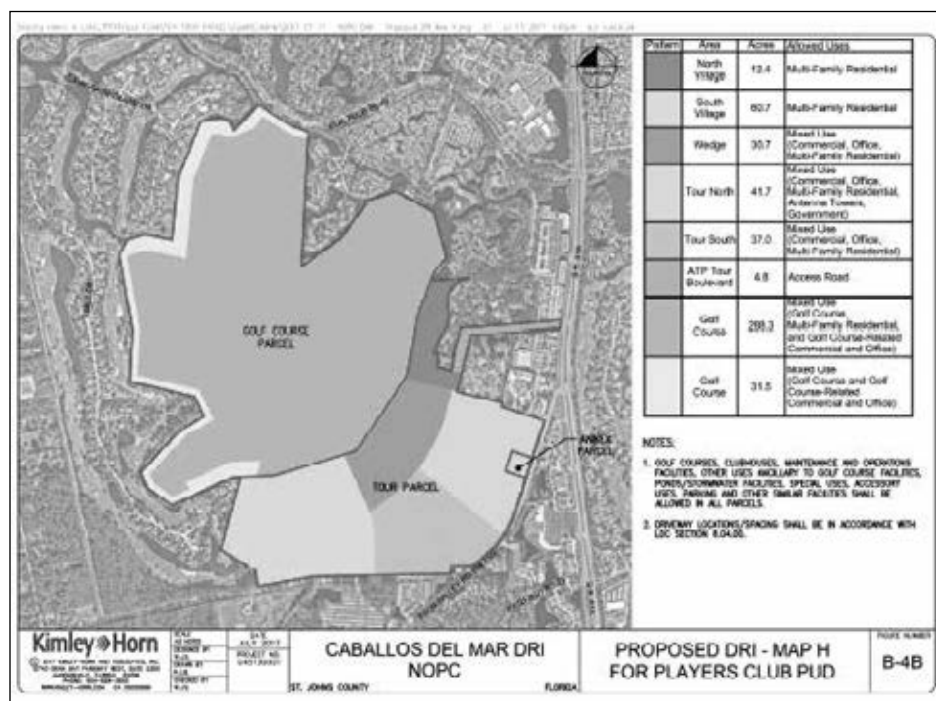
PVARC Chairman Sean Mulhall reminded meeting attendees of the limits of their control.

"We have an agenda tonight that has very specific requests," he said, "Those are the specific boundaries of this committee's consideration. Unfortunately, what's not going to be discussed is what's going on with the annex. It's not before the committee."

Ponte Vedra resident Mike Shields agreed with Kohnke, additionally expressing his concerns about increased traffic because of additional development.

"I don't know how we got to this point," he said. "The tour gets what they want no matter what."

Handy and Avery Smith reminded meeting attendees that the PGA Tour has vested development rights for its property that were approved in the 1970s. The tour currently has entitlements for 5.98 acres, or 260,488 square feet, of commercial development (including retail, office and hotel uses) and 684 new, unbuilt multi-family units under the original DRI. The PGA Tour's applications request conversion of all or a portion of the residential entitlements to commercial use.



Map courtesy of PGA Tour

A map included within the applications submitted by the PGA Tour shows the company's plans to combine its property along Palm Valley Road (CR 210) with the adjacent St. Johns County Courthouse Annex parcel for a new headquarters.

As made clear by county staff and the PVARC board members, all elements of the tour's applications falling outside of the waivers and monopole, including the entitlements in the DRI and potential development on the property, were not within the purview of the PVARC.

"There are components to their request that are not really relevant to the ARC's jurisdiction," said Handy. "Those

other issues that people have been addressing will be discussed at the PZA and BCC meetings."

The PZA meeting will begin today at 1:30 p.m. at the St. Johns County Administrative Complex located at 500 San Sebastian View in St. Augustine. The PGA Tour's applications are currently the sixth and seventh agenda items.

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SEPT. 23	THE PSYCHEDELIC FURS WITH BASH & POP	NOV. 12	OTTMAR LIEBERT & LUNA NEGRA
SEPT. 26	MORGAN JAMES	NOV. 18	MILES ELECTRIC BAND
SEPT. 27	TERRI CLARK	DEC. 13	BEN HAGGARD
OCT. 1	TROMBONE SHORTY & ORLEANS AVENUE	DEC. 29	DONNA THE BUFFALO
OCT. 2	JOSEPH WITH LIZA ANNE	JAN. 7. 2018	FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC PROJECT PRESENTS BOCCHERINI, PUCCINI, NINO ROTA & WOLF
OCT. 4	HARD WORKING AMERICANS WITH LOS COLOGNES	JAN. 12. 2018	THE ZOMBIES ODESSEY AND ORACLE - 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OCT. 5	ELEPHANT REVIVAL	FEB. 8. 2018	JOHN McCUTCHEON WITH GRANT PEEPLES
OCT. 6	DELBERT MCCLINTON & SELF MADE MEN	FEB. 16. 2018	BOTTLE ROCKETS WITH CHUCK PROPHET & THE MISSION EXPRESS
OCT. 16	THE JAMES HUNTER SIX	FEB. 17. 2018	SIERRA HULL
OCT. 17	CONOR OBERST WITH THE FELICE BROTHERS	FEB. 23. 2018	AN EVENING WITH GEORGE WINSTON
OCT. 19	THE CALIFORNIA HONEYDROPS	MAR. 3. 2018	AN EVENING WITH JOHN HAMMOND
OCT. 20	MATISYAHU WITH COMMON KINGS & ORPHAN	MAR. 21. 2018	MIKE + THE MECHANICS
OCT. 22	FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC PROJECT PRESENTS WEBER & BRAHMS	MAR. 30. 2018	LOUDON WAINWRIGHT III
OCT. 22	TOAD THE WET SPROCKET	APR. 8. 2018	FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC PROJECT PRESENTS SCHUBERT
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PV2-LV41274

Mulligan's Pub hosts Chamber 'before hours' event



Photo by Susan Griffin

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce gathered before work Aug. 9 for networking and refreshments at Mulligan's Pub in Ponte Vedra Beach. From left to right: Carol Maurer, Amanda Payne, Ed Mercel, Anna Washington, Ted Hayes and Anette Saalman

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Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty collects record 1,151 backpacks for local children

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty collected a record 1,151 backpacks filled with school supplies for Northeast Florida children during its 18th annual Backpack Challenge. Last year, the company collected a then-record 1,011 backpacks for local children during the Backpack Challenge.

The backpacks and school supplies collected by the real estate firm during the campaign were donated to students throughout Northeast Florida via Dreams Come True, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (Office of Prevention), Orange Park Junior High School, BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry), Mayport Elementary School, Operation New Hope, Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida, Crookshank Elementary, Osceola Elementary and Charles E. Bennett Elementary School.

“We are filled with gratitude to all of our realtors, employees and clients for ensuring that so many local children have the supplies they need for educational success,” said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Founder, President and

CEO Linda Sherrer. “The Backpack Challenge is an event our team looks forward to participating in every year, and we are very proud of their efforts.”

During the campaign, backpacks and school supplies were collected at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty offices throughout Northeast Florida. The backpacks were purchased for students in kindergarten through grade 12 and filled with school supplies such as pens, pencils, paper and notebooks.

“Words cannot express how much we appreciate the numerous donations and generous support we received from our team members and the community during the backpack challenge,” said Broker/Executive Vice President Christy Budnick. “We know that beginning the school year with a new backpack filled with supplies makes a difference in the lives of children living in our communities, and this effort helps us accomplish that goal.”

For more information about Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, visit FloridaNetworkRealty.com.



Photo courtesy of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty employees display donated backpacks outside of the company's office in Atlantic Beach.



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PV2-LV41281

Rogers Towers' Attorneys Named Among Florida Trend's Legal Elite and Super Lawyers

Florida Trend magazine named Rogers Towers' Ponte Vedra Beach attorneys Troy Smith and Scott Thomas in its annual Legal Elite issue.

According to *Florida Trend*, "Lawyers were asked to name attorneys whom they hold in the highest regard or would recommend to others." Balloting for this year's list began in October 2016 when Florida Trend invited in-state members of The Florida Bar to participate.

2017 "Legal Elite" in the Ponte Vedra Beach office

Troy K. Smith – Construction
M. Scott Thomas – Commercial Litigation

Additionally, the 2017 Super Lawyers list was released with four Ponte Vedra Beach attorneys on it, and an additional attorney named as a "Rising Star." Super Lawyers is a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer

recognition and professional achievement. Selections are made on an annual state-by-state basis. The final published list represents no more than 5 percent of the lawyers in the state.

2017 "Super Lawyers" in the Ponte Vedra Beach office

Kevin B. Cook – Business Litigation
René M. Fix – Employment & Labor
Troy K. Smith – Construction Litigation
M. Scott Thomas – Business Litigation

2017 "Rising Star" in the Ponte Vedra Beach office

Adam B. Brandon – Business Litigation

To be eligible for inclusion in Rising Stars, a candidate must be either 40 years old or younger, or in practice for 10 years or less.



Troy K. Smith



M. Scott Thomas



Kevin B. Cook



Adam B. Brandon

Photos courtesy of Rogers Towers

Scott Thomas named board member to UF Alumni Association

Ponte Vedra Beach resident Scott Thomas was named a board member of the University of Florida Alumni Association for 2017-2018.

Thomas is a shareholder with Rogers Towers P.A. He practices within the litiga-

tion department from the firm's offices in Ponte Vedra Beach and St. Augustine. Thomas has been recognized in the Super Lawyers list of business litigators and within Florida Trend's Legal Elite. In addition, Thomas serves as a member of the

Fifth Appellate District Judicial Nominating Commission, and in 2015, Gov. Rick Scott appointed Thomas to serve a four-year term as chairman of the Florida Elections Commission.

While a student at UF, Thomas was

active in Phi Delta Theta and Florida Blue Key and held various leadership roles, including chairman of Accent Speakers Bureau.

New community grocery and delicatessen opens in St. Augustine

From cold brew coffee and house-made pimento cheese to fine wines and local meats and cheeses, The Market at Stewart's is now open.

Founded by husband-and-wife duo, Jeff and Genie McNally, the owners behind popular farm-to-table restaurant The Floridian located in downtown St. Augustine, The Market aims to fill a void left by large-scale, chain supermarkets.

"We put a lot of heart and quality into the things we do," said Jeff McNally, co-owner of The Market. "We've always believed that eating and buying food is a social and ecological act. Buying from local producers, smaller producers and independent producers means that we can create a sustainable economy – supporting one another and positively impacting the environment."

The Market at Stewart's features La Floridita Kitchen, a prepared foods counter manned by co-owners and husband-and-wife team, Gaston Buschiazio and Amy Tarmey. Offerings include house-made hummus, chia pudding parfait, pasta salad, empanadas, smoked fish dip, quinoa salad and baked goods like fresh pop tarts and homemade donut holes. The grocery also hosts a butcher counter and fresh seafood case with hand-cut bacon, datil sausage, Angus beef and pork from CartWheel Ranch, as well as Cedar Key Clams and Mayport Shrimp.

"We took over the space from a longstanding St. Augustine business, Stewart's Market, which started as a thatched roof, tiki hut-style produce stand in the mid-1970s," McNally said. "Our mission is to continue as a small, community market while supporting local farmers

and purveyors. We bring nearly a decade's experience of working with some of the most talented folks in Northeast Florida, and look forward to sharing everything we've learned at the restaurant to our customers at The Market."

The Market at Stewart's is located at 311 Anastasia Blvd. in St. Augustine. Regular business hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call (904) 824-5637 or visit themarketstaug.com for more information.

The Market at Stewart's will host a grand opening on Tuesday, Aug. 29, from 7 to 9 p.m. with complimentary beer, wine and hors d'oeuvres while they last. The event is free and open to the public.

Blue Jay Listening Room opens in Jacksonville Beach



Photos by Benjamin Naim

Country music singer Kyle Jennings performs on stage at the Blue Jay Listening Room.



Attendees take their seats shortly before the lights are dimmed for the evening.

By Benjamin Naim

Blue Jay Listening Room held a soft opening event Aug. 12 in Jacksonville Beach with a night of drinks, stories and live music by country artist Kyle Jennings.

The evening began with an emotional speech delivered by owner Cara Burky, who thanked friends, family members, donors and contributors who helped prepare the venue for its soft opening. She also said the listening room got its name from her late grandmother.

“In 1999, my grandmother suddenly passed away,” Burky said. “She was the rock, the matriarch, the foundation. She was the most beautiful, well-spoken, well-dressed woman I’ve ever seen. When she passed away, we had her funeral service in Leesburg, Florida.”

At the service, Burky said, a blue jay flew out of an oak tree and “danced and danced” around on two

separate occasions before flying back into the tree above her grandmother’s casket. Since that day, Burky always thought of her grandmother as a blue jay.

“So that is why this is called Blue Jay Listening Room,” Burky said. “She is here, she is an inspiration, so I hope you all leave a little inspired today as well.”

Kyle Jennings, who performed for nearly two hours at the venue while telling short road stories in between songs, complimented Burky for her work and “great style” after taking the stage to start the evening.

“Look at this place,” he said. “This is the coolest room I’ve played in; there’s no question about it. This small intimate vibe is as cool as it gets.”

Although Jennings is primarily known for country music, he borrowed elements of folk, rock and blues throughout the evening.

Midway through the event, Burky stated with confidence that the soft opening of Blue Jay was a success

and customers felt the listening room was exactly what the Jacksonville Beach area needed. Additionally, Burky revealed Saturday’s event was the culmination of two years of hard work.

“Work, blood, sweat, tears, lots of tears,” she said. “But all worth it...I’ve been waiting for this night for two years.”

Blue Jay Listening Room is located at 2457A S. 3rd St. The venue is described on its official website as a “beautifully sacred, intimate space” that allows visitors to come listen and expand their musical knowledge and “share in an experience” attendees will never forget. Blue Jay’s grand opening featuring touring musician Randall Bramblett will take place Aug. 18 from 8 to 11 p.m.

The Women’s Board of Wolfson Children’s Hospital announces 41st Annual Art and Antiques Show

The Women’s Board of Wolfson Children’s Hospital will host its 41st annual Art and Antiques Show with a “London Calling” theme Dec. 1-3 at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center in Jacksonville.

“We are excited for this year’s Art & Antiques show to transport us all ‘across the pond’ with our London Calling theme and planned lectures and events,” said Women’s Board President Beth Langley. “Our team works diligently to bring the community an enlightening event each year to help aid in further awareness of the services and facilities of Wolfson Children’s Hospital.”

In addition to booth participants, Art & Antiques Show lecturers and special guests will include designer Maria Crosby Pollard, design team Juli Catlin and William Nash, author and Lifestyle Brand Owner India Hicks, interior designer Kathryn M. Ireland and antique Buyer Toma Clark Haines.

The show will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 1; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Dec. 2; and noon to 5 p.m. on Dec. 3. Tickets are available online at www.artandantiquesshow.com.

Daily admission to the show is \$15. Tickets to the Maria Crosby Pollard, India Hicks and Kathryn M. Ireland lectures are \$30; all other lectures are free. Tickets to the Mad Hatter Tea Party Children’s Fashion Show are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and free for children ages 5 and under. Gala tickets start at \$250. Corporate sponsorships are available.

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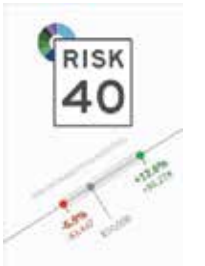
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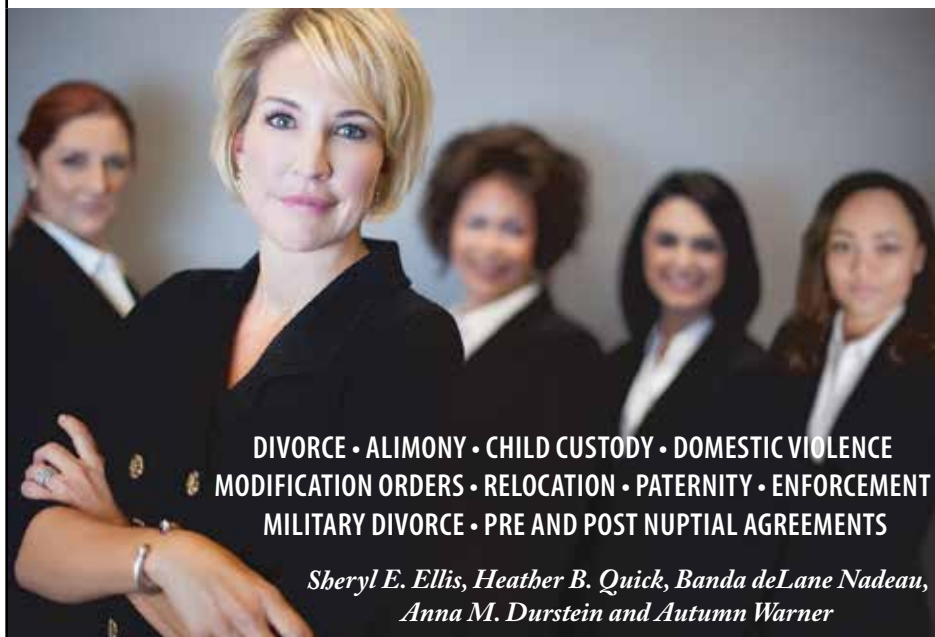
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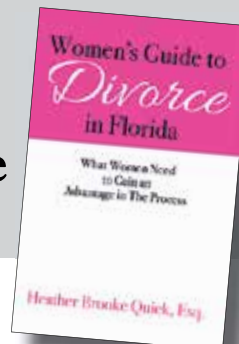
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Jacksonville Symphony single tickets on sale

Single tickets for the 2017-2018 Jacksonville Symphony season, “The Season of Magic,” are currently on sale. Tickets can be purchased by visiting jaxsymphony.org, calling (904) 354-5547 or visiting the ticket office in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Symphony season will kick off with its first-ever “Fanfare! An Opening Night Celebration” on Saturday, Sept. 16. Music Director Courtney Lewis and guest artist Charlie Siem on violin, are part of this special performance that includes Adams’ “The Chairman Dances,” Tchaikovsky’s famous Symphony No. 5 and Sibelius’ “Violin Concerto.”

“We have an exciting season planned that includes something for everyone,” said Robert Massey, president and chief executive officer of the symphony. “We have an incredible selection of guest artists that will be joining our Masterworks performances. Our Pops Series ranges from Mambo Kings to Doo Wop

to Storm Large. Plus, there are many special events including holiday movies that have been added to the schedule.”

Ticket prices range from \$19 to \$79 for Masterworks and Pops concerts, \$35 for Symphony in 60 and from \$10 to \$26 for family concerts. Prices do not include the 15 percent single-ticket purchase fee. Purchasers who make a \$75 donation to the symphony or subscribe can eliminate the single ticket purchase fee and receive \$5 off the price of their ticket. Groups of 10 or more will receive 20 percent off.

This year, there will be 12 Florida Blue Masterworks performances, 12 Fidelity National Financial Pops performances, two family concerts, three Regency Centers Symphony in 60 concerts and an expanded holiday schedule that starts with the film “Home Alone,” includes Holiday Pops, Handel’s “Messiah” and the VyStar’s First Coast “Nutcracker,” Frank Capra’s classic film “It’s A Wonderful Life” and New Year’s Eve Orchestral Lunacy!

The Symphony’s Gala, presented by Bank of America Merrill Lynch, will be Jan. 20, showcasing renowned soprano Renée Fleming, described by The Telegraph as “possessor of the most sheerly beautiful soprano voice on the planet.” Season ticket subscribers have the first opportunity to purchase tickets to this special evening.

Other special ticket offers include plans that allow children and young adults increased access to the symphony. Children ages 7-17 can attend any Masterworks or Pops series concert free with the purchase of an adult ticket. The Sound Check Card, for students 25 years or younger, can access Masterworks and Coffee performances during the entire season for a one-time price of \$25. In addition, cardholders may bring one adult or friend who can purchase a \$10 ticket the night of the performance. Student rush tickets for \$10 to Masterworks, Pops, Coffee and matinee performances are available through the ticket office 90 minutes prior to the concert.

“Our ticket prices and special offers make it easy to enjoy live symphonic music,” said Peter Gladstone, vice president of marketing for the Jacksonville Symphony. “And it’s not too late to purchase season tickets. With our Create Your Own series, patrons can select the concerts they want from virtually everything we offer.”

The Jacksonville Symphony is a music nonprofit offering live performances at Jacoby Hall in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts and other venues throughout the area. In addition, the symphony provides music instruction for youth and operates the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra. For more information about the Symphony, visit jaxsymphony.org, like them on [facebook.com/jaxsymphony](https://www.facebook.com/jaxsymphony), follow them on Twitter at [@jaxsymphony](https://twitter.com/jaxsymphony), on Instagram at [JaxSymphony](https://www.instagram.com/JaxSymphony) and on YouTube at [JacksonvilleSymphony](https://www.youtube.com/JacksonvilleSymphony).

Florida Chamber Music Project announces 2017–2018 season performances at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

The Florida Chamber Music Project (FCMP) announced its 2017-18 performance dates at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. The FCMP will kick off its fifth season on Sunday, Sept. 10, with Webern’s “Langsamer Satz” and Schubert’s String Quartet No. 14 in D minor, D.810 “Death and the Maiden.”

The Florida Chamber Music Project is celebrating its fifth year of providing a repertoire of chamber music for the Northeast Florida region. Although performances by small groups of musicians date back several thousand years, chamber music as it is known today reached great heights beginning in the early 1600s and continues to thrive in popularity in the 21st century. Often described as music performed in an intimate setting by an ensemble of friends for an audience of friends, chamber music lives on today.

One of the factors contributing to the

unique nature of these performances is the rich repertoire featuring one musician on a part. Within each composition, the technical skills and musical expression of each player contributes to an intimate musical conversation among friends.

The 2017-2018 season features clarinetist Peter Wright joining the Florida Chamber Music Project for music written for strings and clarinet performing Webern’s Quintet for Clarinet and Strings in B flat. Other concerts include Schubert’s famous Quintet for Piano and Stings, “The Trout,” a performance of Italian composers as part of The Italian Sojourn weekend experience, and the season concludes with the music of Mozart’s String Quintet No. 1 in C minor.

The complete 2017-18 season is as follows:

- Sept. 10 – Webern’s “Langsamer Satz” and Schubert’s String Quartet No. 14 in D minor, D.810 “Death and the Maiden”
- Oct. 22 – Webern’s Quintet for Clarinet and Strings in B flat, “Fantasia” Adagio ma non troppo, “Rondo” Allegro giocoso and Brahms’s Quintet for Clarinet and Strings in B minor, “Opus 115” with guest artist Peter Wright, clarinet
- Jan. 7, 2018 – Boccherini’s Quartet “Opus 58”, No. 4 G245 in B minor, Puccini’s “Crisantemi,” Nino Rota’s String Quartet and Wolf’s Italian Serenade
- April 8, 2018 – Schubert’s String Trio in B flat, D. 471 and Quintet for Piano and Strings in A, D. 667 “The Trout” with guest artists Hyunsoon Whang, piano and Jason Lindsay, double bass
- May 6, 2018 – Mozart’s String Quar-

tet in A Major, K. 464 and Smetana’s String Quartet No. 1 in E minor, “From My Life”

All concerts start at 3 p.m.

Season or individual show tickets may be purchased at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall box office before each performance and in advance online at ticketmaster.com. Tickets for the general reserved seating performances are available for purchase at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and St. Augustine Amphitheatre box offices, ticketmaster.com, all Ticketmaster outlets and by phone at (800) 745-3000. The cost is \$25 per event (reserved seating) and \$125 for a season pass (reserved seating).

For more information, visit pvconcerthall.com or flchambermusic.org

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Former CIA operative offers real world spy advice to writers

After a 30-year career with the Central Intelligence Agency, T.L. Williams decided to pursue his passion for writing. As the author of three spy thrillers, he will share some of his tradecraft knowledge at the FWA Ponte Vedra Writers meeting Saturday, Aug. 26 at 10:30 a.m. at the Ponte Vedra Library.

Williams will present "So You Want to Write a Spy Thriller. How's Your Tradecraft?" through which writers will learn about the CIA from its inception to today, and how that knowledge can help them infuse more realism into

their spy novels. Williams will compare a few of the more common tradecraft tools that real operations officers use versus those portrayed in popular television programs and films. He will also examine some novels in the genre that have hit the mark.

Williams retired from the CIA in 2009, and subsequently moved to Ponte Vedra Beach. His latest thriller, "ZERO DAY: China's Cyber Wars," is a conceivable story involving China's attempt to undermine the U.S. economy. Concerned about Williams' extensive

knowledge about sensitive national security, the CIA prevented the book's publication for months while vetting the manuscript for any classified information.

The Ponte Vedra Writers chapter is one of more than 50 writers' groups affiliated with the Florida Writers Association, a nonprofit membership organization with nearly 1,500 members. For more information about the organization, visit <http://www.floridawriters.net>. The meeting is free and open to the public.



T.L. Williams

Photo courtesy of Vic DiGenti

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ABET holding auditions for 'The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds'

ABET (Atlantic Beach Experimental Theatre) is holding auditions for "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds" by Paul Zindel Aug. 26 at 11 a.m. The play chronicles the lives of a widow and her two young daughters.

The available roles for the drama include Beatrice Hunsdorfer (female age 40-45), a single mother left by her husband years ago; Ruth (female age 16-18), Beatrice's epileptic older daughter whose seizures are brought on by anxiety or stress; Tillie Hunsdorfer (female age 14-16), Beatrice's younger daughter who is an outcast at school and teased by other students; Nanny (female

age 60-80), who is nearly blind, deaf and can barely walk with the aid of a walker; and Janice Vickery (female age 14-16), Tillie's main competitor at the science fair.

The characters of Beatrice, Tillie and Ruth will be required to read monologues from scripts as well as cold readings of selected scenes together. Additionally, the character of Janice will be required to read her monologue. Those interested in auditioning can get a copy of the script to get familiar with the content by calling or texting (904) 386-5085.

ABET is located at 716 Ocean Blvd., Atlantic Beach.

Hope at Hand calling for love poems

Hope at Hand is issuing an invitation community-wide to adults 18 and older for original love poems. The organization wants to hear about love lost, love won, past love, love yet to come or any facet of love that stirs your heart.

The top 10 poems, as judged by the North Florida Poetry Hub, will be printed and displayed beginning Feb. 14, 2018. Poems must be a maximum of 15 lines and family-friendly. Email submissions to HopeAtHand@HopeAtHand.org by Dec. 1.

Hope at Hand is charity that provides poetry lessons for at-risk youth populations in North Florida. Founded by veteran educator Steffani Hendricks Fletcher in 2009, Hope at Hand combines poetry and art to help youth process life, love and progress in a changing world. Hope at Hand

partners with over 20 youth agencies in North Florida. To donate or for more information about Hope at Hand and its partners, visit HopeAtHand.org. Hope at Hand is registered with The United Way of Northeast Florida and is funded in part by The Cummer Family Foundation, The Delores Barr Weaver Fund, the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville and the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs.

In partnership with the Florida State Poets Association (FSPA), Hope at Hand has created and sponsors a local chapter called The North Florida Poetry Hub. The Hub meets monthly at the Hope at Hand facility at 3886 Atlantic Blvd. in Jacksonville the fourth Thursday of every month from 6:30-8 p.m. All poetry enthusiasts ages 16 and older are welcome to attend.

Florida Heritage Book Festival opens youth poetry competition

The Florida Heritage Book Festival, Inc. (FHBF) is holding a poetry competition for sixth through 12th grade students who are either in St. Johns County schools or home-schooled.

The theme is "Florida's Natural Resources," and each participant must submit an original poem in English based on that theme. Poems are not to exceed 24 lines of text. Students will compete in one of two divisions: middle school (sixth through eighth grade) and high school (ninth through 12th grade). The deadline for entry is Friday, Sept. 8.

Winners will receive cash prizes and certificates sponsored by All American Air Charitable Foundation (AAACF). Three prizes will be awarded in each division: \$100 for first place; \$50 for second place and \$25 for third.

Winners will present their poems at The Florida Heritage Book Festival on Saturday, Sept. 23 at 2:20 p.m., at Flagler College Ringhaver Student Center, 50 Sevilla Street in St. Augustine. Winning presentations will appear on the FHBF website, www.fhbookfest.com.

"Our AAA Charitable Foundation is honored to support the work and mission of The Florida Heritage Book Festival and their continuous efforts in providing awareness to Florida's authors, literature and culture while cultivating the art of writing in the oldest city in our nation," said Christine Chapman, president of All American Air Charitable Foundation. AAACF has been a Book Festival sponsor since 2014.

Debra Gibson, president of The Florida Heritage Book Festival, said the poetry competition is a part of the Festival's continued commitment to youth programming.

"We are looking forward to this year's inclusion of the poetry contest for local youth, and we love the idea that AAACF has agreed to sponsor this event," she said. "We cannot put on the Festival without our community sponsors."

The judging panel will be St. Johns County residents.

"Our judges were chosen because of their keen interest in literary works, and in fostering youth involvement in reading and creative writing," Gibson said.

Poems will be judged based on originality, creativity and artistic quality. Poems containing profanity, vulgarity or offensive material will be disqualified. The decision of the judges will be final.

Contest rules and parental forms are available at <http://www.fhbookfest.com>. Printed rules and entry forms are available at all St. Johns County libraries.

Electronic entries in Microsoft Word, PDF, or WordPerfect are encouraged. Paper entries will be accepted at any St. Johns County library or bookmobile locations, or may be mailed to FHBF at P.O. Box 4011, St. Augustine, FL 32085, postmarked by Sept. 8. Winners will be announced by Sept. 15. (Parents or guardians of minor contestants must sign a release authorizing the FHBF to reprint the work, or to use video of the author presenting the work.)

The festival began in 2008 and is a free event every September highlighting Florida's literary heritage under the direction of The Florida Heritage Book Festival, Inc., Board of Directors. For more information, contact Debra Gibson at (904) 827-6926 or at dgibson@sjcfl.us.

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Photo by Samantha Logue

THE PLAYERS Championship Executive Director Jared Rice discusses the announcement.



Photos by Don Christian

THE PLAYERS Championship to move to March, PGA Championship to May in 2019

By Samantha Logue

In a joint announcement Aug. 8 at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, North Carolina, the PGA of America and the PGA TOUR confirmed that starting in 2019, THE PLAYERS Championship will be moved to March and the PGA Championship will be held in May.

“In weighing the complex evolution of the golf calendar, the PGA of America’s key objectives were to promote the best interests of our signature spectator championship, do what is best for the game and its great players, and find the most advantageous platform to fulfill our mission of serving

our nearly 29,000 PGA professionals and growing the game,” said PGA of America Chief Executive Officer Pete Bevacqua. “Our analysis began in 2013 and included an extensive list of factors, including having to shift the date every four years to accommodate the Olympic Games. In the end, we determined that playing the PGA Championship the week prior to Memorial Day in May, making it the second major championship of the golf calendar, will achieve those three objectives.”

TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach has been home to the THE PLAYERS Championship since 1982. The event has been held in May since 2007, but prior to that

year, it was held in March. PGA TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan, who joined Bevacqua in the announcement, assured that THE PLAYERS would continue to thrive, regardless of the schedule change.

“THE PLAYERS Championship has grown in stature since we moved to May in 2007 and, regardless of the date, is clearly one of the premier events in all of golf—the best players in the world, a premier venue in THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass, an unmatched fan experience and a significant charitable component that benefits the Jacksonville-area community,” Monahan said. “THE PLAYERS moving to March in 2019 will enhance an already

strong Florida portion of our calendar and play a significant role in an overall schedule.”

Following the announcement, THE PLAYERS Executive Director Jared Rice held his own press conference at TPC Sawgrass to further address the impacts of the coming change on the tournament itself.

“We’ve already begun to think through how this affects our business—everything from fan experience to hospitality, and hosting structures... and certainly volunteers,” Rice said. “We couldn’t deliver this tournament to fans and our players without

PLAYERS continues on Page 34

KEEPING UP

PVHS alumnus and former golfer working as tax accountant for PGA of America Tour

By Barbara Boxleitner

Special to the Recorder

Anthony Scolapio has a job that keeps him close to the sport he loves.

The Ponte Vedra High School graduate has been working as a tax accountant for the Professional Golfers’ Association (PGA) of America Tour. He landed the position after graduating from LaGrange

College, where he excelled as a golfer.

“It’s like perfect where I’m at now,” he said. “Short drive to work. Hours are pretty good.”

And Scolapio gets to golf recreationally during free time.

“I haven’t been pursuing pro golf,” he said. “I’ve been so busy at work. I’ll play on the weekends. I still play a lot but not as much as in college.”

Scolapio was a Division III Cleveland Golf/Srixon All-America Scholar his senior year. He was an all-USA South Athletic Conference second team selection as a junior, posting a career-low 75.68 stroke average in eight events, which was second on the team. He was an all-conference third team pick as a freshman, finishing with a 76.71 scoring average in 10 events.

He said his junior year was the most rewarding, since he shaved more than two shots from his stroke average the previous season. He placed second in the Chick-fil-A Collegiate Invitational to lead the Panthers.

“I wish our team was a bit better that year,” he said. “That happened to be the year I was really on. Being

in contention in tournaments was definitely something I can look back on.”

He said his career evolved as well as he expected. “I obviously wanted to play at a bigger school,” Scolapio said. “I made the most of it definitely.”

Indeed, the smaller campus atmosphere allowed him to shine.

“It was good for me,” he said. “It wasn’t too hectic. I didn’t get lost in the crowd.”

Although he doesn’t rule out an attempt at a pro career some day, he’s using this time to polish his game. “Golf’s just something you can get better at,” he said. “I’ve actually been playing better. If it ever gets to the point I get better and get a little more confident, I would pursue it.”

All parts of his game have improved, Scolapio said. “My tee ball distance is pretty good,” he said. “I feel like I could drive the ball as far as some of the pros. My accuracy’s been getting a bit better.”

Send updates about former area athletes to Barbara Boxleitner at jdanddoc@gmail.com.

Players

Continued from 33

the nearly 2,000 volunteers that we have. We've already communicated the date change to them, and the response has been as positive as you hear from the commissioner and among our stakeholders."

Although exact dates for the 2019 schedule have yet to be announced, Rice said that he believed having THE PLAYERS in March would help with marketing the tournament.

"When you look at the lead in at the beginning of the year into March, that is going to be a great platform for the tournament promotionally," he said. "We have started

to communicate with partners, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive, and we are very excited about that."

In terms of the tournament's charitable involvement, Rice said that would not be affected by the change of schedule.

"While there's a change in date, there's certainly not a change in philosophy about impacting and making large contributions to impact charities locally," he said. "That does not change, that's part of our initiative."

Although the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament is also scheduled to come to Jacksonville in March of 2019, Rice said he was confident that it would not adversely impact THE PLAYERS.

"THE PLAYERS Championship is the largest global event of this community," he

said. "We've talked about it before – the amount of attendees coming from outside the five-county area, the amount of coverage that comes from across the globe; that is not going to change. Once we do have that detail from the commissioner of the

PGA TOUR about what those dates are... we're going to immediately get with all the civic leadership and community leadership and figure out ways that we can continue to elevate Jacksonville and attract a national and international audience."



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Photos by Don Christian

Jordan Spieth assesses his next shot at THE PLAYERS Championship in May.



Rory McIlroy eyes up his shot at THE PLAYERS Championship.

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Sports Spotlight: Zach Sheffer

Zach Sheffer is Nease High School's starting tight end and one of its top players this fall. A senior, Sheffer is committed to play football at LSU next year.

Q: How did summer camp go?

A: "Summer camp went really well. I feel like we got a lot better and grew together as a team."

Q: What excites you most about this upcoming season?

A: "The thing that excites me the most about this upcoming football season is playing with my friends and teammates one last year. We want to go out with a bang and hopefully make a deep playoff run."

Q: The Panthers went 2-7 last year. What goals are in place for Nease to have a stronger year in 2017?

A: "Our goal this year is to just take it one game at a time and be the best we can possibly be. We've worked hard in the weight room, and I feel we

are all on the same page as a team. We will definitely have a better season this year. We've worked too hard not to."

Q: How would you characterize the offense this year? What should fans look forward to seeing?

A: "Complex and multiple. We have a lot of formations, shifts and motions. We are doing some different things this year that I think will pay off."

Q: Your first game on the schedule is against Ponte Vedra. What makes this rivalry so special to you?

A: "We have a lot of respect for PV. They are a really good team, and they are very well coached. It's always a good game, and both schools will have a lot of fans there."

Q: You're committed to LSU to play college football. What factors went into your decision to play there?

A: "LSU was a really good fit for me for a lot of reasons: offensive scheme, game day environment, facilities, aca-

demie support, coaches and playing in the SEC. But most importantly, it just felt like home. I had an opportunity to take several unofficial visits to some great schools the last two years, but none of them gave me the feeling that I had when I was in Baton Rouge."

Q: What do you plan to study at LSU?

A: Baton Rouge.

Q: "You also compete in track and field for Nease. Which events do you participate in? And what do you enjoy most about track?"

A: "I participate in shot, discus and a couple of other track events. I advanced to state in discus. The thing I enjoy most about track is being with my teammates and working on my speed for football. Since I'll be enrolling early at LSU, I won't be able to participate in track this year."



Photo courtesy of Chad Sheffer

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Tickets for Web.com Tour Championship at Atlantic Beach Country Club now available

Next wave of PGA TOUR stars to compete in Atlantic Beach with proceeds benefitting Wolfson Children's Hospital

Tickets for the season-ending Web.com Tour Championship to be played at Atlantic Beach Country Club the week of Sept. 25 to Oct. 1 are now available.

The \$1 million event will be the fourth and final tournament in the Web.com Tour Finals, where all 50 PGA TOUR cards for the 2017-2018 season will be formally awarded. Wolfson Children's Hospital will serve as the primary beneficiary of the event.

Grounds tickets will be offered at \$15 daily, Sept. 28 to Oct. 1 (Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday). A weekly grounds ticket option is available as well, offering access all four days of the event for \$35.

Web.com Tour Championship also offers a weekly Clubhouse ticket for \$110. Clubhouse ticket holders enjoy the comfort of the Atlantic Beach Country Club, private restrooms, HDTVs and exclusive use of the Clubhouse Lawn, overlooking the 18th green.

Fans looking for an all-inclusive experience will appreciate The Deck on 18, a venue offering the best Web.com Tour Championship experience. This venue showcases a VIP experience with climate-controlled

dual views of the 10th tee and 18th green, private restrooms, HDTVs, open seating, upscale food and full bar, including a signature cocktail of the day. The price for The Deck on 18 is \$175 for a day and \$500 for the week.

New for 2017, the Pivot Poolside Lounge, sponsored by Pivot CPAs, provides a luxury experience with a relaxed atmosphere offering a variety of amenities for golf fans coming out to the tournament. This venue features a poolside oasis on the main pool deck overlooking the 18th fairway, on duty lifeguards so fans can enjoy the pool and climate-controlled private restrooms. It also features beer, wine and a variety of snacks. Fans can purchase PIVOT Poolside Lounge tickets for \$100 daily or \$350 for the week.

Each evening, after the conclusion of the round, the tournament will host Music on the Lawn presented by Sea Best. This intimate experience is offered to all ticket holders and will feature a different local singer or songwriter each night. On Thursday and Friday night, the concert will take place 7 to 9 p.m. It will

take place 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

All levels of tournament tickets are available via www.WebTourChampionship.com.

"We're excited that Web.com Tour Championship is returning to Atlantic Beach Country Club this year and are thrilled to provide a variety of experiences to suit our diverse fan base," said Adam Renfro, tournament director of the Web.com Tour Championship.

All active duty, veterans, reserve and military retirees and their dependents will receive complimentary tournament admission to the Web.com Tour Championship, Thursday through Sunday. To receive complimentary admission, eligible military must bring a valid ID to the will call tent to receive their ticket.

Youth 18 and under (when accompanied by a ticketed adult) and college students with a valid student ID will be admitted free of charge, Thursday through Sunday.

For more information on the Web.com Tour Championship, or to purchase tickets, please visit www.WebTourChampionship.com.

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ACROSS

1. Glass piece
6. *It can be measured via carbon decay
9. Sandwich alternative
13. Free-for-all
14. Madame Tussauds' medium
15. State of dishonor
16. Kidney, e.g.
17. Cleopatra's killer
18. Arthur Hailey bestseller
19. *Force pulling two objects together
21. *One on Mendeleev's table
23. Organ of balance
24. Criticism
25. British mom
28. Tibetan priest
30. Gluten-free dieter's disease
35. Relating to #23
37. Deficiency
39. Goes with onions?
40. "In ____ veritas"
41. Daisylike bloom
43. Apple leftover
44. Choose Trump, e.g.
46. Feed storage
47. Actor Kristoferson
48. Gibraltar or Bering
50. Moonfish
52. Hitherto
53. Jockey's leash
55. Give a nickname

DOWN

1. Urban haze
2. Drosselmeyer's title
3. *Pond organism
4. Ransack or plunder
5. Coping mechanism
6. "And ____ we go!"
7. *Low density state of matter
8. Kick out of school
9. "For ____ the Bell Tolls"
10. *60 miles/hour, e.g.
11. So be it
12. Trapper's bounty
15. Israeli money
20. "____-____-la" refrain
22. Lake in Provence
24. Dissenting clique
25. *Galilei: "And yet it ____"
26. At less than 90

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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.

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| degrees | scope named after him |
| 27. Forty-niner, e.g. | 54. Inuit shelter |
| 29. *m in F = ma | 56. *a.k.a. sodium borate |
| 31. Way to seal an envelope | 57. LeBron's goal |
| 32. Poacher's ware | 58. 43,560 square feet |
| 33. Bird of prey nest | 59. Dam-like structure |
| 34. *Highest point in a wave | 60. Immanuel ____, German philosopher |
| 36. Source of cocaine | 61. Eye up and down |
| 38. Kind of seaweed | 62. None of this for the weary |
| 42. Two diverged, one not taken and other taken | 63. ____-do-well |
| 45. Causing one to need rest | 64. Cocoyam |
| 49. X | 67. Grass bristle |
| 51. *He had a tele- | |

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