

Ponte Vedra Recorder



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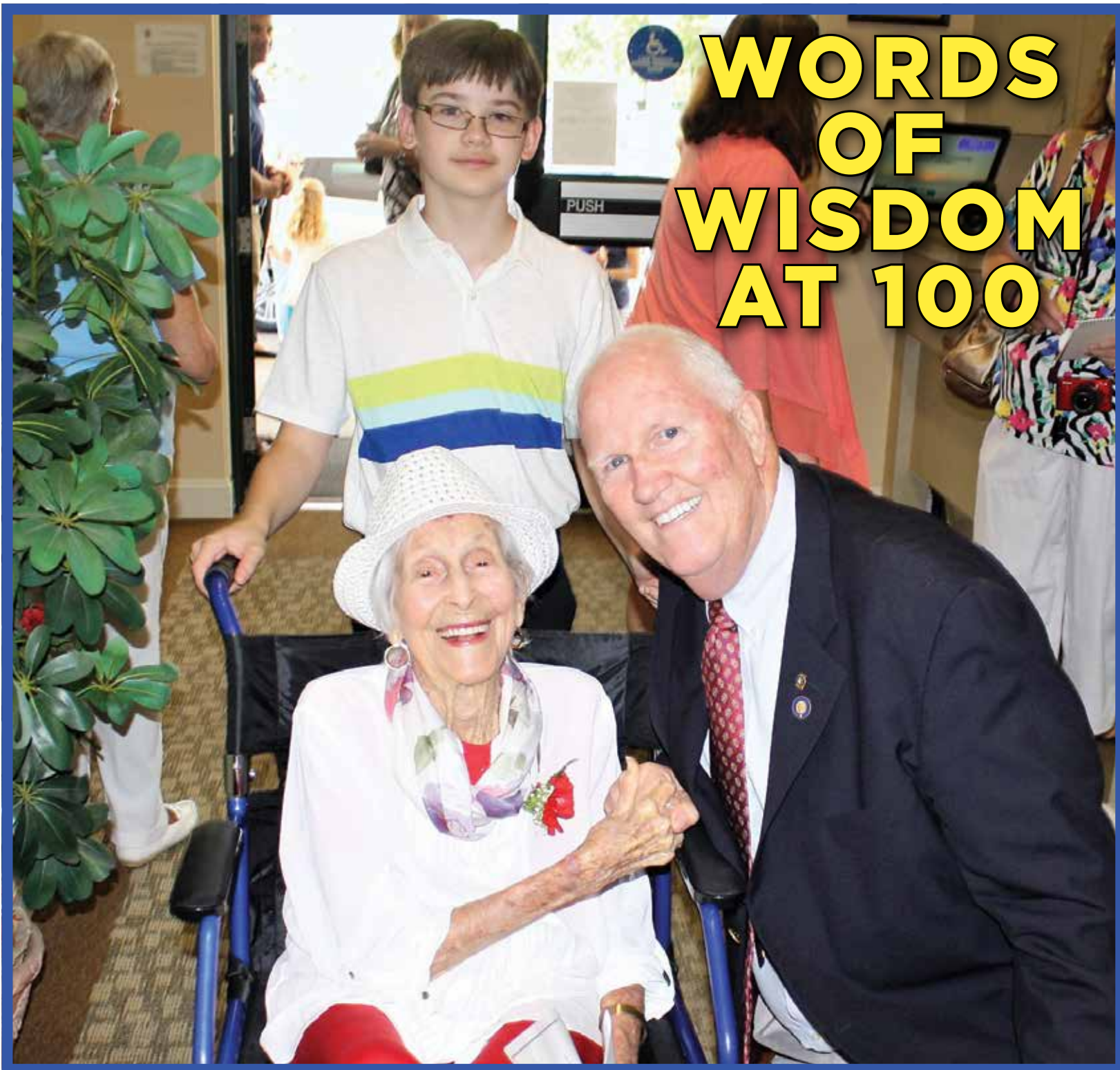
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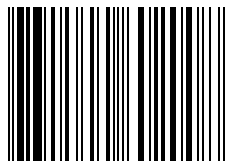
Business Weekly
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WORDS OF WISDOM AT 100

Photo by Jennifer Logue
Council on Aging Board Member Bruce Barber (right) greets 103-year-old Minna Barnes – escorted by Landrum Middle School student Ian Aman – at the luncheon honoring local centenarians and nonagenarians. Guests at the luncheon shared their words of wisdom for living to 90 and beyond. Read more on page 8.

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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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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

T	O	T	E	M	A	G	O	P	U	S	H
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4	2	1	6	3	8	7	9	5
7	4	5	8	6	2	9	3	1
1	9	8	7	5	3	4	6	2
6	3	2	9	4	1	5	7	8

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

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

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

Five readers correctly identified last week's photo as the St. Augustine Pirate & Treasure Museum.



Winner of the random drawing was **Carl Schuck** – congratulations, Carl! You may pick up your prize at The Recorder office during regular business hours.

ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Moose and I am a 4-year-old male cat who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center by my owners because they could no longer care for me. Will you make me part of your family? Come visit us today here at the pet center! #38000



DOG OF THE WEEK

My name is Gracie and I am a 3-year-old female mixed breed who is looking for a new home. I was given to the pet center by my owners because they could no longer care for me. I am heartworm positive, so my adoption fee and a portion of my treatment is sponsored by the Friends of the St. Johns County Pet Center. Come visit me today! #19412



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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Water shortage warning order extends to St. Johns County

The St. Johns River Water Management District recently issued a water shortage warning order for all 18 counties within its jurisdiction, including St. Johns County, due to extreme drought conditions in the area.

The order has expanded from seven of those counties listed in an initial warning issued in March. Officials say the objective of the order is to reduce water use and increase conservation efforts to prevent potential adverse environmental and economic impacts.

Conditions have not yet reached a point where there is an expectation of insufficient water to meet anticipated demand and protect water resources, they say. Current conditions reflecting below-average rainfall, groundwater and surface water flows that indicate a prolonged drought, however, do warrant the need for heightened water conservation efforts.

Officials say the largest water savings can be realized outdoors, where more than half of residential water is used on lawns and landscapes. As a result, landscape irrigation is recommended to occur between 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. and not to exceed two days per week.

According to the water management district's website, the agency collaborates

with local governments, utilities, agricultural interests and other stakeholders to communicate any requirements in relation to the warning, with permit holders in the affected area receiving notification letters or emails.

The district last issued a water shortage order in 1999, which was modified several times and then rescinded in 2006.

For more information on the warning and water conservation, visit <http://www.sjrwmd.com/facts/watershortageorder.html>.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Since the report about widening A1A, I've been wondering why no one is looking beyond the solution of building additional lanes. Why not consider smart-technology solutions for managing traffic?

My wife and I moved from Germany to the United States in 2014. In other parts of the world, traffic is steered and road capacities are adjusted based on real-time traffic conditions and peak traffic periods during the day. Sensors in the lanes and at traffic lights measure traffic every second. This information is then used to create an intelli-

gent synchronized traffic light system. The same could be done on A1A.

Today, A1A's traffic light sensors are working without being networked. They only consider the street crossing at that particular location and don't take into account overall traffic conditions. We all know this effect: When the traffic light turns green, you proceed to the next light and it immediately turns red because there are vehicles waiting at the cross street. So, all the traffic comes to a halt again and creates more congestion.

When traffic lights are controlled by smart technology systems, green lights will be synchronized during morning rush hour

in one direction and it can be changed to the other direction during the evening rush hour. It will also consider special situations like accidents and provide green lights for an emergency vehicle. It is much easier for cars to give way for emergency vehicles when they are moving and not stuck in traffic.

Traffic lights also can be synchronized to consider the average speed on the road and "shuffle" as many vehicles as possible along A1A. There are many options to solve traffic issues using smart technologies.

Adding more lanes to the same road without changing the traffic signal manage-

ment will not reduce congestion. It will simply mean that cars will be stopped at red lights in more lanes. I would rather invest in technology than spend millions to construct additional lanes and widen A1A with little positive result.

By using technology, we can keep the charm of Ponte Vedra Beach while reducing car emissions and the number of accidents caused by stop-and-go traffic. In short, traffic control by smart technology will make our roads safer, cheaper and protect the environment while helping drivers save time.

Oliver Morgenthaler
Ponte Vedra Beach

Ponte Vedra residents to push for St. Johns County sales tax increase

More revenue needed to prevent financial crisis, proponents say

By Jennifer Logue

Spurred on by the sobering fiscal picture presented at last week's county budget hearings, a group of Ponte Vedra Beach residents is advocating for a one-cent increase in the St. Johns County sales tax to stave off what they say is a looming financial crisis.

At Monday's meeting of the Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition, residents Lisa Cook, Victoria Corlazzoli and Mary Kohnke updated attendees on the county's preliminary budget hearings held May 17-19. After listening to three days of presentations from various county departments, the residents said it's clear that years of drawing down county reserves to balance the budget after the recession has left St. Johns County in a precarious financial position.

"Last year, we borrowed \$7 million from the reserve fund and they purposefully wrote

up the (FY18) budget without borrowing from the reserve fund," said Cook, who was elected as the coalition's new president at the meeting. "We need other forms of revenue."

Kohnke, a former county commissioner, agreed. "Over the years, we have paid for our problems out of reserves," she said. "We just can't do that anymore."

A perfect storm

In their presentation to attendees, Cook and Corlazzoli noted that since 2008, when the St. Johns County millage rate was decreased from 7.045 to 6.0991, the county has lost a total of \$118 million in revenue. One result of that lost revenue has been the accumulation of a backlog of millions of dollars in deferred maintenance and capital projects across the county.

At the same time, the county administrator's budget hearing workbook – available

online at <http://www.sjcf.us/OMB/media/FY2018AdminHearings.pdf> – notes that since 2006, the population of St. Johns County has increased 37 percent to 226,360, requiring the county to provide services to more people with less money.

Further complicating the county funding picture is the state legislature's recent efforts to put a measure on the ballot that would increase the homestead exemption to \$75,000 – a move that, if passed, would reduce St. Johns County revenues by an estimated \$10 million.

Add in the millions of dollars in clean-up and restoration costs associated with Hurricane Matthew, sales tax increase advocates say, and St. Johns County is facing a perfect budget storm that needs to be addressed now.

Sales tax increase

Cook said she and other residents are advocating for a one cent sales tax increase instead of a property tax increase because they believe it would be a less painful way to generate additional revenue for county services.

"We are liking the sales tax, because in theory one-third or more of the sales tax revenues are actually paid by non-residents," said Cook, who has launched the website www.stjohnscountysalestax.org to offer information on the proposal. "Also, while the majority of sales tax (revenue) goes to the state, this penny raise would go directly to the county. That would be all of our money for capital projects."

Attendees at Monday's coalition meeting seemed to agree that a sales tax increase was needed. Resident Doug Worth noted that St. Johns County residents enjoyed one of low-

est total tax burdens in the state of Florida – a fact that Corlazzoli said has compounded the county's fiscal woes.

"We've enjoyed the luxury for long enough," she said, "and now it's time to pay the piper."

Sales tax increase proponents say they plan to launch a two-pronged campaign. The first step would involve convincing three of the five members of the Board of County Commissioners to schedule a special election this year and put a one-cent sales tax increase on the ballot. Once that is achieved, they said, they will focus on making the case for the increase to county voters.

County Commissioner Jay Morris, who attended Monday's meeting, noted that efforts in 2015 to put a half-cent sales tax increase on the ballot were stymied when three of the five commissioners voted not to put the matter on the ballot.

"So, you had three people deny 170,000 registered voters the right to vote and it never got on the ballot," Morris said. "I said right then, 'If we don't do something, we are now starting to paint ourselves in a corner and this county will be bankrupt by 2020 or 2021.'"

Morris – who has already announced he will not be running for another term on the Board of County Commissioners – has repeatedly stated that St. Johns County is facing a future that is "not financially viable." Getting a sales tax increase on the ballot in a special election and passed this year, he said, may be one of the few options remaining to avert financial disaster.

"If not, you can turn out the lights, you can shut the door, and you can give the keys to Tallahassee," Morris said. "This place is going under."

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'A Night at Roy's' benefits Monique Burr Foundation for Children

The Monique Burr Foundation celebrated its 20th anniversary May 16 at the nonprofit organization's annual "A Night at Roy's" benefit, raising \$55,000 for its programs.

Held at Roy's in Jacksonville Beach, the benefit featured the cuisine of James Beard Award winner Chef Roy Yamaguchi along with fine wines and tropical refreshments. WJXT News Anchor Mary Baer emceed the event, which included live music from Kurt Stevens and Colleen Orender, and a presentation by nationally acclaimed speaker and author Richard Guerry, founder of the Institute for Responsible Online and Cell-Phone Communication (IROC2).

Proceeds from the event benefit the foundation's programs, which educate and empower students, parents, educators and professionals with strategies for preventing, recognizing and responding to bullying, cyberbullying, child exploitation, child abuse and more. To date, MBF programs have reached more than 1.6 million students throughout Florida.



Ed Burr



Photos by Susan Griffin

Members of the Kappa Delta sorority at UNF present Ed Burr with a donation for the Monique Burr Foundation's Child Safety Matters program joined by WJXT News Anchor Mary Baer (far left).



Shelia Harris, Paul and Lisa Dundore and John Harris



Darral and Staci Lee with Bryan Van Arsdale



Mike and Christi Zaffaroni



Richard Guerry

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A Jacksonville native, Dr. Shyam Paryani is actively involved in the local medical community, serving as director of First Radiation and Oncology Group (FROG) while also teaching graduate courses at the University of North Florida.

Shyam Paryani

By Jennifer Logue

What are your duties and responsibilities as director of First Radiation and Oncology Group?

I have been director of the First Radiation & Oncology Group (commonly known as FROG) since 1983. At that time, we had one cancer center and three physicians. As director, I helped grow the practice to 40 cancer centers through a national company with over 150 affiliated physicians and 300 staff. I also managed daily operations of the 12 Florida cancer centers.

You also teach at your alma mater, University of North Florida. What courses do you teach?

I received a Master's in Health Administration (MHA) from UNF in 2002. I was asked to teach the Health Care Quality course for the MHA students starting in 2011. I am the only faculty member that has taught this course since that time. I was selected as the Most Outstanding UNF Alumnus in the College of Health in April 2017.

What do you enjoy most about teaching?

I take the students into a clinical situation and they attempt to develop a plan for a real-life quality issue. It is rewarding to see them learn the process and use it to advance their career. I try to keep in touch with the students after their graduation and help them with their endeavors.

You grew up in Jacksonville. How did you become interested in medicine?

I attended Fort Caroline Junior High School and Terry Parker High School. I did my undergraduate and medical training at the University of Florida. I finished my residency training at Stanford University. I came back to Jacksonville in 1983 to join my father, Dr. B.T. Paryani, and Dr. Walter Scott, who pioneered cancer care in North Florida since 1957. Both my father and Dr. Scott were my heroes and helped mentor me to become a radiation oncologist and expand our cancer services both in Florida and nationally.

What is your favorite part of living on the First Coast?

While our children were growing up and in school, we went on summer vacation each year and often to the Caribbean islands. Now that we are empty nesters, we finally discovered that staying in Ponte Vedra in the summer is like a vacation every day, with the lovely beaches, restaurants, golf and several resorts at our doorsteps. We live in a beach resort and enjoy it every day!

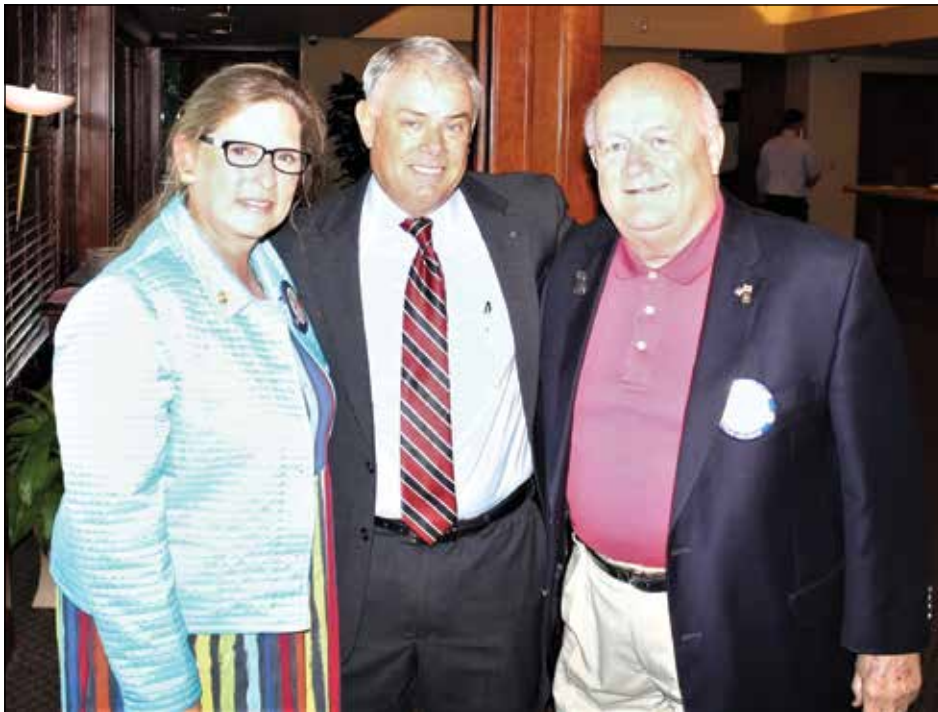
How do you enjoy spending your free time?

I love watching our local sports teams, the UNF Osprey basketball team, the Florida Gators, the Armada and the Jaguars. I also look forward to walking on the beach with my wife, Sharon, and enjoy photography and racing cars!



Photo courtesy of Dr. Paryani

Fetherston receives 'PLAYERS PRIDE' Award



Rotarians Clare Berry and 2018 PLAYERS Championship Chairman Damon Olinto present fellow Rotarian George Fetherston with the 2017 PLAYERS Pride Award at the May 18 meeting of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach. Fetherston was one of just 20 individuals selected from the 2,000 tournament volunteers to receive the award, which recognizes "Personal Responsibility in Delivering Excellence." Berry nominated Fetherston for his work volunteering on the Player Services Committee of THE PLAYERS Championship.

OBITUARIES

Cathy Marolt Conn

Cathy Marolt Conn, 69, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died May 14, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

Jacqueline M. Wilkin

Jacqueline M. Wilkin, 87, of Jacksonville Beach, died May 10, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center and Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

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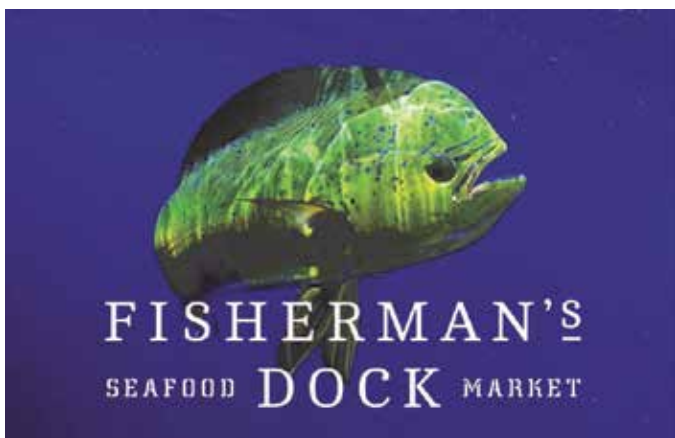
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Seniors offer words of wisdom at annual luncheon for Ponte Vedra nonagenarians, centenarians



Council on Aging Executive Director Becky Yanni, Ken Smith, Cindy Walker and Don Blackburn

By Jennifer Logue

Maintain a positive outlook. Live well. And oh, yes, don't die.

Those were some of the tips for living to be 100 offered by local seniors last week, when the St. Johns County Council on Aging hosted its annual luncheon for residents aged 90 and over. Held May 17 at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center and sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach, the event was attended by 40 local residents ranging in age from 90 to 103.

"We spend a lot of time thinking about aging, talking about aging and writing about aging," Council on Aging Executive Director Becky Yanni told attendees. "And here you are in person, showing us what it is to live well and age well."

In addition to entertainment by pianist Don Miniard, the luncheon featured the assistance of Landrum Middle School's Impact Club, whose students escorted honorees into the hall and then served them lunch.

"I think they all aspire to one day (attend) this luncheon," said Council on Aging Board Member Bruce Barber, who served as the event's master of ceremonies.

Barber noted that fellow board member Don Blackburn – with whom he worked to secure funding to build the Ponte Vedra senior center – was attending the luncheon as an honoree this year, having turned 90 the week before.

"I'm a freshman in this group," Blackburn quipped. "And I plan on being around here for a quite a while to help keep things going."

Also on hand for the luncheon were numerous representatives of local government, law enforcement and senior services organizations, including state Rep. Cyndi Stevenson – whom Barber credited with securing \$1.3 million to help build the center – St. Augustine Beach Police Chief Robert Hardwick and guest speaker Bruce Jones, CEO of Vicar's Landing. Yet the highlight of the event was the chance to hear honorees share their secrets for making it to 90 and beyond. And from the recommendations offered, it appeared a good sense of humor was an absolute must.

"When I had my last birthday, people asked me how I managed to live to be 100," centenarian Bobby West said. "I told them it was because I haven't died yet!"

Centenarian Neva Huxmann said the

secret to reaching 100 was to "keep well and live a long time!" Ninety-seven-year-old World War II veteran Arne Nielsen's advice came in the form of a boisterous drinking song, while James Jackson shared that traveling and having new experiences helped him reach the age of 101.

"I've been in every state in the union but one because I don't swim," Jackson said. "I went to Alaska and saw the biggest mosquitoes in my life. You think they're big in Florida? In Alaska, they're twice as big! You should go there if you get the chance."

Leigh Cort attended the luncheon with her parents, Helen and Abe Shulman, who are 95 and 99, respectively. Their secret, she said? Togetherness.



Patricia Winter and daughter Lynn Eberly of the Council on Aging



Leigh Cort (center) accompanies her parents, Helen and Abe Shulman, to the Council on Aging luncheon.

Seniors

Continued from 8

“They’re still a couple and still look after one another,” said Cort, noting that her parents have been married for 78 years. “They don’t see themselves as old. Every day is a gift with them.”

Her father agreed. “We just thank God we’re here together and can keep going,” he said.

But the simplest suggestion for living to be 100 came from the oldest person present: 103-year-old Minna Barnes.

Her advice?

“Keep smiling,” she said.



Lee Modugno, 91, and Betty Banes, 90



Arne Nielsen, 97

LUNCHEON HONOREES

Honorees at the luncheon for local nonagenarians and centenarians included:

Betty Banes, Don Blackburn, Ellen Kohn and Ray Rogers at 90 years of age; Lee Modugno, Anne Stockman and Ian Charlton, 91; Edward McAndrew and Selena Meardy, 92; Marylyn Nielsen, Ruth Kistler and Jo Steiner, 94; Helen Shulman, Louise Sudul, George Leinchniger, Capt. Martin Zenni and Paul Johnson, 95; Fred Walker, Nelson Johnson, Ruth Conley, William Kamke, Pat Hack, Roslyn Beck, Mary Wrenn and Joe D’aloia, 96; Arne Nielsen, Olly Flowers, Mimi Cosby, June Buckley and Lillian Greve, 97; Bud Baisden, 98; Dr. Abraham Shulman and Wanda Everett, 99; Murial McGowan, Neva Huxmann and Bobby West, 100; Kitty Harris, James Jackson and Marie Lund, 101; and Minna Barnes, 103.

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Thursday, May 25	Friday, May 26	Saturday, May 27	Sunday, May 28
<p>'Go Figure' Art Exhibit The St. Augustine Art Association presents "Go Figure," an art exhibit and juried show on display through May 28 that showcases interpretations of the human body by locally and regionally based artists. Featured works include gesture drawings, studies and figures in different settings with two awards given to selected artists: The Carl Steinsieck Best Figure Drawing Award and the Ann James Best Pastel Portrait Award. The St. Augustine Art Association is open from noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The building is located at 22 Marine St. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Mavericks Live/Thirsty Thursday The Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville, home of the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp, will host a series of events commemorating the team's inaugural season. On Thursday, May 25, the grounds will present "Mavericks Live and Budweiser Thirsty Thursday," during which fans can purchase \$1 12-oz and \$2 24 oz. beers adjacent to the new Budweiser Tiki Terrace. Thursday will also see a WWE-style event courtesy of the Micro Wrestling Federation, featuring an entire cast under five feet tall. The group will have in-game contests and a post-game finale match. Apartment residents can order reserved seats at tinyurl.com/shrimppartmentnight using the password "jumbofun" at the site. Complexes with at least 24 attendees will be announced on the videoboard during the game. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.jaxshrimp.com.</p> <p>Steel Magnolias Dawn Wells (Mary Ann) of "Gilligan's Island" fame returns to The Alhambra Theater & Dining for its 50th anniversary season to star in this popular play. Set in Truvy's beauty salon in Louisiana, the play follows a group of Southern women who draw on their underlying strength and love. "Steel Magnolias" runs through June 25. For tickets and menu information, visit www.alhambrajax.com.</p>	<p>Idina Menzel The St. Augustine Amphitheatre will present Tony Award-winning actress and singer Idina Menzel May 26. Menzel is currently on a tour of more than 50 cities around the globe throughout the spring and summer. The tour began March 29 and included stops in Osaka, Nagoya and Tokyo before returning to North America. Featured on the tour are songs from Menzel's self-titled fifth solo studio album "Idina," as well as a selection of personal, classic pop and musical theater favorites. Doors open at 6 p.m. with the show starting at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$54 and are on sale at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall box offices. Tickets are available at ticketmaster.com, all authorized TicketMaster outlets or by phone at (800) 745-3000. For more information, visit www.staugustineamphitheatre.com.</p> <p>Live Music at Table1 Table1 at 330 A1A N will host live music starting at 7:30 p.m. in addition to the entertainment, guests can enjoy bar bites starting at \$7 and 2-for-1 well drinks, domestic drafts and house wine by the glass.</p> <p>PV Professionals Networking Group The Ponte Vedra Professionals Networking Group meets Fridays at 9 a.m. at Watson Realty Corp., 615 Highway A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, visit www.pvpng.com or email pontevedrapng@gmail.com.</p> <p>Coastal Wine Market Exhibit Coastal Wine Market will host an art exhibit featuring work by local artist Bill Adams May 26-27. Adams will display several pieces from his wine and spirits collection and demonstrate live painting on site. A painting will be raffled off the second day of the show. Attendees will also enjoy wine and cheese tastings and hors d'oeuvres. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p>	<p>Seining at GTM Research Reserve The GTM Research Reserve invites the public to join docents every second and fourth Saturday for guided learning. Instructors will teach participants how to pull a seine net, collecting fish and crabs as they discuss the environment and the creatures' roles in it. Waders and boots will be provided, and this program is included with regular admission to the reserve. The activities will take place in the Environmental Education Center, located at 505 Guana River Road in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call (904) 823-4500 or visit www.gtmnerr.org.</p> <p>Blessing of the Boards Vilano Beach will commemorate the opening of summer with its traditional Blessing of the Boards event from 9 to 11 a.m. A parade of surfboards, skateboards, paddleboards and other hallmarks of summer recreation will open the summer season, beginning at the beach pavilion and stretching along Vilano Road to the pier pavilion and back. For more information, visit www.vilano beachfl.com.</p> <p>'Gilded' Exhibit Catch the St. Augustine Art Association's juried exhibition "Gilded" before its closing date of Sunday, May 28. The exhibit can be seen at the St. Augustine Art Association located at 22 Marine St. Exhibit works consist of art created during the citywide St. Augustine Plein Air Paint Out, which invited artists to capture "Impressions of the Flagler Era."</p> <p>Katz 4 Keeps Adoption Event Join Katz 4 Keeps May 27 for an adoption event helping cats and kittens find their forever homes. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Katz 4 Keeps facility located at 935B A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information about this event or organization, call (904) 834-3223 or email info@katz4keeps.org.</p>	<p>Memorial Day Service First Baptist Church of Ponte Vedra Beach will hold a memorial service in memory of all Americans who have died in military service for the United States Sunday, May 28. The service will be held at 10:30 a.m. in the Palm Valley Community Center, located at 148 Canal Blvd. Ponte Vedra Beach. The community is invited to attend.</p> <p>Ink, Silk and Gold: Islamic Treasures "Ink, Silk, and Gold" is now on display at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens through Sept. 3. The exhibition illuminates Islamic and Middle Eastern history, culture, religious beliefs, and their contributions to global society. Exceptional objects from the Islamic art collection belonging to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston will make a final stop in Jacksonville before returning to their home institution. The objects highlighted in this exhibition not only cover a wide variety of artistic traditions, they also span centuries and vast territories. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville. Museum hours are Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday noon to 4 p.m. and closed Monday.</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 Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra area. For more information call (904) 417-7354 or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com.</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 the community. For more information visit www.ccpvb.org/friends-for-the-arts.</p>

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Monday, May 29	Tuesday, May 30	Wednesday, May 31	Thursday, June 1
<p>Paws 4 Pets 5K and Fun Run The Inaugural Paws 4 Pets 5K and Fun Run will be held May 29, benefiting K9s for Warriors. The 5K will begin at 8 a.m. and a 1.5 mile fun run will follow at 9 a.m., both starting at the St. Francis In-The-Field Church in Ponte Vedra. The 5K course will follow Palm Valley Road and Ranch Road before circling the K9s for Warriors facility. After both runs, an award ceremony and post-race activities will be held starting from 9:15 a.m. Registration ranges from \$10 to \$25. To register or to learn more, visit www.paws4vets5k.itsyourrace.com.</p> <p>MOSH Daily Programs Join Jacksonville's Museum of Science and History for its daily animal shows. On Monday, May 29 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 led by a test astronaut named "Chad." For tickets and additional information, visit www.themosh.org.</p> <p>Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed Volunteer drivers are needed for the weekly delivery of "Meals on Wheels" to seniors. On Mondays, drivers are needed for Route 9, Old Moultrie and St. Augustine South and Route 11, South US1 to 206. For additional days and routes, call (904) 209-3686 or send an email to aleach@stjohnscoa.com.</p> <p>'Holophusicon' Artist Lauren Fensterstock is the next in MOCA's Project Atrium series, bringing her paper, Plexiglas and charcoal installations to the museum's exhibit space. The Portland-based artist draws inspiration from 18th-century gardens, crafting multi-layered, monochromatic cabinets made with shells collected from Maine and Sanibel Island. Fensterstock's pieces beckon visitors closer to inspect the intricacies that make up her works with "Holophusicon," on display through June 18. For more information, visit www.mocajacksonville.unf.edu.</p>	<p>Integrative Memory Enhancement The Council on Aging is requesting volunteers for the Integrative Memory Enhancement Program who are available Tuesday or Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers will assist facilitators in the program. Those interested should call (904) 209-3686 or email aleach@stjohnscoa.com for more information. Volunteers will report to 1048 A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Farmer's Market Join the Palm Valley Community Center Farmer's Market every Tuesday for fresh local produce, fresh seafood and artisan breads and sauces from 1 to 5 p.m. at 148 Canal Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>'A Positive Way to Menopause' Balanced Physician Care invites local women to find a "positive way to menopause" with its interactive workshop. During each session, guests will receive resources and learn strategies to help achieve hormone balance, fat loss, and fitness in a group-based setting. Individuals will set goals and take action to improve their health and wellbeing. The remaining workshop will be held May 30 from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. To RSVP, call (904) 930-4774 or email membership@balancedphysiciancare.com.</p> <p>Sunset Rotary Club Meeting The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset meets Tuesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Community leaders are welcome to attend. For more information, call club President Janeene Hart at (904) 412-5409 or email jwhart1208@gmail.com.</p> <p>Tapas Tuesday The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Café every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. View the sunset on the Cummer Café patio while listening to local musicians and enjoying beer, wine or artfully inspired tapas for sale at the café. Reserve your table by calling (904) 899-6022. For more information, visit www.cummermuseum.org. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave.</p>	<p>'Music by the Sea' 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 May 31 concert will feature the pop and dance stylings of The Committee and food by Amici's Italian Restaurant. The St. Johns County Pier is located at 350 A1A Beach Blvd. in St. Augustine Beach. Visit www.sabca.org for more information on the concert series.</p> <p>National Senior Health and Fitness Day In honor of National Fitness Day, the Ponte Vedra YMCA will offer a day of free use of the YMCA for non-members who are 60 years of age or older. Guests will enjoy a day of exercise demonstrations, classes, health screenings, vendors and more for National Senior Health and Fitness Day. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.</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>Well-being Wednesday Free well-being classes will be held at the Adele Grage Cultural Center at new evening times. Mindfulness Meditation classes are now being taught Wednesday evenings by certified instructor Melissa Stratford at the Adele Grage Center from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. For pricing information, contact Melissa Stratford at (904) 270-9760 or Melissa@meditationbuzzfl.com. Instructors and speakers interested in teaching are encouraged to contact the department of recreation and special events at (904) 247-5828 for more details about providing the community with well-being information and classes.</p>	<p>LEGO Club for Kids The Ponte Vedra Branch Public Library invites children ages 6-10 to "Build a Better World" by practicing engineering skills in the LEGO Club for kids. From 2 to 4 p.m. on June 1, 15 and 29, LEGO bricks will be provided and LEGO books will be on display for visitors to check out at these events, as well. Caregivers must stay with their children in the room for the duration of these events.</p> <p>'Early Literacy for Happy Babies' The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library will host lapsit infants, pre-walkers and their caregivers during this class featuring rhymes, rhythm and songs to help build early literacy skills. "Early Literacy for Happy Babies" will take place Thursday, June 1 from 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. This class is specifically designed to develop a love of reading with one-on-one interaction between caregiver and infant with 15 minutes of class time and 15 minutes of post-play.</p> <p>Volunteers Needed Life Enrichment Day Retreat in Ponte Vedra is in need of volunteers any weekday for a few hours. This volunteer will assist participants with simple activities. Call (904) 417-7354 or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com for more information.</p> <p>Glass and Serigraphs Cultural Center The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach will host "Glass and Serigraphs," an exhibition comprised of works by Thomas Kite and Daryl Bunn, through May 26. This series of Kite's glass work and Bunn's serigraphs showcases a juxtaposition of the artists' signature styles: Kite's work pops with vivid primary color while Bunn's bold use of black lines and contrasting shapes stand out against each backdrop. The featured pieces can be purchased. For more information, visit www.ccpvb.org.</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 jasmine@opcfia.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using</p>

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PVCA gives 'Good Guy Award' to SJSO Deputy John Tedder




Photo courtesy of Kitty Switkes

Ponte Vedra Community Association President Michael Switkes presents the "Good Guy Award" to St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Deputy John Tedder to honor his outstanding service to the community. A deputy assigned to the Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District, Tedder received the award at the PVCA annual meeting last week at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. The PVCA board members unanimously voted to recognize Tedder last month.

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Popular pigs appear at Nocatee Farmer's Market

Priscilla and Poppleton felt right at home in Nocatee Saturday, when the popular miniature pigs visited the community's monthly Farmers Market.

The popular piggies – who have become an internet sensation, complete with their own Facebook page, book and merchandise – visited the Watson Realty

booth, and were a big hit with kids and grown-ups alike.

In addition to Prissy and Pop, attendees had a chance to mingle with some Jaguars – Jacksonville Jaguars, that is, at a football rally while perusing the produce and wares from 80 vendors.



Priscilla & Poppleton visit with Watson Realty's Zandra Quintana, Cheryl Billings, Linda Ash and Robert Rose.



Priscilla & Poppleton

Photos by Susan Griffin

Starbucks opens in Nocatee Town Center

The parking lot outside was already full by 7 a.m. May 19, when Starbucks opened its doors in Nocatee Town Center.

Devoted Starbucks fans snapped photos of the coffee shop's exterior before entering and placing their orders.

Starbucks is the latest business to open in the burgeoning Nocatee Town Center, joining a growing list of restaurants, shops and businesses that includes Publix, The Loop, Coastal Wine Market & tasting room, M Shack, Dunkin Donuts and more. Businesses expected to open soon include Orange Theory, Artsy Abode and Tijuana Flats.



Customers wait for their orders shortly after the Nocatee Starbucks opened its doors for business May 19.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Katie Sambito, Omega Wynn and Caitlin Kirkpatrick

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Ponte Vedra resident Elizabeth Anthony receives Army Veterinary School scholarship

Ponte Vedra resident Elizabeth Anthony recently received the Army Veterinary School scholarship.

A lifelong Ponte Vedra resident, Anthony attended St. John's Academy, graduating from Episcopal High School in 2012. She went on to double major in Animal Science and Biochemistry at

Berry College in Georgia, graduating magna cum laude. She was subsequently accepted into the School of Veterinary Medicine at both Cornell University and the University of Florida.

After entering the University of Florida Veterinary School, Anthony applied for the Health Professions Scholarship

Program and was awarded one of only 30 scholarships given nationwide. She was sworn into the U.S. Army April 25 and received her commission as a 2nd lieutenant. The Army supplies all branches of the military with veterinarians.



Photo courtesy of Andrea Anthony

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Janet Westling
Contributing Editor



and then join in. It was moving, and I was glad to be a witness and a part of this public display of gratitude!

A season to sell

Last year, I wrote about how exciting it is to see the growth, expansion and stunning renovation of Sawgrass Village, which many have described as Ponte Vedra's own "Town Square!" We live in a beautiful resort community surrounded by unique neighborhoods that border the Intracoastal to the ocean and in between. The growth continues and we are experiencing a very healthy real estate market!

Our "Market Watch" by RE/MAX Specialists Broker Carmen Edwards gives us a Beaches real estate update, with statistics that highlight our local market and a forecast of blue skies in the Beaches housing forecast.

Several of Ponte Vedra's most unique neighborhoods are also featured in this issue, with stories contributed by 11 local real estate agents. With the successful PLAYERS Championship behind us, Cynthia Montello and Laura Berger focus our real estate attention on the stunning Intracoastal home of local golf legend Fred Funk.

Lisa Barton takes us to an amazing luxury estate home on the Intracoastal on Royal Tern in Marsh Landing that is like no other. Kelly Whitaker and Wanda Peterson also take us to a beauty in

Marsh Landing, with curb appeal that is second to none.

And speaking of Marsh Landing, if you aren't familiar with its Found Forest neighborhood, you can read all about this unique estate community and a gorgeous listing by Michelle Floyd. "A Peaceful Paradise in The Plantation" by Clare Berry, meanwhile, features a 5-bedroom pool home on a conservation forest.

Mother and daughter duo Janet Westling and Allison Ferebee listed 1120 Salt Creek Drive, a stunning Coastal Traditional completely renovated on the lake with gorgeous water-to-golf views. Kathleen Floryan reveals an estate home on two acres with a nature sanctuary in the back yard, while Bill Irwin takes us to Payasada Estates – a tony community in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach where neighbors are friends!

Lurah Patrick and Vanessa Solomon take us to The Breakers on Ponte Vedra Boulevard to view an amazing renovation that welcomes the new owner to seaside living at the beach. And Matt Merritt shares the history behind Ponte Vedra Boulevard's new Oasis community.

Nonprofit news

Nonprofit organizations play a huge role in our area and have a great impact on our community. In this issue of Sand Castles, Kate Phelan from St. Vincent's HealthCare shares news on the recipients of the 2017 Mary Awards, which honor young female high school seniors serving God and their neighbors through their faith community. Also in this issue: a report from Landrum Middle School student Colette Belzer

on the success of the recent Legacy Trust Ponte Vedra Beach Home & Art Tour, which benefits the educational programs of the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach.

Summertime fun

Looking for some inspiration for your Memorial Day barbecue? Sawgrass Country Club Executive Chef Michael Ayres offers some tips for a Southern holiday feast that challenges tradition. You'll want to read how Chef Michael changes things up a bit and keeps his family and friends guessing.

For summertime travel tips, read Susan Hudson's article on a one-of-a-kind trip to Cuba, or check out Danny Witt's offering on his summer tennis camp and his love for the sport.

Finally, there's no better time to enjoy your pool than in the sultry Florida summertime, and in this issue of Sand Castles, renowned landscape architect Norman Kent Johnson offers his tips for designing your own backyard garden and pool area.

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

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Beaches housing forecast shows blue skies ahead

By Carmen Edwards
RE/MAX Specialists

If there is one thing on which everyone has an opinion, it's the real estate market. A current real estate commercial shows everyone from a hairdresser to a sushi chef offering home sales advice. Experts and lay people alike debate the pros and cons of the market with avid commitment to their beliefs.

The bottom line is no one knows what is going to happen; we can only tell you what has happened and hope that directs us to a predictable trend for the future. For instance, we've been warned for months that the interest rates were going to climb, decreasing the

home buying power. So far, they have inched up incrementally but not so significantly as to adversely affect a home buying decision. In fact, across the board home sales are rising, days on market are retreating and multiple offers are being issued as buyers take advantage of reasonable rates and enticing incentives. As with anything, there are variances in the trends from area to area and season to season.

Unfortunately, statistics can be almost as confusing as clarifying when viewed in detail, as fluctuations can have little or no explanation and so cannot be appropriately quantified. The broad strokes, however, show us a robust housing market with sellers sitting slightly above buyers in regard to nego-

tiations. The reason is simple: supply and demand.

For the sake of simplicity, the statistics we use will be a direct comparison of April 2016 to April 2017. When we compare the two months, we see a sharp drop in houses for sale across all areas of the Beaches. For example, the number of properties in Ponte Vedra Beach for sale has dropped 15.1 percent and Jacksonville Beach is down 7.4 percent. Neptune Beach is a whopping 30 percent below last year, Atlantic Beach is down a sizeable 23.1 percent and Nocatee saw a 19.1 percent decline.

Fewer choices means sellers usually have the upper hand in negotiations. Some areas,

especially the ones with lowered supply, are seeing an increase in the number of Days on

HOUSING continues on Page 18

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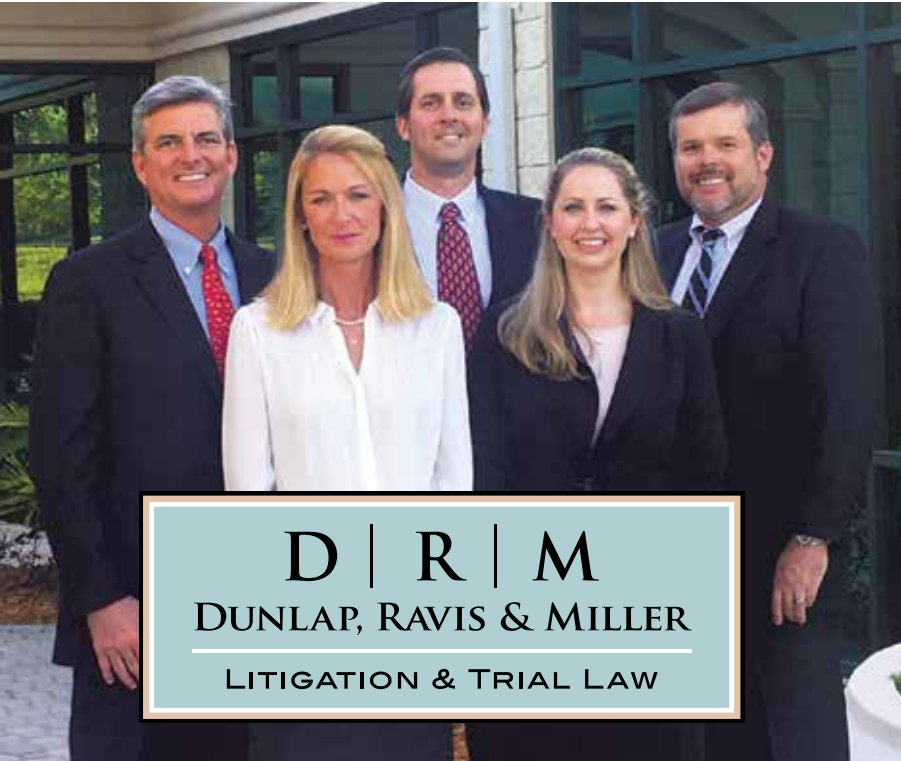
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PV2-LV38664

Annual home tour a success

By Colette Belzer

7th grade

Landrum Middle School

The annual Legacy Trust Ponte Vedra Beach Home & Art Tour was a tremendous success this year. Not only did attendance peak, but the diversity of the featured homes' decor truly made this year's home tour one of a kind.

Nearly 1,000 people attended this year's tour, raising \$45,000 for the programs of the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. Nearly everybody can take a hand from this fundraiser as it really shows the significance of this event.

Not only was the Legacy Trust Home Tour a success, but the tour offered every type of home you could possibly think of, starting with the Gundlach home and its sleek, modern style crafted by designer Mark Macco. This home featured many special elements, including the beautiful futuristic table tops.

If you admire a stunning ocean view and one-of-a-kind antiques, then the Bushong home would suit you quite well. The color scheme is light and blissful, which really complements the oceanfront feeling. Bright colors, unique murals, and warmth abound in the Roache home. Yet another visitor favorite, the Roache home contains an extremely colorful palette that pleases the eye – from red to violet, just about every color you can name is featured in this home.

Moving on, the Eivaz home, located in Marsh Landing, has its own European vibe and a very spacious open concept. Like the Bushong home, this home features beautiful views. The kitchen is one highlight, as it is very practical and elegant topped off with a sparkling chandelier.

Beautiful wooden ceiling beams, stunning furniture, and fun little knickknacks characterize the Turner home. This West Indies inspired home is absolutely breath-



The Bushong home on Ponte Vedra Boulevard has sweeping views of the Atlantic Ocean.

taking. It features many wooden accents that add character, giving this home a cozy feeling.

All in all, the homes were very diverse

and walking through each and every door created a new perspective on home design.



The master bath reflects the Gundlach home's sleek, contemporary decor.



The Roache home features a vibrant color palette.

Photos by Jennifer Logue

Housing

Continued from 17

Market. Many agents I've spoken with, however, claim this is due to multiple offers delaying the final agreement.

The breakdown of Days on Market is: Ponte Vedra down to 92 from 121; Jacksonville Beach is down to 56 days from 90; Neptune Beach increased a bit from 81 to 90, Atlantic Beach was up quite a bit from 61 to 130, and Nocatee also increased significantly from 34 to 118.

List to sale price ratio remained roughly the same in all areas with a few

variations. Ponte Vedra increased a bit from 95.4 to 96.6 percent, Jacksonville Beach was even at 97.7 percent, Neptune Beach was up a microscopic amount at 97.4 against 97.2 percent, Atlantic Beach dropped slightly with 95.3 compared to 96.8 percent last year and Nocatee decreased from 99.3 to 98.6 percent.

This all adds up to one thing: Houses are selling well and very close to the asking price; it is just taking a bit longer to get there in some areas.

Home prices, meanwhile, are moving up in almost every area. In Ponte Vedra, the average sale price jumped from \$673,883 to \$705,251. Jackson-

ville Beach increased from \$378,503 to \$421,527, Neptune Beach grew to \$413,169 from \$407,600 and Atlantic Beach leapt from \$476,115 to \$560,214. Nocatee, however, was down to \$395,146 from \$403,157.

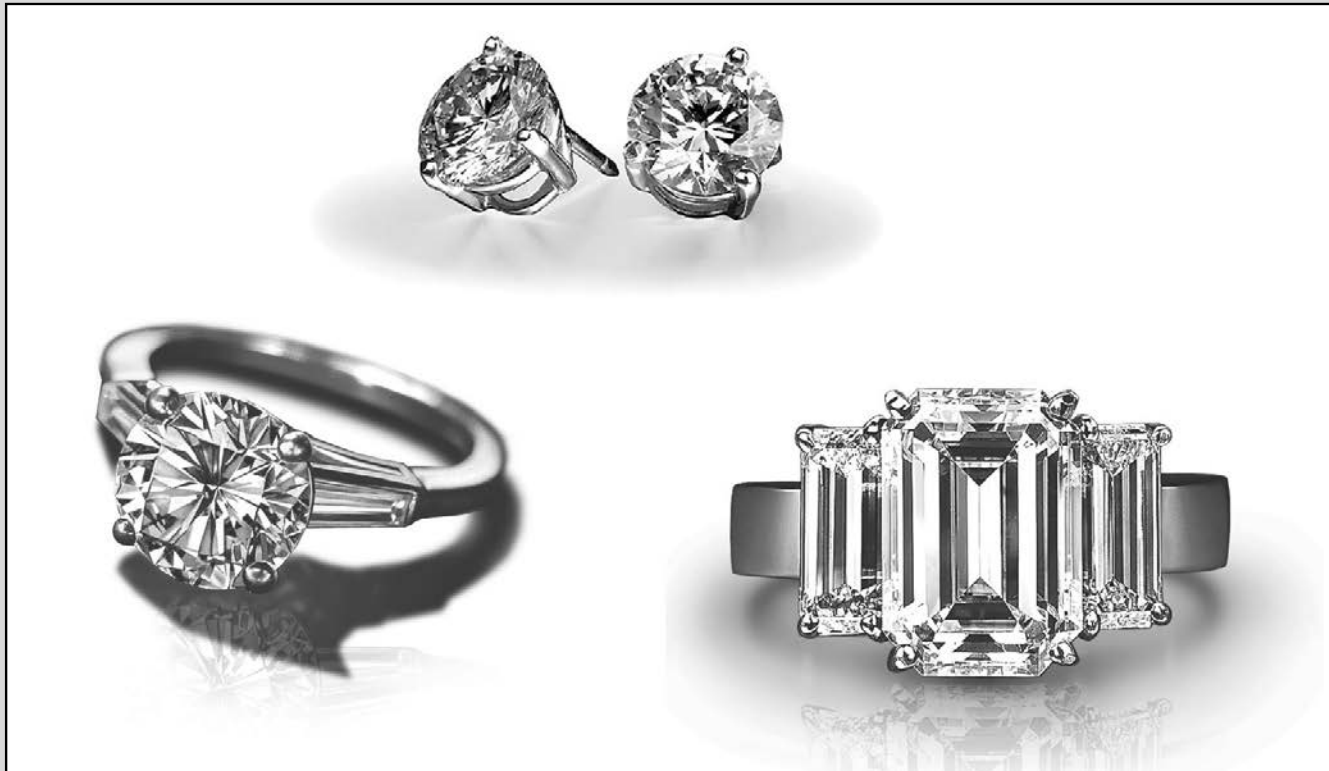
So, what does this all mean? Is it the right time to sell? Is it the right time to buy? Yes and yes – if it works for you. That's really the only thing to consider. There are many markets where across-the-board stats can apply, but Jacksonville is not one of those and most especially the Beaches are not in that category, either. In order to make a good decision about buying or selling, you need

to get specific information on a specific property. Don't trust online estimates. Don't rely on news stories or the price for which a friend bought or sold their home. Talk to a professional and have a licensed Realtor help you navigate the real estate market...it's the safest and surest way to protect a very important part of your financial life.

Source: Northeast Florida MLS Market Summary Reports by Area-Residential April 2016 compared to April 2017. All information deemed reliable but not guaranteed. Each RE/MAX office is independently owned and operated.

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BITES OF PASSAGE

A Southern-style Memorial Day family feast



**By Executive Chef
Michael Ayres**

I have written about Memorial Day and the food that generally goes along with the holiday weekend before. For years, it has been simple: Fire up the barbecue and enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans.... But this year, I wanted to change things up a little bit and keep my family and friends guessing.

A recent chef's conference in Atlanta has rekindled my love affair with Southern cuisine, especially in its most rooted forms. Southern cuisine is mostly "un-fussy." That is why I'm taking a turn for a more Southern approach to my holiday menu. Take good care of a few simply great ingredients, add a minute amount of hands-on crafting, and you have it: a feast deserving of the praise you will receive.

Frogmore stew (or low country boil) originated in the Frogmore community on St. Helena Island, Georgia. I wonder what they were thinking when this dish was invented, but I can tell you my thoughts on its popularity. It's made in one pot. If you do any kind of entertaining, you already know

how great this is on its own. You need exactly zero utensils and plates to serve.

There are no rules when it comes to ingredients you want to add (or omit).

You can eat it standing up. Still need convincing?

It can be prepared the day before, and served in under an hour the day of. Now, that's a Memorial Day feast I can get behind – all served with a cold beverage of your choice!

You're going to need a few items of course: a large table, lots of old newspaper, a trash can, handi wipes, and a pot and burner big enough to boil three gallons of liquid. (A turkey fry rig works wonderfully here.)

Ingredients:

- 2 crab or seafood boil seasoning
- Old Bay (about 2 T per gallon of water, plus additional for sprinkling on your finished boil)
- 15 lemons – 10 sliced for the pot, plus five more to serve on the side
- Small red potatoes – 4-5 per person
- Sausage (8 ounces per person): use your favor-

BITES continues on Page 21

Bites

Continued from 20

ite here; I prefer spicy andouille cut in two-inch chunks

- Shucked corn cut into chunks – one ear per guest
- Jumbo shrimp about 6 per person
- Any additions like crabs, clams, chicken legs or thighs, lobster, crawfish, etc.
- Cocktail sauce
- Melted butter

To Cook:

Bring two gallons of water to a boil with the old bay and lemons in it. Allow to simmer

for 30 minutes.

Add the potatoes and simmer 10 minutes, then add the sausage. (If you are using crabs, lobsters or chicken, add them here as well.) Simmer for an additional 10 minutes. Add your corn and simmer an additional eight minutes. Add remaining ingredients and cover, still simmering an additional three to four minutes or until clams open and shrimp are cooked.

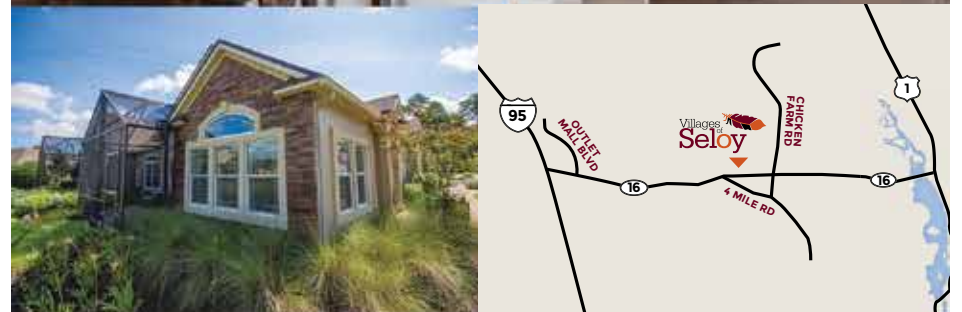
Strain out with basket strainer, and dump on a newspaper-lined table (this should be done with an emphatic cheer from your guests). Season with a sprinkle of old bay and scatter your lemons out. Serve with cocktail sauce and melted butter.

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Private retreat offers Intracoastal views

By Lisa Barton

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida
Network Realty

Imagine a private retreat sitting high overlooking three acres of pristine land with fabulous views of the Intracoastal Waterway, marsh and protected natural areas. From the gated entrance, down the long winding driveway, you'll find an extraordinary home secluded from the rest of the world, but still in the middle of prestigious Ponte Vedra Beach.

This custom residence, built by Elwood Collier, offers an unbelievably private lifestyle and unparalleled quality construction. The attention to detail is spectacular: Every design choice reflects exquisite taste. The block concrete walls, hand-finished masonry stucco, fieldstone accents and imported Italian clay roof tiles suggest an old-world European era as

well as offering protection against the elements.

The solid mahogany arched double doors make a grand statement as you enter the formal areas. A gracious living room with coffered ceilings is a lovely spot to entertain, with beautiful views of the marsh and natural areas through the arched French doors. The spacious formal dining room easily seats 12 and is illuminated by an antique pewter chandelier. A large wine cellar is perfect for the wine connoisseur, adorned with a solid wood arched door, tumbled tile and a corkage station.

The gourmet kitchen has all the high-quality appliances you'd expect including a four-burner Wolf gas cooktop with a French burner, hand cast hood, double ovens, two sinks and Sub-Zero refrigerators. Gorgeous Corsi pine cabinets provide plenty of storage space for the avid cook.

The open floor plan encourages easy flow to the adjoining casual dining area and family room, with soaring ceilings finished with beautiful Pecky cypress boards and high wood beams, all surrounded by large windows and beautiful natural views.

The elegant master suite is appointed with gorgeous hand-carved solid wood doors from Provence, an intricate chandelier from Paris and gorgeous hickory hardwood floors. The stately paneled study provides a place for quiet retreat, with custom book shelves and elaborate ceiling details. The master suite opens to a lanai with phantom screens and breathtaking views. This lanai is also accessible from the living room and family room. You'll love the sunset arbor, graced with a jasmine trellis.

A graceful staircase with hand-forged iron railings and elaborate travertine and wood stairs carries

you to the spacious upstairs. Or, if you prefer, the elevator opens to the second floor. A light-filled studio with built-in storage and gallery lighting is a lovely room for art activities, exercise or an additional bedroom. This level also features three additional spacious en-suite bedrooms, including a second master with a walk-in shower and huge closet. A second family room with a wet bar opens to a screened balcony and again, those expansive views.

Located at the end of Marsh Landing's North Island, this lovely estate home has plenty of room for a swimming pool and could also accommodate a dock and boat lift, giving you access to the Intracoastal Waterway. This property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, listed by Lisa Barton and offered at \$2,350,000.

Tennis instructor Danny Witt: Don't specialize too early



Danny Witt

By Danny Witt

Tennis has been an integral part of my life for as long as I can remember. I grew up here at the Beaches playing for Fletcher High School as well as the USTA Florida competitive circuit. I was fortunate to have played at UNF, where I was an All-American and inducted into the Hall of Fame

with my teammates. I continue to be actively involved with the UNF tennis teams and athletic department because I feel the need to give back to the sport that has given me so much.

Growing up as an aspiring athlete, I competed in several sports with my younger brothers David (former

ATP professional player and current/longtime coach of Venus Williams) and Kevin (former first-round draft pick of the Toronto Blue Jays and current hitting coach for the Miami Marlins organization). I believe that our various levels of athletic success was due, in part, to not specializing in one sport too early, which ultimately helped us to become better athletes overall. I encourage all of my tennis students to try as many sports as possible so that they have the opportunity to discover their true passion.

Tennis has created many opportunities for me that include managing tennis clubs, directing charity and junior tournaments, consulting, and coaching kids from 5 years of age to NCAA college and professional players. Several years ago, I partnered with Todd Martin, a former Top 10 ATP World Tour Player, to run a comprehensive junior development program. Following Todd's hiring as the CEO of the International



Coach Danny Witt with longtime local student Lily Magley, who plays for Fletcher High School.

TENNIS continues on Page 26



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A home of legendary proportions



By Cynthia Montello

EXIT Real Estate Gallery

An incredible treasure awaits some fortunate person as the home of legendary PGA golfer Fred Funk, and his wife Sharon, hits the market with much-anticipated enthusiasm.

This home, located in Marsh Landing, lives as beautifully as it's designed and offers 9,585 square feet of timeless elegance. The massive estate sits on two acres of land featuring a picturesque front yard covered with a canopy of magnificent, mature trees. The back yard overlooks the Intracoastal Waterway, ushering in stunning sunsets every evening.

Cleverly designed by Architect

Rick Archer of Overland Partners, the home evokes an "Oh, wow" experience at every turn. A network of open verandahs, which embrace an artfully landscaped courtyard, masterfully ties three pavilions together. The main house is 5,500 square feet with 3 bedrooms and 3.5 baths; the guest house is 1,700 square feet with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths; and the game house is 2,400 square feet with a fitness center, 1 bedroom or office and 1.5 baths. The 3-car garage has 1,150 square feet. Each pavilion operates independently, allowing the home to easily respond to large or small functions.

The Funk home has hosted some of the world's best golfers at parties and large corporate events. The

openness, the verandahs that tie everything together, the intimate gathering areas, and the meticulous landscaping make this home a world-class entertainer. To tour this home is to join Fred and Sharon on their many travels through Europe. From the moment you walk through the front door, you feel as though you've become part of a beautiful painting. Every texture, from walls to countertops to floors, was inspired by natural elements of the European landscape.

You will fall in love with the treasure of art and furnishings they found in markets, shops and antique stores across many countries, much of which is included in the sale of this home. Sharon is happy to share the story of each piece and

how she came to acquire it.

The living spaces expertly connect with the beautifully landscaped grounds. Glass walls open completely, further blurring the boundary between inside and outside. The result is a home that embraces nature and provides a level of serenity and intimacy rarely found in homes of this scale.

The massive view of the Intracoastal is available from most areas and overlooks a "wonderland" of a back yard. The versatile event lawn is centrally located and bordered by the hot tub and lap pool. The verandahs wrap around the back setting and offer several intimate areas to entertain. The star of the



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Funk

Continued from 24

rear of this estate is the putting green, where Fred has logged many hours practicing his craft. Beautifully secluded and tucked away is a cozy summer kitchen and large fireplace with comfortable seating.

The gourmet kitchen is the heart of the home and is both massive and beautiful. Fully open to the living room and the views, it enhances the fun of cooking, entertaining and spending time together. The stone-walled dining room is simply stunning and guests will love the huge stone fireplace near the long banquet table. The room evokes visions of castles

and European elegance.

The game house showcases Fred's many trophies and awards and features a pool table, flat screen TV, seating area and various games. Directly upstairs is the fitness center, which includes a steam shower for post-workout relief. The bedroom can easily be converted into an office and showcases lovely French doors that lead out to a huge balcony with stunning views of the Intracoastal and rear property.

It is definitely a home of legendary proportions and one worth seeing while you have the opportunity.

This legendary home is represented by EXIT Real Estate Gallery, listed by Laura Berger and offered at \$6.1 million.



Tennis

Continued from 23

Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, Rhode Island, I have continued running this type of program today as my own business.

Witt Tennis includes a junior development program and elementary school on-campus after school tennis programs as well as adult instruction. I am honored to work with several aspiring competitive players from around the country who come into town to train with me throughout the year. We have more than 150 kids participating in programs during the school year and we will offer several summer tennis camp options beginning in June. All program information is on my website, WittTennis.net.



Jennifer Reister, a player from Boston who works with Witt a few times during the year and who recently won a national tournament here in Florida.

Designing a pool and garden for your home that is simply stunning

By Janet Westling

Contributing Editor

I have wanted a swimming pool in my back yard since we built our home more than 25 years ago, and as much as I wanted a pool, my husband did not.

He grew up with a pool in Florida in the 1960s and associated a swimming pool with a lot of work. He was right! But the pros outweigh the cons. A pool with the right scale and landscape design can enhance a home, provide a place to exercise and provide the perfect backdrop for entertaining Ponte Vedra-style!

So where do you begin? You might start with looking through design magazines and putting a portfolio together of pages of designs that you like. That is what I have done. In fact, I have an article that I have kept since it was published in Traditional Home magazine in 2006. The pool and garden featured were designed for a home in Birmingham, Alabama and the landscape architect – Southern Living Garden Design Editor Norman Kent Johnson – created a stunning space that I simply love!

I have met with pool designers and consulted with landscape designers, but my home and property is unusual. Situated on a corner lot, my home sits diagonally on the property. I have hesitated to go forward with this project until now. I decided to

call the architect whose designs I have admired for years and ask for his guidance. Here are a few of the tips he shared for planning the perfect back yard oasis:

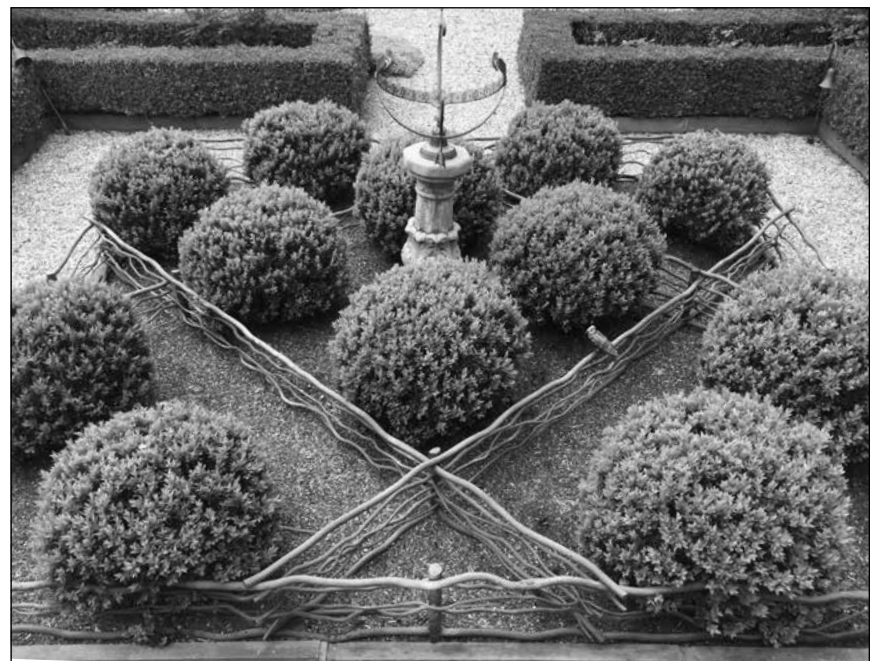
Clear your mind of preconceptions. “Spend five to 10 hours of not looking at magazines,” Johnson suggested. (I shared with him that I had invested years in doing the exact opposite – perhaps explaining why I have taken so long to start my project!)

Look at your garden as an enhancement to your home and property. “You don’t need a pool nearly as large as you think you do,” he said. “It should be part of the garden – not a Buick parked in the back yard!”

Approach the design as if you were planning a rose garden. Get past the idea of a grandiose swimming pool, Johnson suggested, and plan it as part of the overall garden design.

I began to understand what he was saying. The line I recall from the article I saved was “planning for a purpose.”

I accomplished more in this short conversation than in all the articles I have read and saved, and all the consultations I have had with numerous pool companies. Johnson and I made plans to meet in early June to begin my pool and landscape design that is long overdue.



A peaceful paradise in The Plantation



By Clare Berry
Berry & Co. Real Estate

Nestled on majestic Muirfield Drive in The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach is where you'll find this 5-bed-

room, 6-bath home designed for gracious entertaining. Doors along the back of this home open to a huge lanai featuring an exercise pool surrounded by both shaded and sunny seating areas. The views of the conservation forest complete this peaceful setting.

Inside, the weathered wood floors extend throughout the first floor, providing both warmth and continuity. Crisp white marble kitchen counters provide areas for

PARADISE continues on **Page 28**

The Palms

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at Ponte Vedra Beach



Paradise

Continued from 27

seating and serving family and friends in the family room area – a knockout in design and functionality! The ceilings in this home deserve special attention.

Coffered, cathedral and beamed all add to the architectural interest of this unique home. All bedrooms have private bathrooms – perfect for when the golfing buddies arrive for a long weekend!

The nearby Plantation Beach Club offers a relaxing oceanfront getaway. The all-inclusive lifestyle at The Plantation includes tennis, swimming, fitness and fine

dining in addition to golfing on the recently renovated links.

If you are looking for a home with classic exterior and interior lines and top-quality interior design, look no further than 121 Muirfield Drive. This property is represented by Berry & Co. Real Estate, listed by Clare Berry and offered at \$1,285,000.

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Oceanfront on Ponte Vedra Blvd

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PV2-LV3680

The interesting history of the new Oasis Club neighborhood



By **Matthew Merritt**

Ponte Vedra has a rich history, filled with many great stories. That history really begins around 1914 with the discovery of minerals such as titanium, zircon and rutile in the Beaches areas. Ultimately, these minerals were mined by the Buckman and Pritchard Mining Company.

Appropriately, the area became known as Mineral City – a name that stuck through the end of World War I and into the 1920s. Then the National Lead Company, which purchased the mining company in 1921, decided to redevelop the area as a resort destination. This work fell to Colonel Stehlin and his wife, Elizabeth, who thought a resort town needed a new name. After researching possible names in historic St. Augustine, they sought a name that would pay homage to the period in which Florida was under Spanish rule.

Searching old maps, they discovered a small coastal town in Spain at roughly the same latitude as Mineral City named Pontevedra. Around the same time, Ponte Vedra added its first golf course – a nine-hole course designed and built

by one of the founding members of the PGA, Herbert Bertram Strong. Today, of course, Ponte Vedra is a true golf and luxury resort destination, home of the PGA Tour, THE PLAYERS Championship and its crown jewel, the TPC Stadium Course!

By 1934, Ponte Vedra would be purchased, managed and further developed by a local company named Stockton, Whatley, Davin & Co. At the same time, a local legend named Fred T. Woolverton moved to Ponte Vedra when he was awarded the Chevrolet dealership for Jacksonville. Woolverton had rowed for the varsity crew at Princeton, graduating in 1922. He would be instrumental in improving Ponte Vedra by founding Christ Episcopal Church and becoming the first president of the community association.

Woolverton acquired 1,000 feet of beachfront property south of Sawgrass that included the property to the west of Ponte Vedra Boulevard. An active boat enthusiast, he founded the Beach Marine service.

A new Oasis

A century after Ponte Vedra's founding, the new Oasis Club is an

assemblage of two parcels previously owned by Fred Woolverton that had been used to build a small boat manufacturing operation. He and another local named Buddy Dishane would build many boats on this same property over the years for their own use and sale. One such boat was a 22-foot runabout named Miss Rocket. The old road to the boat building shop can still be seen today as the gravel entrance on the north end of property at what was then 992 Ponte Vedra Blvd.

Today, the 5.93-acre parcel has been redeveloped as an eight-lot luxury home development that includes private beach access about 50 feet north of the property line. The name Oasis Club was selected to pay homage to an old Navy haunt that had the same name (but was likely more infamous than famous) reported to have been located just south of The Lodge on the beach in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The owners have worked hard to preserve the integrity of the land and taken extensive measures to protect the old growth trees and ensure the project adheres to the idea that less is more – as in larger lots with a retention pond that is an asset and focal point for

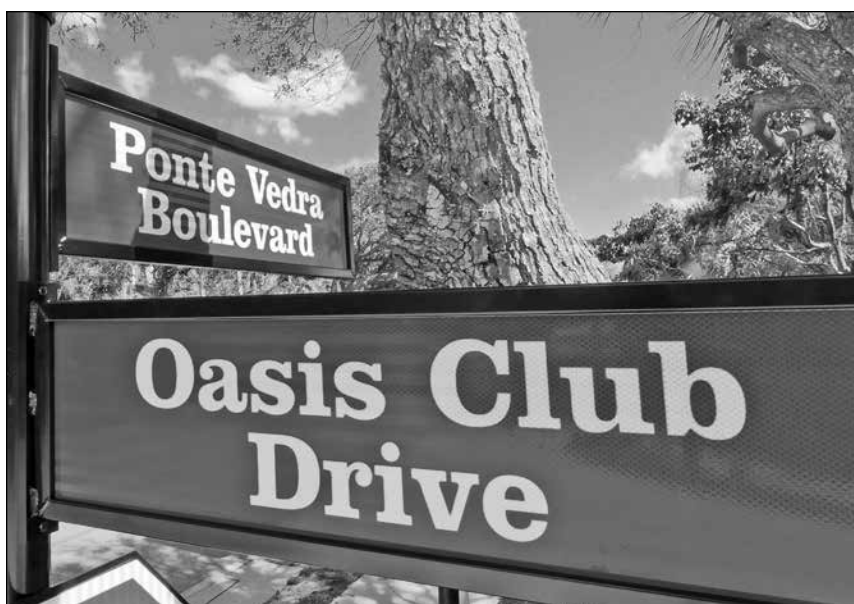
the community.

Instead of asphalt, they have built their entire road with large, thick pavers and a divided median that contains multiple Sylvester Palm Trees and a cul-de-sac with a nice multi-trunk live oak. They have also partnered with well-respected local builder Glenn Layton. His company, Glenn Layton Homes, was the signature builder for Paradise Key and is perhaps best known for building the local HGTV Smart Home.

The first Oasis Club home is under construction and was designed by well-respected architect Michael Stauffer. With seven lots available and summer fast approaching, it is expected that Ponte Vedra will have a beautiful new neighborhood and a few new residents in the coming months!

If you are looking for a custom home site on Ponte Vedra Boulevard with large, old-growth oak trees, well-sized lots and private beach access, then this historic, unique and spectacular project may be just the place.

The Oasis Club is represented by RE/MAX Specialists, listed by Michael McAfee and Katie Hughes, with lot prices starting in the \$500s.





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Exotic Cuba



By Susan Hudson

How many times have you wanted to take a trip that is truly a one-of-a-kind trip to someplace that in the future you will think back and wonder, “Did I really go there?” A place that very few people have ever visited. Or maybe take a trip that would allow you to roll back the clock to another era. Cuba is such a location.

President Obama last year relaxed the restrictions for U.S. citizens to legally travel to Cuba. Now, there are a number of flights and cruise ships that go there daily. The only restriction is you have to go there to “learn” about the country.

When I had first heard this, I was thinking, “How cool is that!” I always try to pick places that I think will be interesting and fun; places that I have only read about, somewhere I may even learn something. For me, Cuba hit all of those marks and then some. If I want the beach, I’m here

in Florida, the area with some of the best beaches in the world. If I want to exercise my mind, see something completely new and different, I will go to Cuba!

And right now, Cuba is a very affordable destination. There are several cruise lines that offer Cuba as a destination from Miami, which is a very easy drive from Jacksonville. Most of these cruises come with at least some free shore excursions and this is one easy way you are able to comply with the U.S. government’s restriction of only activities in Cuba that are compliant with the Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC).

For now, forget about anything you have heard about Cuba. Make your mind completely blank. Havana: This is usually your starting point. Once you get off your ship, and go through the cruise terminal, you are in Old Havana. It is truly turning back the clock to the 1950s. A complete sensory overload: 18th-century buildings,

some may only have a façade, with reconstruction work still taking place inside.

Many such buildings house some of the shops and small paladars (family owned restaurants and cafés) that dot the Plaza de la Cathedral, which is across from the cruise terminal and the first thing you will see. The Cathedral de San Cristobal, built in 1748, is also located in the plaza. Women in colonial costumes will stroll under the arcades and read fortunes or pose for pictures.

Some of the other famous places you will not want to miss include Necropolis de Colon. This is Havana’s famous cemetery, with more than 53,000 plots on 135 acres. Many famous people are buried there, including baseball players, boxers, poets, writers and more. Take a quiet stroll around to read the names of people that you have probably read about. A short distance from the cemetery, in central Havana, is the memorial to

Jose Marti, a poet and journalist often called the father of Cuba’s Revolution. It is hard to miss as it is in the center of Revolution Plaza.

Also there, on the Ministry Building, is the immense sculpture of Che Guevara. Ernest Hemingway spent a lot of time in Cuba and his house (although you can only view it through windows) is near there and just the way he left it. Restaurants that he visited and made famous include Sloppy Joe’s (one of the few places with air conditioning but terrible service), the Floridita (go for a daiquiri), and La Bodeguita (best mojitos). Down the street from the Floridita is the Hotel Ambos Nundos, where Hemingway stayed for seven years while he wrote “For Whom the Bell Tolls.”

One great night attraction is the famous Tropicana Nightclub. It is spectacular, with showgirls in ornate costumes and headdresses elaborately



Cuba

Continued from 32

decorated with feathers. It is well worth a visit. If you want to take a walk, go along the malecon, a broad seawall. Start at the Hotel Nacional, an art deco gem built in 1930, where many famous guests stayed, including Winston Churchill, Fred Astaire, Walt Disney and a large assortment of mob

types, the most famous being Lucky Luciano and Meyer Lansky. The seawall stretches about five miles. It is beautiful at night and used by a lot of Habaneros that want to take a romantic stroll.

During the day, you will see many fishermen using their homemade poles, looking to catch their dinner or make a few extra pesos. If you are too tired to walk anymore, you can always get a taxi – the most famous

being the vintage cars brought over from the United States in the 1950s and lovingly maintained ever since. You will see these cars everywhere. Taxi prices are negotiable and usually quite reasonable, but when it comes to price, always “know before you go.”

The second largest city in Cuba is Santiago de Cuba. This is where famed Rough Rider Teddy Roosevelt won the bloodiest battle of the Spanish-American War at San Juan

Hill. Here there is a memorial to him and this hard-won battle. It is also where Fidel Castro started his revolution by attacking the Moncada Barracks. The building is still there and you can even see some of the many bullet holes. The city is also the family home of the Bacardi family, famous for their rum.

There are other places in Cuba that you will need to visit firsthand to discover their beauty and mystery.

Salt Creek Island estate home offers stunning water to golf views



By Allison Ferebee

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

Situated on Salt Creek Island in The TPC Sawgrass Players Club, this stunning custom-built home is centrally located in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach. As you approach this estate-size home, you are welcomed with a circular drive-

way, three-tier fountain and lush landscaping. This immaculately maintained home has great curb appeal!

Step inside 1120 Salt Creek Drive and experience a gorgeous lakeside home with sweeping water to golf views. With more than 4,200 square feet of living space, this completely updated

home includes 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, Brazilian walnut floors and custom upgrades throughout.

Perfect for entertaining, the floorplan flows from the sitting room that opens to the light-filled living room with a wall of windows that

VIEWS continues on **Page 36**



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A beauty on an acre lot in Marsh Landing

By Kelly Whitaker and Wanda Peterson

RE/MAX Unlimited

Your first impression is immediate as you drive into the long circular, paver driveway of this beautiful home in Marsh Landing Country Club. The curb appeal is second to none and is surrounded by the natural beauty of the environment. The two-story entrance/foyer opens up to a beautifully appointed, move-in ready residence for you and your family.

This pool home features 4 bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, plus an office and a large bonus/game room for a total of 4,240 square feet. Brazilian oak wood floors throughout the first floor, detailed crown moldings, six-inch baseboards, wood trim around the windows and plantation shutters throughout are

only a few of the special features of this home.

The remodeled gourmet kitchen features double ovens, granite countertops, soft-close Woodsman cabinetry, a large walk-in pantry and a Thermador gas cooktop. Additional features are two gas water heaters, an irrigation well and two underground propane tanks.

The spacious and luxurious owner's suite has two custom-designed walk-in closets, lovely pool-to-water views, a spa like en-suite showcasing double vanities, a large garden tub, and a frameless shower with two shower heads.

Enjoy the private outdoor living space while watching magnificent wildlife around the large pool and spa with paver decking and great entertaining space. Upstairs is a private screened balcony offer-

ing picturesque views of the pool, the lush landscaping, the marsh and the lake, which border three sides of the one-acre property.

Marsh Landing Country Club is a great family neighborhood conveniently located in Ponte Vedra Beach, with easy access to both Butler and Roscoe boulevards. In addition to an 18-hole golf course that winds through the neighborhood's scenic marshes and waterways, the community features well-maintained parks for all of the families to enjoy at their leisure.

Make 24512 Moss Creek Drive your new home! This property is represented by RE/MAX Unlimited in Ponte Vedra Beach, listed by Kelly Whitaker and Wanda Peterson and offered at 1,075,000.00.

Views

Continued from 34

overlooks the lake and golf course. From the family room and kitchen, additional doors offer access to the paver patio and grilling deck.

This Coastal Traditional home was designed to take in lake views from all the rooms that face the rear of the property. One of the most

spectacular features is the waterside deck. Perfect for al fresco dining, this deck is the only one of its kind on the lake, setting this home apart from the rest.

The first floor houses the foyer, sitting room, living room, office, kitchen, breakfast room, dining room, powder bath and laundry room. A chef's kitchen includes custom wood cabinets with granite counters and high-end stainless steel

appliances.

The second story includes the landing sitting room, master bedroom suite with large upscale bathroom and balcony with fantastic lake views, and four additional en-suite bedrooms. All the bedrooms are large and include spacious closets and custom finishes.

The Salt Creek neighborhood in TPC Sawgrass Players Club is minutes to the golf course, beach, the

newly opened Three Palms Restaurant, tennis, pool and the TPC Sawgrass clubhouse. Walk the beach, watch waves roll in across the shore and enjoy the beauty and mystique of the charming seaside community of Salt Creek Island.

This unique property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, listed by Janet Westling and Allison Ferebee, and offered at \$919,000.



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Payasada Estates: Where neighbors are friends!

By Bill Irwin

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

Welcome to the tony community of Payasada Estates, the premier residential community in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach! Payasada translates to “horseplay” in Spanish, and back in the day, this upscale neighborhood was a horse farm. With 60 luxury, custom-built homes encircling the magnificent lake, this neighborhood was designed for the residents’ maximum enjoyment.

Upon driving through the entry gate, past the soaring Washingtonia and Sylvester palms and flowing grand fountain, you have arrived home to this picturesque 42-acre enclave. Unlike so many of the older and larger communities in Ponte Vedra Beach, Payasada requires neither a GPS nor a breadcrumb trail to find your way

around. Payasada Oaks Circle is just that – a half-mile circle!

With initial construction beginning in 2006, Payasada is one of the newest Ponte Vedra Beach communities, including two homes scheduled to be built in 2017. Homes range in size from 3,160 square feet to 5,791 square feet, with no two homes looking alike!

“I think it’s a perfect size neighborhood and with it being a gated community, we can feel safe to let our children ride their bikes and play with their friends at the park” says one resident. The lakeside park includes a covered picnic area, playground and basketball court, and is the ideal location for family celebrations.

“The low HOA fees are also very attractive to us” says another resident. “We aren’t paying for amenities we would rarely use.”

Asked why her family enjoys living here so much, another homeowner says, “We have



neighborhood gatherings several times a year and sometimes these gatherings are held at the park and/or in someone’s home. We host an annual Christmas party and get to know all our neighbors personally.”

So, if you’re looking for just the right community, where neighbors know each other and become friends, and kids play freely, look no further! Come tour this stunning 4,950 square-foot home with 5 spacious bedrooms, 6 baths, sky-high ceilings, an abundance of natural light, custom-built wine bar, and of course a luxurious swimming pool oasis!

This home is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, listed by Bill Irwin and offered for \$1,075,000.

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Find tranquility on Ponte Vedra Boulevard

By Kathleen Floryan

Ponte Vedra Club Realty

Situated on the southern end of Ponte Vedra Boulevard, only five houses north of Mickler's Landing, and on the west side of the road, this stunning two-story estate home on over an acre of property awaits a new owner.

Custom built by Browdy & Browdy Homes, it is maintained in pristine, like-new, move-in condition by the owner. The lot has 220 feet of frontage on Ponte Vedra Boulevard with no neighbors on three sides, providing the ultimate in discreet privacy. Experience for yourself gorgeous sunrises and sunsets with 270-degree panoramic views of a groomed nature sanctuary in the back yard.

The home exudes a luxurious feel. After walking through an over-sized columned portico with mahogany double front glass doors, you enter into a spacious open floor plan. Phenomenal 11-foot ceilings, 8-foot doors, arched picture windows and nine

archways are some of the excellent architectural features of this property. The dream chef's kitchen incorporates the family room with windows galore, plus granite counters, Nicols cherry cabinetry and a food prep island with sink. The kitchen also features a Sub-Zero refrigerator, Dacor stainless six-burner gas cooktop with 48-inch commercial hood and Dacor double ovens, and an under-stair storage perfect for creating a wine storage room or more pantry space.

For your entertaining pleasure, there is a separate wetbar/wine cooler with optimal entertaining layout between kitchen and living room. The downstairs master retreat is graced with an enormous custom walkthrough closet. Even the master bath offers incredible views, a large Jacuzzi tub and a supersized glass shower with separate rainfall shower-heads. Kohler plumbing fixtures are featured throughout the home.

Soft dome lighting is featured in the entryway and living room, and the master is wired for the

same. The oversized three-car garage offers plenty of room, with nearly 1,000 square feet in which to store cars or toys. An elongated driveway provides extra guest parking.

This home features concrete block construction on the first level and Anderson low E insulated windows plus 40-year architectural roof shingles and central vacuum. A unique Infrared remote-control stereo system inside/outside the house is also prewired for an outside spa. The exterior of the home was painted in 2016, with decks painted in 2017. The home also features a newer three-zone HVAC, two gas water heaters, newer window treatments and a digital home security system.

In addition, preferred membership initiation fee pricing for the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and The Lodge & Club is available to the purchaser of this listing (certain restrictions may apply).

This property is represented by Ponte Vedra Club Realty, listed by Kathleen Floryan and offered at \$1,699,000.



**315 PANTHER CHASE TRAIL • IN FOUND FOREST
MARSH LANDING COUNTRY CLUB**



A dream home in Found Forest

By Michelle Floyd

Marsh Landing Country Club Realty

Located at 315 Panther Chase Trail in Marsh Landing Country Club, this dream home is designed and built by Dream Finders Custom Homes.

Built with the finest, top-end materials, craftsmanship and design in mind, this recently completed home is set on 2.75 acres in Marsh Landing's prestigious Found Forest Estate section.

This is such a picturesque setting for a French Country home. The home is white brick with a reclaimed Chicago clay brick circular drive. The copper gas lanterns greet you as you enter the 8-foot custom mahogany wood doors. All of the lighting in the home is sleek and sophisticated. The entire downstairs area is white oak European wood flooring. The concept of the home is easy, open living.

In the main house, all five bedrooms are en suite, including an enormous gym with specialized flooring and walls of mirrors. The two-room study is part work area and part "man cave," with triple televisions in the adjoining area of the study. The master suite has two exquisite separate baths and closets, lending the feel of opulence. These are the most romantic bathrooms you'll ever find.

The kitchen has a formal area with LaCornue gas cooktop

and ovens – the Rolls Royce of ovens! All of the products are Sub-Zero, Bosch and Meile.

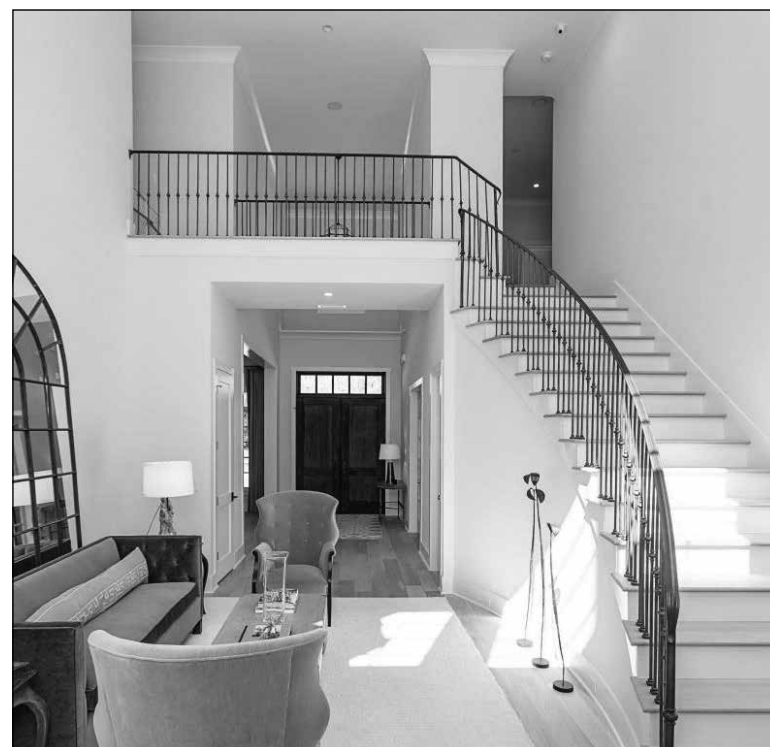
Behind the kitchen is the prep and catering kitchen, also with the top-end appliances, refrigerator, dishwasher and ovens. Also adjoining this area is a butler's pantry. This is a kitchen truly meant for entertaining and large gatherings!

The outdoor area redefines outdoor living. A 600-square-foot outdoor covered room area includes a summer kitchen with a large beautiful rustic table for dining and a cozy fireplace and seating area. The all-encompassing outdoor living area includes a black pearl hot tub, pool and beach area – all surrounded by beautiful wooded nature with total privacy!

A beautiful and private guest home is included on the property with its own two-car garage. It has an open floor plan, with beautiful white oak European wood flooring, small kitchen area and bath.

This property is one not to miss! Words and pictures cannot express or adequately capture this exquisite home. Come see for yourself the finest finishes that express and display its true beauty.

This home is represented by Marsh Landing Country Club Realty, listed by Michelle Floyd and offered at \$3,499,000.



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PV2-LV38688

St. Vincent's presents 2017 Mary Awards

By Kate Phelan

St. Vincent's HealthCare

St. Vincent's HealthCare recently presented its 2017 Mary Awards, which honor young female high school seniors serving God and their neighbors through their faith community.

Twelve finalists were selected by a committee representing the diversity of the local region. They were interviewed and the committee chose one award recipient in each of the four categories.

The recipients for the 2017 Mary Awards are

- Academics – Jordan Mayfield, Paxon School for Advanced Studies
- Athletics – Kayley Delay, Duncan U. Fletcher High School
- Leadership – Alyssa "Gracie" Maynor, Harvest Community High School
- Philanthropy – Tanisha Mugwimi, Stanton College Preparatory School

Recipients each received a gift of \$1,500 at the awards dinner and ceremony held April 20 at San Jose Country Club.

"We are proud to honor such

outstanding young women who are the future leaders of our community," said Jane R. Lanier, president of the St. Vincent's Foundation. "Each of our finalists and recipients is an inspiration, and we look forward to seeing what they accomplish next."

St. Vincent's HealthCare created the Mary Awards around its core values: service of the poor, reverence, integrity, wisdom, creativity and dedication. Candidates must be a high school senior in Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Nassau or Baker counties and demonstrate:

- Service to God and her faith community
- Creativity and achievement in one of the four defined fields: academics, athletics, leadership and volunteerism/philanthropy
- Selflessness and service to her neighbors

Nominations for the 2018 Mary Awards open on January 1, 2018. To learn more about the Mary Awards and the nomination process, please contact Jessica Waugaman or Lauren Corley at (904) 308-7306 or visit www.jaxhealth.com/MaryAwards.

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Completely renovated Ponte Vedra Beach condo offers the best in beach living

By Vanessa Solomon and Lurah Patrick

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

When an Atlanta couple couldn't find their perfect home, they decided to create it. Dwight and Ann Duke knew they wanted a beach home in Ponte Vedra Beach, but couldn't find a property to fit their needs. So, when they found a condominium in an ideal location, they decided to purchase the property and make it their own.

The Dukes completely renovated their condo at The Breakers V. "We took it down to the studs," Ann Duke said. "We raised the ceilings and opened the entire place to take advantage of the beautiful beach and ocean views."

Working with the award-winning design team of Gary Marshall & Associates of Atlanta and Charleston, their Realtors introduced them to builder Brent Swanson, who executed the design team's vision. Their inspiration was the shell-strewn sands and blue waters of the Atlantic. In addition to raising the ceilings, they added custom mouldings to each room. An easy maintenance, engineered wood floor and ceramic tiles keep beach living simple.

Swanson created a bespoke console with mirrored doors to separate the entrance from the dining area. The Macaubas Fantasy quartzite counter tops were specifically chosen to reflect the colors of the sand mere steps away.

The living area bookcases are backed with a Phillip Jeffries natural woven wall covering. A built-in bar features water-hued glass mosaic tiles bordering recessed glass shelves. The living area is complete with designer fabrics and imported Italian terra cotta vases made into lamps. The light-filled sunroom boasts panoramic ocean views, built-in bookcases, seating and another dining area.

The master suite opens to the sunroom as well. The room appears open and airy, with a raised ceiling of painted v-groove boards and a custom upholstered bed with tailored bedding. Tiled shower walls complement the double quartzite vanity with dressing table.

The front hall leads to two bedrooms and two bathrooms. The hall bath serves the twin bedroom and functions as a powder room. The twin bedroom has a nautical appeal and the adjacent king bedroom with en-suite bath might encourage guests to overstay their welcome.

This spectacular beach home is currently for sale fully furnished and move-in ready.

"We love this place," Ann Duke said. "But we have found another project here and we're ready to let someone else enjoy the fruits of our labor."

This property is represented by Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR, listed by Vanessa Solomon and Lurah Patrick and offered at \$1,849,000.



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Landrum National Junior Honor Society hosts smoothie fundraiser to fight cancer

The Landrum Middle School chapter of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) joined forces with Ponte Vedra's Tropical Smoothie Café last week to raise money for Cancer Assistance for Parents (CAPS). Tropical Smoothie Café donated 20 percent of the proceeds from NJHS customers on May 16-17 to CAPS.

"As an eighth grader moving on to high school next year, I wanted to leave a legacy and help kids in our community battling cancer," said NJHS President Delaney Davidson.

So successful, in fact, was the fundraiser that NJHS plans to make it an annual event.



Photo provided by Cara Davidson

Kira Sass (center), who is currently battling cancer, attends the Landrum National Junior Honor Society fundraiser at Tropical Smoothie Café with NJHS members. From left: Colin Lytle, Delaney Davidson, Sass, Elizabeth Wainer and Trish Balsar.

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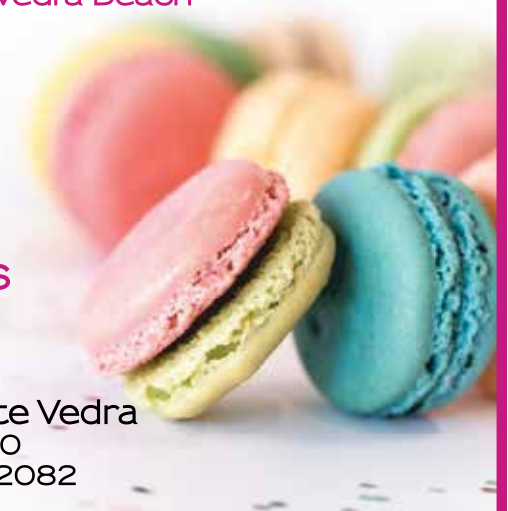
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Ace Hardware to anchor new Ponte Vedra shopping center

Ash Properties breaks ground on The Shoppes of St. Johns

Ace Hardware will be the anchor tenant of a new shopping center under construction on US1 in Ponte Vedra.

Ash Properties recently broke ground on The Shoppes of St. Johns at 10850 US 1. To be located just north of CR 210 West, the new shopping center will offer both retail and office space.

“We are excited to get started on this new center and happy to have Ace Hardware on

board as our anchor tenant,” said Randall Whitfield, COO of Ash Properties. “This property has about 26,000 square feet of retail space and will bring some great new shops to the neighborhood.”

Ash officials said the new center’s location will offer additional retail options for residents of nearby Nocatee and other residential neighborhoods in the area. The center will also offer 16,000 square feet of office space for lease.



Images courtesy of Ash Properties

Learn to communicate like the diaper lady

By Harry Pappas
Special to the Recorder

In most service professions, I argue that the number one reason companies and people fail is that they cannot effectively communicate the value of the product. This communication phenomenon is arguably most prevalent in the financial service industry. In other words, I steadfastly believe that the strategies I provide along with our pricing structure are the best anywhere. However, I am not the one to decide, you are! In other words, it is not what I have to say, but what you hear and understand.

Far too many financial advisors take something simple and make it complicated. On the other hand, great communicators take something complicated and make it simple. Said differently, many folks have the distinct ability to take a simple issue and mutilate



Harry Pappas
Columnist

it beyond recognition. Our responsibility to our clients and potential clients is to offer clarity to the subject, not complexity, as we are often judged by the quality of the questions we ask.

People who demonstrate great people skills do not necessarily do it because it comes naturally to them.

Instead, like me, they fight their national inclination to be selfish. For instance, these folks are struggling and striving to be interesting, when all they have to do is turn it around and be interested.

Unfortunately, most people have it all backward. We must stop telling people how great we and our products are. Instead, I suggest we begin to ask questions and start listening. For example, let’s not be an answering machine, let’s be a questioning machine! The word “listen,” after all, contains the same letters as the word “silent.”

It’s been said that the measure of a great teacher is not what he or she knows, but what the students know. These words of wisdom underscore my belief that the diaper lady has the issue in question figured out. In this popular anecdote from the days of cloth diapers, a man obsessed with baseball was out to dinner with his wife. Suddenly, their baby started to cry. The exhausted mother asked her husband to change the baby’s diaper for once.

“I don’t know how to change a baby’s diaper,” said the husband, trying to get out of the job. “Look, Buster,” the wife replied. “You lay the diaper out like a diamond; you put second base on home plate, put the baby’s bottom on the pitcher’s mound, hook up first and third, and slide home underneath. In addition, if it starts to rain, the game ain’t called. You start all over again.”

The moral of this remarkable story is that if we want to get our message across, we have to learn how to communicate in someone else’s world.

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Real estate brokers voice confidence in Jacksonville market

By Jon Blauvelt

The Greater Jacksonville area real estate market is healthy and ripe for continued growth, according to local real estate brokers.

“In the past two years compared with the previous two years, we’ve seen a 54 percent increase in sales numbers and a 33 percent increase in volume of sales,” broker Krista Fracke told nearly 100 real estate agents about her firm’s recent success at a breakfast last week organized by First Guaranty Mortgage Corporation. “I think that speaks volumes about the market and how much it’s come back.”

Fracke, who is the owner of the boutique real estate firm Krista Fracke Jacksonville Real Estate Co., also referenced trends and data compiled by real estate websites Trulia and Zillow that conclude Jacksonville is the fifth fastest-growing city in the United States. She said people are moving to the area in droves because they can get more value from the area’s relatively lower home prices.

Fracke was one of six Jacksonville area brokers to participate in a panel discussion at the May 18 breakfast and share her insights with the local agents about the region’s real estate market. Joining her on the panel at the Ponte Vedra Lodge & Club were Kim Davis of Ponte Vedra Beach Realty, James Valenti of Re/Max Unlimited, Mary Ann Bongiorno of Watson Realty Corp., Mark Dilworth of Keller Williams Realty and Eileen Ferrell McVeigh of Re/Max Coastal. Aaron Bacus of First Guaranty Mortgage Corporation organized the event and moderated the discussion.

Bongiorno echoed Fracke’s confidence in the Jacksonville market, noting that her Watson Realty office is seeing several people from South Florida move to the area to reap more value. She also said a continuation of buyers is coming in from the Northeast corner of the country. In general, she explained that a large population of Baby Boomers is selling its homes and investing in real estate in Florida, which she said is the most popular location in the country for people making a move. A flow of international money is specifically flowing into Jacksonville, she added.

Dilworth of Keller Williams agreed, noting that April was for many in the room the most financially successful April they’ve seen in the Jacksonville market since they started working in the industry. Although a small dip in the cyclical real estate market is always possible, he doesn’t foresee the growth stopping with population figures predicted to increase over the next few years. “All in all, it’s very rosy,” he said.

In justifying the region’s growth, Dilworth explained that few other cities on the Eastern Seaboard possess the number of features that make Jacksonville so attractive to potential buyers, including an international airport, a port, developmental land for corporations, a professional

football team, the PGA Tour and ATP Tour presences and strong schools, among other benefits.

The panel also discussed hot price points in the area. Davis of Ponte Vedra Beach Realty explained that homes priced up to \$500,000 are selling quickly, while a glut of inventory currently exists in the luxury market with homes priced at \$1.5 million and above. She said many people are currently placing their investments in the stock market, instead of the luxury home market. She also noted that foreign investors are coming in with cash and setting a precedent in the local market that the local economy can’t meet.

Valenti of Re/Max Unlimited added that recently renovated, “ready-to-go” homes in Ponte Vedra Beach neighborhoods like Marsh Landing and Plantation Oaks are selling quickly, even if they’re overpriced. “People are paying for that work to be done,” he said. On the other hand, he noted homes in need of renovation that are priced low are also receiving significant interest. It’s those homes in the middle, he said, that seem to be sitting on the market. Valenti added that he doesn’t think there’s a lack of affordable housing in the area.

The panelists also shared their insights on potential challenges for the market, such as the moving coastal construction line due to storms like Hurricane Matthew. Ferrell McVeigh of Re/Max Coastal said there will be new environmental and insurance-related restrictions and requirements that they’ll have to manage with oceanfront properties. Davis added that insurance companies are now hesitant to insure coastal homes, noting that customers planning to demolish homes damaged by the storm may be forced to move inward to abide by the new coastal construction line. She suggested that clients buying teardowns should maintain the original footprints of the homes and then rebuild, instead of demolishing and starting over.

Ferrell McVeigh doesn’t think increasing traffic – another potential challenge for the market – is impacting sales. She said several people moving to the area are coming from locations with “real traffic,” such as Los Angeles, Chicago and New York. “I tell people you have college-level traffic, and we just have middle school traffic,” she remarked. She did acknowledge, however, that a long-term solution will be needed to address the issue.

One temporary impediment of growth could be the Federal Reserve’s impending increase in interest rates. But the brokers mostly agreed that buyers, sellers and ultimately the market will adapt accordingly.

“I think it will slow it down, but then it just comes back to math,” said Dilworth. “If the interest rates go up, then your income needs to come up or home prices might go down. It will settle back into that new normal.”



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Panelists and local real estate brokers Eileen Ferrell McVeigh, Mark Dilworth, Mary Ann Bongiorno, James Valenti, Kim Davis, Krista Fracke and First Guaranty Mortgage Corp.’s Aaron Bacus



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Visitors & Convention Bureau offers tourism industry update

Local business and community leaders received an update on the state of Florida's tourism industry last week, when the St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors and Convention Bureau hosted its annual "State of the Tourism Industry Report."

Held May 17 at the Renaissance World Golf Village Resort and Convention

Center, the breakfast meeting attracted hundreds of local tourism and hospitality professionals to learn the results of recent tourism industry research and new developments on the local tourism front. First Coast News Anchor Jessica Clark emceed the event, which featured presentations by Visit Florida CEO Ken Lawson and Dr. Peter Yesawich of MMGY Global.



VCB President and CEO Richard Goldman



Caitlin Moore of NetWeave



Toni Boudreaux and Janet Collins

Photos by Susan Griffin



First Coast News Anchor Jessica Clark welcomes a pirate at the tourism event.



Dr Erika Hamer and Sarah Alexander



Dr. Peter Yesawich



VCB Chair Charles Cox of San Sebastian Winery

Chamber at Noon

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held a "Chamber at Noon" luncheon May 17 at Pusser's Caribbean Grille. The guest speaker was Gary Hallett of Gateway Business Advisors, who discussed "Creat-

ing a Business that Can Thrive Without You." From left: Ponte Vedra Beach Division Director Toni Boudreaux, Ed Mercel, Nancy Hallett, Gary Hallett, Jonathan Gibbs and Shirley Gibbs



'Big Fish' author to discuss new novel at The BookMark

Daniel Wallace, the bestselling author of "Big Fish," will visit The BookMark Friday, June 2 at 7 p.m. to discuss and sign copies of his new novel, "Extraordinary Adventures."

The book follows the story of Edsel Bronfman, a junior executive shipping clerk for an importer of Korean flatware who lives in a seedy neighborhood and spends his free time with his mother.

Life is rather unremarkable for Bronfman, until he receives a call from an operator telling him he's won a free weekend at a beachfront condo in Destin. There are

conditions, however, that are seemingly insurmountable obstacles: The offer is intended for a couple, and it expires in 79 days. The phone call jolts Edsel into motion, initiating a series of adventures as he sets out to find a companion for this weekend getaway.

"Edsel Bronfman is one of the most peculiar and inhibited characters I've ever met," said fellow author Mark Childress in a review. "At first I was amused by him, then alarmed by him, then terrified for him. At one point, he almost broke my heart, and I realized I'd fallen completely in love. Daniel Wallace's 'Extraordinary Adventures'

is deliciously funny, moving, and generous, and Edsel is unforgettable."

Wallace is currently serving as a distinguished professor of English at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he directs the school's creative writing program. His other books include "Ray in Reverse," "The Watermelon King," "Mr. Sebastian and the Negro Magician" and "The Kings and Queens of Roam."

The Bookmark is located at 220 First St. in Neptune Beach.

Ponte Vedra artist to display works at Coastal Wine Market



Bill Adams



Adams' painting 'A Port to Savor'



Adams' painting 'Let It Breathe'

Photos courtesy of Bill Adams

By Jon Blauvelt

Coastal Wine Market & tasting room will host an art show May 26-27 featuring the work of Ponte Vedra artist Bill Adams.

From 5 p.m. until closing at 9 p.m. each day, Adams will display several pieces from his wine and spirits collection, including both original paintings and artist proofs. In addition to those pieces on exhibit, the local artist will put the finishing touches on a painting that will be raffled off the second day of the show. Tickets for the drawing are \$25 each, with proceeds supporting Coastal Wine Market & tasting room. While viewing Adams' art, event attendees will also be able to enjoy wine and cheese tastings and hors d'oeuvres.

Adams' style is characterized as hyper-realism, with his oil on canvas paintings featuring enlarged and unique perspectives of wine bottles, glasses and similar subjects. He has been heavily influenced by artists such as Thomas Arvid, Bill Mack, Thomas Kinkade and James Coleman. His work at the show will be priced anywhere

from \$500 to \$2,500, which he said is half or even more than half as expensive as similar work found in galleries. The sizes of his paintings vary in size, ranging from 18x36 inches to 24x48 inches. To maintain the value of his work, the artist produces only 10 embellished artist proofs of an original.

A fulltime businessman, Adams views art as a hobby and only sells his work at four or five one-man exhibitions per year at local wineries, wine tasting rooms and private parties. In addition to these events, he paints by commission for private individuals, companies, nonprofits and museums, with his work also featuring classic cars, entertainers and athletes. He and his wife Linda are also co-directors of the CancerKare Fund, a charity that helps people who have been diagnosed with breast cancer pay for imaging and other necessary procedures. For more information about Adams and his work, visit <http://www.adams-artwork.com/>.

Coastal Wine Market & tasting room is located at 641 Crosswater Parkway (next to Dunkin Donuts).



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Cultural Center to open new exhibits June 2



Photos courtesy of First Coast Pastel Society

'All Lined Up' by Wendy Devarieux

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach will open two new exhibits June 2.

The first is a summer-themed exhibit named "Fluidity & Nature, Life's Pleasure," which will capture the simple themes of summer with scenes of reflective water and bold, bright hues of color. The installation of paintings was created by artists Sharon Goldman, Doug Gerhart and Judy Gerhart. Their art will be displayed in the Cultural Center's main gallery.

The second exhibit is the First Coast Pastel Society's 2017 Member Show and Sale, which will showcase the beauty of



'Someday' by Rebecca Pasko

the versatile pastel medium. The exhibit will be judged by a team of jurors, including Jeanette Toohey, Maureen Kirschhofer and Anthony Whiting. This exhibit will be in the Cultural Center's scene gallery.



'Red Palms' by Janelle Wagener

A reception to introduce the exhibits will be held Friday, June 2, from 6 to 8 p.m. The event is free and open to the public with live music and appetizers provided by Ruth's Chris Steak House.

The works will be displayed for purchase until July 7. For more information, visit <http://www.ccpvb.org/index.php>. The cultural center is located at 50 Executive Way in Ponte Vedra Beach.



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The Alhambra presents 'Steel Magnolias'

Dawn Wells returns for theatre's 50th anniversary season

By Jennifer Logue

When Dawn Wells last appeared at The Alhambra Theatre & Dining, ticket prices started at \$7.50 and the dinner theater served a buffet

That was in 1969, when Wells – famous for playing Mary Ann on “Gilligan’s Island” – portrayed the lead in Neil Simon’s “Barefoot in the Park.” This week, Wells returns to The Alhambra stage in “Steel Magnolias” as part of the “50 Years of Memories” celebration at America’s longest-running professional dinner theater.

“It’s great to be back,” Wells told the

Recorder during rehearsals last week. “It’s a great cast, a great director and it’s wonderful to see this theater thriving here.”

While many dinner theaters have closed across the country, Wells said, The Alhambra endures as a well-run theater with first-class productions.

“The public is anxious to see something good,” she said. “(The Alhambra) does quality and that makes a difference.”

Celebrating women

Set in Truvy’s beauty salon in Chinquapin, Louisiana, “Steel Magnolias” follows a group of local women, including the

wise-cracking Truvy; her new assistant, Annelle; M’Lynn, whose daughter Shelby is about to get married; and Ouiser, an eccentric millionaire. Throughout the play, the characters sustain and support one another through the joys of impending marriage, motherhood, and the trials and tragedies of life.

“It’s so beautifully written,” Wells said. “It’s all girls, and what do girls do? We sit around and talk about men.”

The play’s beauty parlor setting is key to the story, she noted.

“A beauty parlor offers tranquility – it offers refuge, because there are no men

around,” Wells said. “And it offers trust. You trust that girl doing your hair.”

Written by Robert Harling, “Steel Magnolias” opened off Broadway in 1987 and went on to run for more than 1,100 performances. In 1989, the movie version premiered with an all-star cast, earning several Golden Globe and Academy Award nominations.

“Steel Magnolias” runs through June 25 at The Alhambra Theatre & Dining. Tickets range from \$35 to \$53 and include dinner, show and parking. For more information, call the box office at (904) 641-1212 or at www.alhambrajax.com.

From ‘Gilligan’s Island’ to ‘Steel Magnolias,’ Dawn Wells is grateful for a career graced with love from fans

By Jennifer Logue

A few years ago, Dawn Wells was traveling by canoe through a remote part of the Solomon Islands with a group of friends. And just like the conditions Wells faced as Mary Ann on “Gilligan’s Island,” the surroundings were primitive.

No phone. No lights. No motor car. Not a single luxury.

“There was no electricity, no running water and all the little huts were set on stilts,” Wells recalls. “And there in the village, the chief’s wife pointed at me and said, ‘I know you – as a little girl, I lived in the capital. I used to go home after school and watch you in black and white!’”

It’s a familiar occurrence for Wells, whose three years as farm girl Mary Ann Summers on the popular 1960s sitcom bestowed upon her TV immortality.

“I can’t go anywhere in the world without people knowing (Gilligan’s Island),” Wells told the Recorder in an interview last week during rehearsals for The Alhambra’s production of “Steel Magnolias.”

“And I’m greeted with love everywhere I go.”

Unlike some actors who resent being so closely associated with one particular role, Wells expresses nothing but gratitude for the show that made her a household name and earned her generations of fans. And she has strong words for actors who complain about being similarly recognized.

“Get over it,” Wells said. “How selfish can they be? You’ve made the money. You’ve got the following and you’re

respected in the industry. Why would you put that down?”

TV castaway

A former Miss Nevada who competed in the Miss America pageant, Wells arrived in Los Angeles in the early 1960s fresh out of the University of Washington, where she majored in theatre. After landing a role in a play with Mercedes McCambridge and Leon Ames, Wells was spotted by an agent and soon was doing television parts on series such as “Wagon Train” and “77 Sunset Strip.” And when producers were looking for a new face to replace the original actress who appeared in the pilot for “Gilligan’s Island,” Wells fit the bill.

“I was the ingénue, the farm girl,” Wells said. “In those days, you wouldn’t have cast me as anything but the ingénue. Actresses today have all kinds of opportunities. It isn’t as much about beauty.”

To the astonishment of everyone involved, “Gilligan’s Island” became an instant hit. And while the show would only run for three years in prime time, its popularity in reruns has endured for decades, earning the series generations of fans.

Wells attributes part of the show’s appeal to its premise.

“It’s kind of that Robinson Crusoe thing,” she said. “I think we’ve all had that fantasy. What would it be like to live on an island and survive? And it takes you back to your childhood.”

The show’s memorable cast of characters also contributed to its following, she added.

“The chemistry among the seven of us was perfect,” she said. “It was perfect



Photo courtesy of The Alhambra

Dawn Wells

casting and the talent was wonderful. Bob Denver (as Gilligan) was a genius at physical comedy.”

On a deeper level, Wells believes the show was a metaphor for the wider world.

“It was seven different people thrown together getting along, and that’s what the world is – seven continents trying to get along,” she said. “The world is all one place now, and I think we are all more alike than we are different.”

After “Gilligan’s Island” ended, Wells focused her talents on the theatre, appearing in numerous stage productions, including “The Owl and the Pussycat,” “The Lion in Winter” and the musical “They’re Playing Our Song.”

“The stage is my real love,” she said. “You’re sharing your soul.”

One of her first post-Gilligan’s Island theatrical appearances was at The Alhambra, where she starred in a 1969 produc-

tion of “Barefoot in the Park,” once again playing the ingénue. Her return to The Alhambra’s stage as part of its 50th anniversary season in “Steel Magnolias” finds Wells portraying Ouiser Boudreaux – a role that is a distinct departure from loveable Mary Ann.

“She’s a curmudgeon,” Wells said of the role portrayed in the film version by Shirley MacLaine. “She’s cranky.”

After countless stage and screen performances over her many years in show business, Wells continues to appreciate the opportunity to share her talents with audiences around the world.

“I’m very grateful,” said Wells, before offering some advice to aspiring thespians.

“Life is what you make of it,” she said. “What you put into it, you get back. Work hard. Be prepared. Do your homework. And remember it’s not all about you.”

Sharks fall to Bucholz in spring football game, 49-28

The Ponte Vedra High School Sharks fell 49-28 to Gainesville Bucholz May 19 in the spring football game.

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Kyle Barker hauls in the pass before fighting his way into the end zone for the score.



Photos by Chris and Jerry Norton
 Senior Jarrett Stepp (#1) hauls in the over the shoulder touchdown pass for the first Shark score.



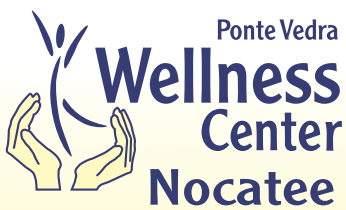
Running back Zach King carries the ball through a big hole.



Jarrett Stepp avoids the tackler after the reception.

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Photo provided by Coach Chuck Ways

Ways takes 200 meter hurdles at middle school track meet

Valley Ridge Academy student Cyrus Ways of Ponte Vedra was named Middle School State Champion in the 200 meter hurdles May 13 at IMG ACADEMY Track Stadium. Ways, who runs for the St. Johns Striders, finished the hurdles with a time of 25.20, while also taking second place in the high jump and second in the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 14.25.

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1. Diamond corners
6. CA's Santa ____ winds
9. At what time?
13. Music to a performer's ears
14. Yes move
15. Eurasian goat-like antelope
16. **The ____ Burnett Show"
17. Number in a pair
18. #10 Down, pl.
19. **"Beach Party" garb
21. *Kind of 1960s "invasion"
23. Tokyo, pre-1868
24. *Wilder in 1968's "The Producers"
25. "Gross!"
28. 9th letter of Greek alphabet
30. Changes
35. High part of day
37. Narcotics agent
39. Donor recipient
40. Musical finale
41. Imprison
43. Funeral cloth
44. MC Hammer's "Too ____ to Quit" album
46. Command: "At ____!"
47. Popular acronym in education
48. Attractive to look at
50. Clarified butter
52. Greek H
53. Wise old man

55. Beaver's construction
57. *Civil Rights Act of 1964 signee
61. *Six-Day War nation
64. *Maker of "Mouse Trap" board game
65. Elbow rest
67. Exemplary
69. Mosquito - ____ disease
70. "The Old Man and the ____"
71. Ivy Mike, e.g.
72. Son of Aphrodite
73. Expression of doubt
74. Affirmatives

DOWN

1. *Home to "Doctor Who" starting in 1963
2. United ____ Emirates
3. Rani's dress
4. Call forth
5. Forward slashes
6. ____perspirant
7. *Betty Friedan's org.
8. Acrobat maker
9. *Beatles song on "Rubber Soul"
10. Audiophile's praise
11. Shining armor
12. *Crosby, Stills & ____
15. Protection from a sword
20. Nary a soul
22. Ribonucleic acid
24. Waste basket contents

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KEEPING UP

By Barbara Boxleitner

Special to Ponte Vedra Recorder

Golfer **Philip Loeb** has capped a stellar year with postseason honors.

The Elon University sophomore was named to the all-Colonial Athletic Association second team. The Ponte Vedra Beach resident led the team with a 73.48 stroke average.

He was named the team's most valuable player at the school's spring athletics banquet.

More men's golf

LaGrange College senior **Logan Lanier** won the USA South Conference tournament. The Bartram Trail High School graduate shot a 209 (70-70-69) to win by three strokes. He is an all-conference first-team selection, leading the conference with a 70.8 stroke average. He is a semifinalist for the Division III Jack Nicklaus National Player of the Year Award.

Men's lacrosse

Junior attack **Dalton Cook** of Catawba College is an all-South Atlantic Conference honorable mention pick. The former Bear was one of two Catawba players recognized. He finished with 36 points, second on the team, in starting all 16 games.

Jacksonville University midfielder Eric

Applegate was named May 1 as the Southern Conference offensive player of the week. Out of Ponte Vedra High, he was cited for his career-high seven points against Bellarmine University. He was second on the team with 34 points through 14 games.

Men's tennis

University of Connecticut sophomore **Hank Hill** had an 11-9 overall record playing at the fourth through sixth singles spots. The Ponte Vedra High product was 14-12 overall in doubles play, mainly at No. 2.

Women's golf

Purdue University senior **August Kim** is an all-Big Ten Conference first-team selection. The Allen D. Nease graduate led the team with a 72.24 stroke average.

Women's lacrosse

Piedmont College senior **Blake Forrest** was named to the all-USA South Conference first team. The Nease graduate started all 18 games in goal and had a 9-8 record. She led the conference with 125 saves and ranked fourth with a 10.76 goals against average.

Also from Nease, Piedmont midfielder **Jenna Smith** was named to the all-conference second team. The senior finished with 47 points, 10th in the conference.

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

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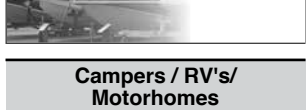


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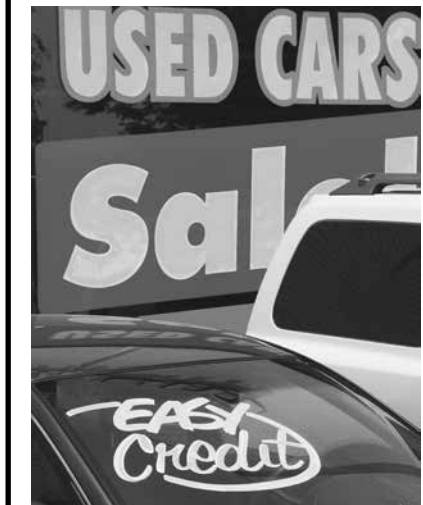
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