

Ponte Vedra Recorder

Ponte Vedra 

August 11, 2016
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PonteVedraRecorder.com



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Candidates, a straw poll and more

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Start the school year off right

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First Coast Register:

Fall arts preview plus one-of-a-kind wedding venues

Trump stumps in Jacksonville



Photo by Jennifer Logue

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump addresses a capacity crowd at Jacksonville's Veterans Memorial Arena Aug. 3. Read more on page 4.

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



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PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

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

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

Several readers correctly identified last week's photo as Painting with a Twist in Ponte Vedra Beach. Winner of the random drawing was **Debi Klausner** – congratulations! You may pick up your prize at the Recorder offices during regular business hours.



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

ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

Hi there, my name is Shamrock the 4-year-old cat and I was brought to the pet center because my parents did not want to take care of me anymore. I am so good at snuggling; nobody can beat my kitty cat cuteness. I'm so awesome at playing with my toys and taking naps in the sunny spot on the sofa. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #32459



DOG OF THE WEEK

Hi there, my name is Mack and I am a 3-year-old male lab mix who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center as a stray. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #33052 As this animal was a stray there may be some traits that are unknown at this time.



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

St. Johns County Pet Center

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



Susan Griffin
Publisher
susan@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3938

Jennifer Logue
Managing Editor
jennifer@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3943

Carrie Resch
Reporter/Sales Coordinator
carrie@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3939

Rob Conwell
Circulation Manager
rob@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3936

Ed Johnson
Senior Account Executive
ed@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3940

Kristin Flanagan
Account Executive
(904) 285-8831

April Snyder
Sales Assistant
april@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3937

Jasmine Marshall
Reporter/Office Assistant
jasmine@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3945

Cary J. Howard
Ad Designer
cjohnson@theitem.com

Alex Burrows
Ad Designer
alex@theitem.com

Ashley Stancil
Ad Designer
ashley@theitem.com

Jessica Stephens
Rhonda Barrick
Melanie Smith
Stacey Neal
Manon Barwick
Page Designers
pagedesign@theitem.com

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SPOT SOME FUN

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AND GARDENS

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PZA recommends transmittal of Vilano hotel proposal

Board of County Commissioners scheduled to hear matter at Sept. 20 meeting

By Jennifer Logue

The St. Johns County Planning & Zoning Agency board voted 5 to 1 last week in favor of recommending that the Board of County Commissioners approve transmittal of a comprehensive plan amendment that would allow the construction of a hotel resort complex on Coastal Highway.

At the Aug. 4 meeting – attended by hundreds of residents who came to voice their opposition to the project – board members Jeffrey Martin, Brad Nelson, David Rice, Archie Wainwright and Jon Woodard voted to recommend transmittal of the requested zoning change, citing the jobs and tax revenue that would be generated by the project. Dick Williams was the lone board member to vote against the project, saying the size and scope of the proposed Watermark resort was not compatible with the surrounding area.

“I’m not going to say yes if I’m not convinced it really belongs there,” said Williams, noting he had received hundreds of emails from Vilano Beach residents expressing their opposition to the project. “It’s not compatible in

my mind.”

The Aug. 4 hearing on the issue began with a presentation by county Chief Planner Danielle Handy, who explained that a comprehensive plan amendment was necessary because the property in question – a 43-acre parcel located on Coastal Highway approximately 1.5 miles north of Vilano Town Center – is currently zoned residential C, which does not allow hotels or beach clubs. In order to build the proposed project, the property would have to be rezoned as residential D, which allows such facilities.

Handy detailed the county’s review of the proposed project – which included a review of its environmental and traffic impacts – and noted that, contrary to some residents’ fears, should the project be approved and later sold, the new owners would not be able to make any changes to the project without seeking further county approval. She concluded by saying county staff recommended transmittal.

Project changes

Following Handy’s presentation, however, the developer introduced

some last-minute changes to the project in the form of a text amendment. Working from a photocopied page upon which text had been crossed out and handwritten changes inserted, attorney Ellen Avery-Smith said that in response to community concerns about population density and traffic, the developers had decided to scale back the project. While the initial proposal called for construction of a hotel with 130 rooms, 70 beach villas,

a 39-slip marina and 80,000 square feet of ancillary resort facilities such as a spa, restaurant and fitness center, the revised proposal would call for 120 hotel rooms, 50 villas, and 70,000 square feet of ancillary resort facilities. The 39-slip marina would remain unchanged. In addition, the developers requested that in the event the resort wasn’t built, they would retain

VILANO HOTEL PROPOSAL continues on Page 7

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Trump stumps in Jacksonville

Thousands flock to candidate's rally

By Jennifer Logue

Republican presidential nominee Donald J. Trump stumped for votes in Jacksonville Aug. 3, attracting a standing-room-only crowd for a rally and wide-ranging speech that outlined in broad strokes the businessman's key policy objectives amid jabs at President Barack Obama and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

The 15,000-seat Veterans Memorial Arena was filled to capacity with a diverse crowd that waved Trump signs, sported "Make America Great Again" hats and at various times broke into chants ranging from "Trump! Trump! Trump!" to "Lock her up!" – a reference to Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton. Among the attendees – who ranged in age from small children to senior citizens – were four teens who traveled from Baker and Nassau counties to hear Trump speak.

"My parents were small business owners and all the regulations Obama put in really hurt them," said Bryce Donker, 17.

Sixteen-year-old Kyrie Holman, meanwhile, said that education was a key factor in her friends' support for Trump.

"We are very much against Common Core," she said. "It's ruining our education and our education system. Government just keeps trying to reach its tentacles into every area of our lives."

Firing up the base

Prior to Trump's remarks – which began approximately 45 minutes after the scheduled 7 p.m. starting time – a number of local and national Republican party leaders and public figures fired up the party base in support of Trump's candidacy, including Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry – who served as master of ceremonies – Republican National Committee Co-Chair Sharon Day, U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho, pastor Mark Burns, and retired Lt. Gen. Mike Flynn.

"Republicans are dependent upon the political might of Northeast Florida – a big win

here absolutely wipes out our liberal neighbors to the south," Duval County Republican Party Chairman Cindy Graves told the audience. "Our country is the greatest experiment in freedom the world has ever known and we will not let it end on our watch."

Former Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll told attendees, "I keep hearing pundits say that Mr. Trump has no blacks or women supporting him. Last time I checked, I was black and I'm still a woman, and I support Donald Trump!"

Attorney General Pam Bondi shared the Donald Trump she knows as a friend, recounting his devotion to his family and the genuine concern he showed for Bondi's mother. Blasting Obama for doubling the national debt to more than \$19 trillion – amassing as much debt in eight years as all 43 of his predecessors combined – Bondi said Trump was the man to fix the economy and keep America safe by protecting its borders.

"The amount of cocaine and heroin flowing into our state is ridiculous," Bondi said, "and Donald Trump is going to do everything he can to stop it."

Trump talk

By the time Trump took the stage, the crowd was eager to hear what they came for: the sort of free-wheeling, off-the-cuff stump speech that has earned Trump both loyal fans and harsh critics. In an hour-long address presented without a TelePrompTer – a fact Trump highlighted by impersonating Hillary Clinton turning woodenly back and forth to read from a script, drawing laughs from the audience – Trump touched on a number of key issues, including the economy.

"What we need is leadership," Trump said. "Our leaders are incompetent. Our debt has doubled under Barack Obama. He doesn't know what he's doing. We have a big, fat, horrible problem."

Noting that in recent years manufacturing jobs across the country had been shipped to other countries, Trump pledged that if he were elected, businesses that moved jobs

TRUMP IN JACKSONVILLE continues on Page 5



Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry



Retired Lt. Gen. Mike Flynn

Trump rally draws local candidates

By Jennifer Logue

Prior to Trump's Jacksonville speech, attendees milled about outside Veterans Memorial Arena, snapping up Trump t-shirts, buttons and signature "Make America Great Again" baseball caps. Joining the crowd were a number of candidates running for other offices, including former Jacksonville Sheriff John Rutherford – who is running for U.S. Congress in the 4th Congressional District – and two of his opponents, Democrat David Bruderly and write-in candidate Dan Murphy.

"I'm the reason he's in (the race)," Murphy said with a nod at Bruderly, who acknowledged he entered the race when he learned Democrats would not have a candidate from their party on the ballot.

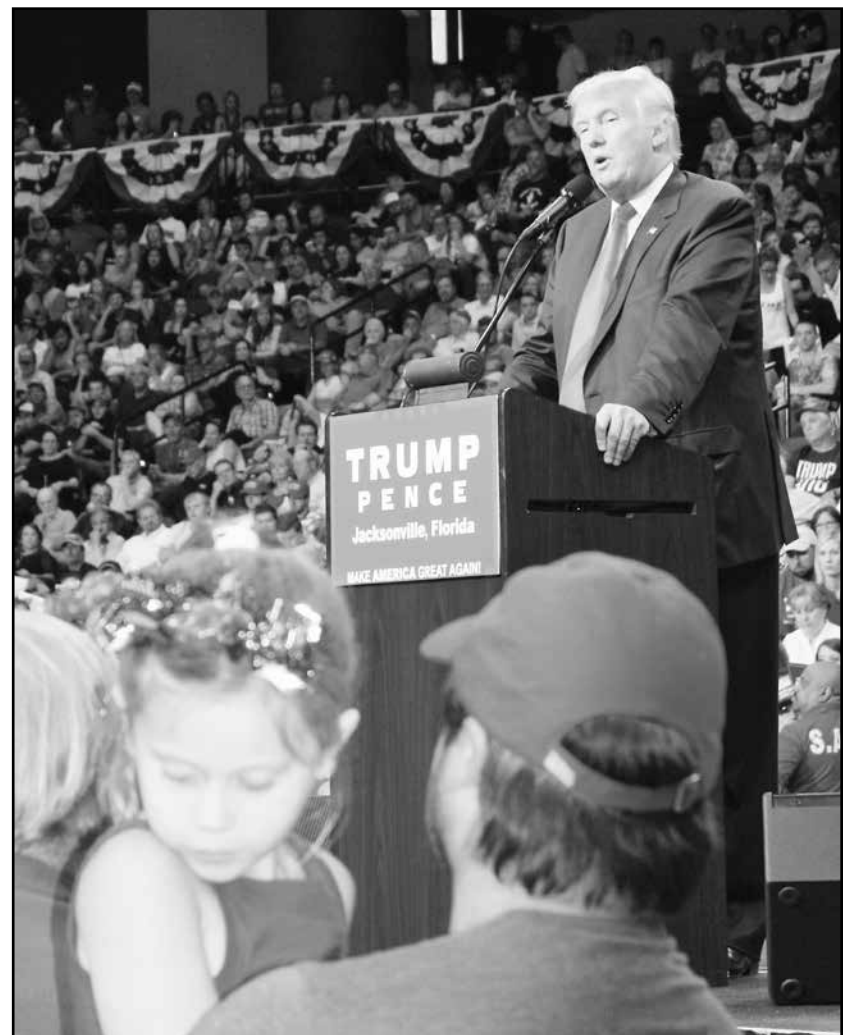
"You knocked me out of my comfort zone," Bruderly replied, adding he went to the Trump rally hoping to score some support among undecideds. "I'm looking for persuadable voters – people who are not persuaded by either party," he said. "We have two candidates people don't like. My pitch is that I'm an independent Democrat and I can work across the aisle with anybody."

Accompanying Bruderly was his "significant other," Ingrid Prosser. "I'm an artist – I'm not really political," Prosser said. "I'm also a cross-over Republican: My party left me and I feel I have much more in common with David's philosophy."

Murphy, meanwhile, said his campaign started as an April Fool's Joke.

"I sent a letter to the Times-Union, kind of like a Pat Paulson kind of thing," said Murphy, referring to the comedian who launched a facetious run for president in the 1960s. "Then (U.S. Rep.) Ander Crenshaw dropped out and I thought, 'Why not?'"

Other candidates seeking the 4th congressional seat include Stephen Kaufman, Ed Malin, Bill McClure, Deborah Katz Pueschel, Lake Ray and Hans Tanzler.



Photos by Jennifer Logue
Presidential nominee Donald Trump addresses the crowd Aug. 3 at Jacksonville's Veterans Memorial Arena.

PVB MSD chairman presents audit results, FY17 budget at County Commission meeting

By Carrie Resch

Traffic, roadway drainage, and parking woes at Mickler's Landing were among the challenges highlighted Aug. 2 when the Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District (MSD) presented its fiscal year 2017 budget to the Board of County Commissioners.

MSD Chairman Gary Jurenovich also presented results from the most recent audit of the MSD, which provides supplemental services to residents living within the district – including street lighting, street signs and additional garbage collection.

One of the biggest expenditures of the organization is the contract MSD developed with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office for five deputies, who patrol the area and stay within the MSD unless they are called outside the area for service, according to Jurenovich.

"The residents do like that and we are going to continue that," Jurenovich said. "In fact, we just negotiated two weeks ago in extending that contract for four more years."

He also said the MSD made the decision to keep the millage rate the same at .375 mills.

Approximately 1,380 homes are included in the MSD, which encompasses the area from the Duval County line south to Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, primarily east of State Road A1A.

The MSD was chartered with the

state approximately 34 years ago and recently celebrated a milestone 400th meeting.

"The goal, I've always said, for setting up the service district, is to maintain or increase property values... by maintaining or increasing property values every year in the service district, these are ad valorem tax dollars that flow down here to St. Augustine and it's considerable because ad valorem tax dollars, as we know, are based on property values," Jurenovich said.

The value of non-exempt property for the MSD for the taxing year 2016 was more than \$1.7 billion.

"The MSD is strong, the MSD is growing, and all of this channels money, tax dollars down here to the county," he said.

Challenges

Traffic continues to be a challenge for residents in the district, Jurenovich said, as well as standing water on Ponte Vedra Boulevard, which can lead to road damage and create potholes. He also noted that deputies have reported stepping out of their vehicles into standing water that, in some instances, has covered their shoes. The worst portion of the flooding, he reported, is a one and a half mile stretch of road between Corona Road and Miranda Road. Jurenovich told the commissioners that in order to maintain or increase property values, this is going to have to be addressed somehow.

Another challenge Jurenovich highlighted is parking at Mickler's Landing. MSD deputies patrol the area and Jurenovich said the MSD has surveyed the parking lot and consistently sees parking overflow on the weekends.

"I think we're going to have to go to paid parking," Jurenovich told the commissioners, adding that more people are parking at Mickler's Landing because of the parking fee Jacksonville Beach is charging. It's an issue, he said, that the MSD would like to further discuss with the county commissioners.

Projects

Jurenovich pointed to the recently finished sidewalk project on Ponte Vedra Boulevard as one of the service district's recent accomplishments. The formula used by the MSD every time they do a project is 60 percent of the funding is footed by residents, 20 percent by the MSD and 20 percent by the county, he said. The sidewalk project was long overdue, Jurenovich remarked.

"I see people on this sidewalk daily and with the amount of construction, the amount of new homes that are being built in the MSD, it wasn't done soon enough, getting people off Ponte Vedra Boulevard, because it's becoming quite a busy roadway," he said.

Currently, the MSD is in the process of purchasing new street signs, including new poles, new stop signs, street signs and speed limit signs.

"This will give the neighborhood a much nicer look," he said. "Quite frankly, the old signs are 34 years old and when you're on the ocean, they don't last that long."

New trustees

MSD trustees are elected every two years; a total of seven trustees sit on the board. Three of those seats are up for election this year with a total of six candidates in the running.

The candidates are well qualified, according to Jurenovich. One, he said, is going to run for re-election, one was on the Zoning Adjustments Board one was on the Architectural Review Committee. All of the candidates reside within the MSD.

"There's apathy everywhere, but when people want to become involved in their community, that's a good thing," Jurenovich said. "I think what makes the MSD what it is, is because we're not paid. We live there and we want to see our community grow and be strong, but it's just community involvement."

Trump in Jacksonville

Continued from 24

outside the United States would face a 35 percent tax when they tried to import their products back into America for sale. He also blasted Clinton's husband, President Bill Clinton, for signing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which some contend sent jobs overseas, boosting unemployment and creating economic stagnation.

"(Bill Clinton) cleaned you out," Trump said. "He cleaned New England out and he cleaned New York state out. We're going to take care of the miners and steel workers."

National security

Pointing to the problems European countries such as the United Kingdom, France and Germany have experienced due to the influx of millions of Middle Eastern immigrants, Trump charged his opponent with wanting to create a similar problem here in America.

"Hillary Clinton wants to bring in

people by the tens of thousands," Trump said, shaking his head slowly. "Not gonna happen."

He also criticized Obama for refusing to use the term "radical Islamic extremism."

"If you're afraid to say what the problem is, if you're unwilling to talk about the problem, you're never going to solve the problem," Trump said. "We're going to make our country safe again and make America great again. We are going to have law and order."

Turning to domestic issues, Trump promised to reverse the wave of violence against law enforcement the nation has seen in recent months.

"Never has it been so dangerous to be a police officer," Trump said. "All the different places police have been killed...it's going to stop."

Trump also pledged to repeal Obamacare, eliminate Common Core and appoint Supreme Court justices who will respect the Constitution. So great, in fact, is the likelihood that the next president may appoint three, four or

even five new Supreme Court justices, Trump said, that voters who are on the fence should elect him if only to prevent his opponent from shifting the court drastically to the left.

"If you dislike me intensely, if you'd never vote for me in a million years," Trump said, "you have to."

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When Michael Hannon first became involved as a parent volunteer in local education in the 1970s, Ponte Vedra had one school. Today, he finds himself once again at the helm of the public education foundation he led back then, and he remains committed to ensuring that Ponte Vedra schools are the best in the state. — By Jennifer Logue

Michael Hannon

How did you come to be involved initially with the Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation?

In the late 1970s I was a single head of household with both a 2nd and 4th grade child enrolled at PVPV Elementary and occasionally I received a request for a meeting with one of my children's teachers. The teachers were very impressive, dedicated individuals, but the facilities left a great deal to be desired. After serving a year as president of the PTO, I felt there was a greater need for support for the quality of public education in our community.

What was the state of public education when you first moved to Ponte Vedra?

In the late 1970s, we had one school in Ponte Vedra. The facility was very outdated. We were fortunate to have a great group of teachers, but the administration felt things were good enough. They were not.

What sort of programs and activities did the foundation support over the years?

The Public Education Foundation defined a focus on cultural enrichment through elevated programming in performing arts, teacher support and facility enhancement. The sponsors provided over \$150,000 the first three years. It was a very exciting experience for the students, teachers and our supporters. We were humbled as we read the students' observations of the performing arts programs provided by the teachers. We received several visits from state Secretary of Education Betty Castor and one visit from the governor. The school district informed us they received \$1.5 million to be used for facility enhancement. That was big.

What brought you back to serve as president of the foundation once again?

Several years after forming the Public Education Foundation, I was transferred to Atlanta, Georgia, then Aspen, Colorado and eventually Northern Virginia. My passion for enriching public education remained and I was fortunate to be in a position to form The Carbondale, Colorado Public Education Foundation and The Spotsylvania, Virginia Education Foundation. When I retired, we moved back to St Johns County and I contacted Marilyn Hoener, president of the Ponte Vedra Education Foundation, letting her know I would like to help. At my first meeting I was asked to again assume the role as president.

Today, the St. Johns County schools are considered the best in the state. How do you see the foundation assisting local schools today?

Nothing remains the same. It remains important to let St. Johns County government know we want to continue to enrich the public education experience in Ponte Vedra. The Ponte Vedra Public Education Foundation continues to hold our original focus of cultural enrichment through elevated programming in performing arts, teacher support and facility enhancement. We would like to expand community financial support as a way of putting our money where our hearts are – for government awareness.

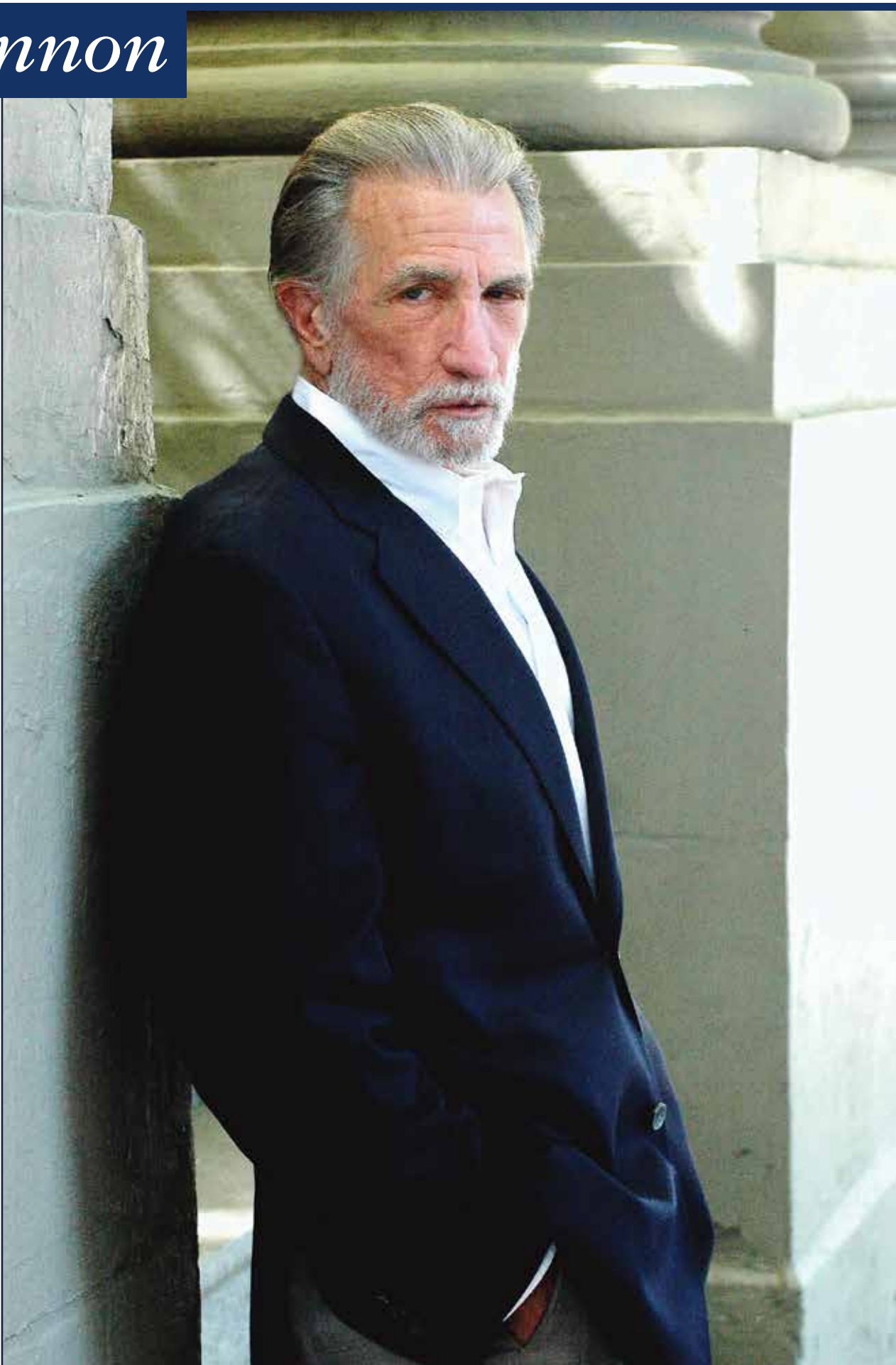


Photo courtesy of Michael Hannon

What is your favorite part about living in Ponte Vedra?

Ponte Vedra is beautiful and vibrant, with a rich history of a caring population. I have lived in some very interesting and beautiful places around the globe that provide standards with which to compare

against Ponte Vedra. With that in mind, I feel Ponte Vedra is a very special, rare and beautiful place to live. Lush, green vegetation year round, plentiful wild life and the beach attract a permanent population who share those interests—birds of a feather, so to speak.

Vilano Hotel Proposal

Continued from 3

the right to build 79 residential units on the property.

Far from appeasing those in opposition, however, the last-minute changes prompted questions from PZA board members and criticism from attorney Jane West, who represents members of the Save Our Vilano group that opposes the project.

“This is just a procedural mess,” West said. “We should not be changing the comprehensive plan based on a piece of paper we all just received 10 minutes ago.”

West said the size and scope of the proposed resort is incompatible with the surrounding residential area, and noted that the only other similar commercial enterprise nearby was a small boutique hotel of fewer than 30 rooms. The owner of that property was the lone person to speak in favor of the project during public comment.

West also reiterated residents’ concerns about how the resort would impact traffic as well as the negative impact it might have on efforts to revitalize the Vilano Town Center commercial district.

Resident opposition

Numerous residents spoke in opposition to the project, including several speakers who brought letters from their homeowners’ and condo associations opposing the project. One resident, a former longtime traffic engineer and federal highway employee, disputed the projected traffic impacts of the project.

Another resident told board members it’s hard enough trying to cross A1A with his four grandchildren, and fears that building the resort would make the traffic situation even worse.

“My biggest concern is a safety concern,” David Vermeulen said. “Someone’s going to get killed trying to cross A1A.”

Pete Molinaro told the board he and his wife just moved to Vilano Beach to begin their retirement after 44 and 37 years of teaching, respectively. The proposed resort, he said, would be right outside his window.

“I worked hard and long to retire,” he said. “We specifically moved to Vilano Beach because it was residential. I’m shocked this is even being considered.”

Resident Linda Doherty asked board members to consider the concerns of Vilano Beach residents.

“Developers have one goal in mind and that is to make as much money as possible,” she said. “We truly have an idyllic paradise. If not for vigilant zoning, it may slip away and turn into everywhere else.”

Attorney Avery-Smith said, however,

VILANO HOTEL PROPOSAL continues on **Page 20**

STAR OF THE WEEK


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St. Augustine Politics in St. Johns event draws 500

Rutherford, DeSantis, Shoar among winners of event's straw poll

Congressional candidates John Rutherford (District 4), Ron DeSantis (District 6) and Sheriff David Shoar were among the winners of a straw poll held last week at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's "Politics in St. Johns" event.

Held Aug. 4 at the Solomon Calhoun Center in St. Augustine, the event attracted an estimated 500 peo-

ple, who had an opportunity to meet with nearly 40 candidates running for office across the county. Nearly 350 votes were cast in the straw poll, which included national as well as local races.

In the race for president, Republican Donald Trump bested Democrat Hillary Clinton 252 to 64, while Sen. Marco Rubio topped the ticket for U.S.

Senate with 215 votes in a five-way race. His closest challenger, Carlos Beruff, received 54 votes.

In the race for the 4th Congressional District – the seat currently held by the retiring Rep. Ander Crenshaw – former Jacksonville Sheriff John Rutherford came in first with 121 votes, followed by County Commissioner Bill McClure with 84 votes and the remaining votes

split among their six challengers. In the 6th Congressional District race, incumbent Rep. Ron DeSantis garnered 182 votes in a seven-candidate field.

The St. Augustine "Politics in St. Johns" event followed a previous session held July 27 in Ponte Vedra Beach. The primary election will be held Aug. 30, with early voting beginning Aug. 20.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Debbie and Hans Tanzler



Dottie Acosta



Elizabeth Granite Amato, Savannah Sizer, Kim McClure, Bill McClure, Blake McClure and Samantha Gilbert



Elizabeth Granite Amato and Malcom Anthony



Sebrina Slack



David Bruderly



Sheriff David Shoar



Jane and Hunter Conrad



John Reardon and Mary Middleton O'Brien



Michael Scine, Jimmy Johns, Isabelle Rodriguez and Cathy Johnston



Chamber holds board retreat



SJC Chamber photo

Members of the board of directors of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division held a retreat last week at the Sawgrass Marriott Resort & Spa's 619 Ocean View restaurant.

Led by PVB Division Director Lin Jones, the retreat offered an opportunity for new board

members to learn about the duties and responsibilities of chamber leadership. Attendees also had an opportunity to review plans for upcoming chamber events, including the popular annual Ponte Vedra Auto Show. This year's auto show will be held Sept. 11 at Nocatee Town Center Field.

County seeks applicants for Housing Finance Authority

St. Johns County is currently accepting applications for the Housing Finance Authority.

The committee, which seeks to increase the supply of affordable housing through tax-exempt and taxable bonds and other resources, meets at 3 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month at the St. Johns County Health and Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Applications are due August 23, 2016. To receive an application or for more information, please call (904) 209-0308 or visit <http://www.sjcfl.us/Boards/>. Applications can be emailed to tfilloramo@sjcfl.us or mailed to St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners, Attn: Thomas Filloramo, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

Katz 4 Keeps volunteers sought

Katz 4 Keeps, a nonprofit organization, is looking for adults 18 or older to become members of the clean and feed program.

The program ensures that Katz 4 Keeps' rescue cats, kittens and facility have the very best of care.

Katz 4 Keeps is located at 935B A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, email Peggy Hatfield, program coordinator, at peggyhatfield63@comcast.net.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

On August 30, you will have the opportunity to cast your vote for Jerry Cameron, candidate for the St. Johns County Commission. I make no bones about it: This is a unique chance to place an individual, qualified, experienced and committed to public service, on a commission with just five votes that shapes the services relevant to

your daily life. Don't miss it!

Jerry is a man of breadth and depth. He retired recently from assistant county administrator, where I watched him bore into policy issues as diverse as vicious dogs and feral cats on the one hand and the U.S. Veterans' Administration's facility in St. Johns County on the other end of the spectrum, testifying powerfully and effectively before the U.S. Congress to successfully jar loose action long delayed.

Indeed, in the mode of rigorous management discipline, he identified, trained and coached his replacement as administrator, so a firm grip on his responsibilities never missed a beat.

His career in city and county leadership is underpinned with an extensive background in law enforcement, twice a police chief and a graduate of the FBI and National Intelligence Academies.

He even put in a couple of decades in the private sector and easily relates to the challenges of small business. If there is an obstacle, Jerry will hunt it down and deal with it.

Jerry is a history buff who can connect today's public policy wres-

ting matches with their trails back to colonial times and the values that distinguish our form of government. If you have never seen his dead-ringer portrayal of Patrick Henry's "liberty or death" speech, I can vouch for its authenticity.

If I might be permitted repetition, please do not miss the opportunity to vote Jerry into office.

Douglas C. Worth
Ponte Vedra Beach

first coast ARTISTS

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For more information about these works, the artists, or other works, contact Bob Nickerson at First Coast Artists at 904.280.8187.



Players by the Sea open casting call for 'Hand to God'

Players by the Sea Theatre will hold an open casting call for its upcoming production of "Hand to God" Sunday, Aug. 14 at 1 p.m.

Written by Robert Askins and to be directed by Christopher P. Farrell, the dark comedy follows the children of Cypress, Texas who are taught to obey the Bible in order to evade Satan's hand. But when students at the Christian Puppet Ministry put those teachings into practice, one devout young man's puppet takes on a shocking personality that no one could have expected.

The director and theatre are seeking five actors to fill roles in "Hand to God." All roles are available. Performers 18 years old and up are encouraged to audition. Those interested in auditioning are asked to prepare a headshot and resume and will be asked to do cold readings from the script. The script is available for perusal by emailing auditions@playersbythesea.org with the subject line "Hand to God Script Request."

Auditions will take place at Players by the Sea Theatre, 106 Sixth St. N., Jacksonville Beach.



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Dear Fellow Citizens,

Serving as a law enforcement officer for the past 35 years here in St. Johns County (four years as Chief of Police and 12 years as Sheriff) has truly been an honor. When I moved here from Massachusetts at the age of 19 and began my career working in construction, little did I know of the journey to come.

Once again, I seek your support to serve as your Sheriff. You have elected me to this office three times, and each time I have reinforced the original commitment I made to you: to do everything in my power to deter crime in our county, and when it occurs, to find those responsible and bring them to justice. I also committed to always do the right thing for the right reasons and to pay special attention to our most vulnerable citizens: our youth and our elderly. My final commitment was to be honest and forthright in all my efforts and to make decisions based on what I felt was right at the time, absent of any malice or political expediency. Once again, I affirm these commitments.

During the past 12 years at the Sheriff's Office, we have made tremendous progress in many areas, and because of this progress, our agency enjoys a sterling reputation statewide. Everything we have been able to accomplish has been because of the wonderful men and women who work at the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and because of our wonderful community.

I would be honored to once again receive your support and your vote in the upcoming election on August 30, 2016. Please free to call on me any time—there are several ways to contact me on this website, and I am one of the few Sheriffs statewide who has a published home phone number. Thank you and God bless!

David B. Shoar

Sheriff David B. Shoar



St. Johns County Sheriff David B. Shoar

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Sheriff Shoar established the St. Johns County Cyber Crime Unit to target individuals trafficking online in child pornography. To date, the Cyber Crime Unit has arrested nearly fifty offenders.

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Political advertisement paid for and approved by David Shoar, Republican, for St. Johns County Sheriff.

Recorder exhibits works of First Coast Artists

By Jennifer Logue

Local artist Bob Nickerson gestures to his painting, titled "Yankees Legends," that graces the walls of the Ponte Vedra Recorder's offices.

The painting depicts pinstripe legends Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra and Roger Maris – an odd choice of subject for a Massachusetts native and later Maryland resident who rooted for the Yankees' arch rivals, the Red Sox and the Baltimore Orioles.

"I painted it for a good friend of mine who was a big Yankees fan," Nickerson recalls. "I was going to surprise him with it. But he became ill suddenly and passed away before he saw it."

Nickerson's painting is just one of the many works of art produced by members of his group, First Coast Artists, that adorns the Recorder offices. From seascapes and still lifes to a portrait of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, the eclectic collection highlights the diverse talents of the group's members. And like Nickerson's Yankees painting, each one has a story behind it.

Artists and friends

Nickerson credits local artist and teacher Gene Barber with the formation of First Coast Artists.

"Gene was an excellent teacher," he says, adding that a group of artists had been meeting weekly with Barber for 15 or 20 years. "We were all taking classes with him at the beach or wherever we could gather and we became very close."

Then about eight years ago, Barber was diagnosed with cancer and died. Far from being the end of the group, though, Barber's passing led to the more formal founding of First Coast Artists.

"Before he died, Gene made a point of saying he hoped we would stay together," Nickerson says. "Besides, we had all become such good friends!"

Since then, anywhere from 10 to 200

artists gather each Thursday at a church hall in Neptune Beach to paint and socialize. "The group was designed so we can paint together, share ideas and share the common knowledge of our background."

In addition to welcoming the public to its offices during regular business hours to view the group's works, the Recorder has exhibited the artworks at special events.

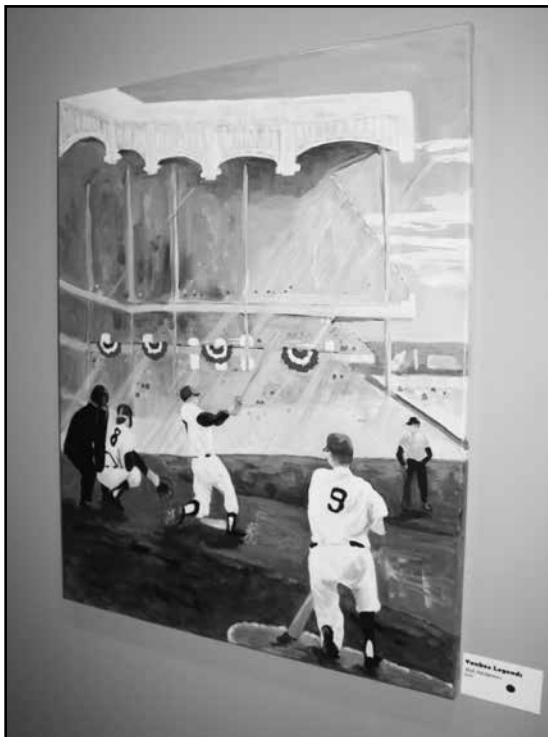
"The Recorder has been very, very nice to us," Nickerson said. "When they've had events or held exhibits, the cost has been borne by the newspaper, which is wonderful."

The group also has exhibited its works at community and church events, while individual members have shown their works in juried

exhibits and other art shows.

Nickerson is quick to note, however, that the primary goal of First Coast Artists members is sharing their works, not selling them.

"It was never designed to be a business," he says, "but to show the art of our members. If a member should happen to sell a painting, that's just icing on the cake."



"Yankees Legends" by Bob Nickerson



Photos by Jennifer Logue



"The Blue Boat" by Helen Moody



Bob Nickerson with artwork

Beaches Chabad seeks local names of 9/11 victims to honor during food festival

Chabad at the Beaches will hold its fourth Kosher Food Festival next month, and because this year's event falls on Sept. 11, organizers are seeking the names of local 9/11 victims to honor during a brief memorial service at the event.

Individuals who lost a friend, family member or loved one during the 9/11 attacks are invited to submit the person's name for recognition at the memorial service, which will be held at noon Sept. 11 at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach as part of the food festival. All names submitted will be read aloud during the memorial ceremony.

Names may be submitted to leah@chabadbeaches.com through Sept. 5.

To be held from noon to 3 p.m., the kosher food festival will feature a wide array of culinary offerings from such

countries as Argentina, Israel, Germany, Japan and Spain. Chef Masha Hleap – owner and top chef of Atlanta restaurant FuegoMundo – will also be on hand to offer gourmet Latin cuisine that is suitable for both meat-lovers and vegetarians.

Organizers said previous food festivals have drawn record crowds, so the decision was made to move the event to the cultural center in order to accommodate more attendees.

Admission to the kosher food festival is \$3 per person; those who register two or more people in advance at www.Kosher-FoodFest.com will receive a free ticket. There is an additional charge for food at the festival.

For more information, call (904) 543-9301.



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Thursday, Aug. 11	Friday, Aug. 12	Saturday, Aug. 13	Sunday, Aug. 14
<p>Mayport exhibit opening The Beaches Museum and History Park will present a new exhibit: "Mayport Village: On the River of Change." The opening reception will be held Thursday, Aug. 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. The evening will include a first look at the exhibit, steamed shrimp and a chance to meet the people who made the exhibit possible. The event is free to Museum members with a \$5 suggested donation for non-members. The museum is located at 381 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 241-5657 or visit www.beachmuseum.org.</p> <p>Concerts in the Plaza The 2016 Concerts in the Plaza summer music series continues Aug. 11 with a performance by Big Pineapple live at 7 p.m. at Plaza de la Constitución, 22 Cathedral Place, St. Augustine. The concerts continue every Thursday through Sept. 1. All concerts are free. For more information, call (904) 825-1004 during weekday office hours or visit www.concertsintheplaza.com.</p> <p>Life Enrichment Group The Life Enrichment Group is a program designed for those with memory changes who like to stay active mentally, physically and socially while allowing caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. This program is offered weekdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ashford Court, 1700 The Greens Way in Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 568-8174, or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com.</p> <p>Mental Health Recovery Support Free mental health support is available to the public facilitated by Georgia/Florida Certified Peer Specialist Whitney Bolin. Sessions are by appointment only Monday through Friday; call (770) 403-4991 or email whitneybat76@gmail.com. Bolin also facilitates a mental health recovery group at Flagler Hospital from 2 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday.</p>	<p>Cultural Center's 'Friends for the Arts' Become a "Friend." The Cultural Center recently recreated a new volunteer organization dedicated to supporting the arts. Get involved in the arts by joining a team of fellow art supporters in 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. More than 50 volunteer art supporters have already joined. Make a difference in our community. For more information visit www.ccpvb.org/friends-for-the-arts.</p> <p>'The Last 5 Years' Limelight Theatre presents "The Last 5 Years," a contemporary musical on stage now through Aug. 21. For tickets, call (904) 825-1164 or visit www.limelight-theatre.org.</p> <p>Travel Training Program The Council on Aging's Travel Training program is designed to assist seniors in learning to ride the Sunshine Bus. Residents interested in expanding their transportation options or who would like to increase their confidence as a bus rider can receive assistance from trained volunteers in navigating routes, reading time tables and making transfers. Contact the mobility manager at the Council on Aging at (904) 315-6505 or email karnold@stjohnscoa.com.</p> <p>Friday Wine Tasting Coastal Wine Market will host a Friday Wine Tasting Aug. 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B, Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p> <p>'Memphis' at Players by the Sea Players by the Sea will perform the summer musical "Memphis" on the Mainstage through Aug. 13. General admission is \$28; Thursday night is student night, with half-price tickets at the door with a valid student ID. Players by the Sea is located at 106 Sixth St. N., Jacksonville Beach. For tickets, call (904) 249-0289 or visit www.playersbythesea.org.</p>	<p>Katz 4 Keeps Adoption Days Katz 4 Keeps adoption days will take place Saturday, Aug. 13 and Sunday, Aug. 14 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Katz 4 Keeps, 935B A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach (next to Sherwin Williams). For more information, call (904) 834-3223 or email katz4keeps.org. Katz 4 Keeps, an all-volunteer, 501 c 3 nonprofit organization, is looking for adults 18 or older to become members of its clean and feed program that ensures the shelter's rescue cats, kittens and facility have the best of care. For more information, please contact Peggy Hatfield, program coordinator, at peggyhatfield63@comcast.net</p> <p>Sir Walter Scott 245th Birthday Party Join the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library Saturday, Aug. 13 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a Sir Walter Scott 245th Birthday Celebration. Scott was a historical novelist, playwright and poet best known for his novels "Ivanhoe" and "Rob Roy." The party begins at 11 a.m. with the silent-era film "Lady of the Lake" based on his poem of the same name. Then stay for a discussion of the film and the author's life, followed by lunch at 1 p.m. The party ends with a round of Scottish country dancing beginning at 2 p.m. The library is located at 101 Library Blvd. For more information, call (904) 827-6950 or visit www.sjcpls.org.</p> <p>Boutique Wine Tasting Coastal Wine Market will host a boutique wine tasting with wine aficionado Tony Tirello Saturday, Aug. 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. Taste six wines for \$10. Coastal Wine Market is located at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B, Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p> <p>Family Seining Activity The GTM Research Reserve will host family seining from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Join staff and/or volunteers for a guided family seining activity. All necessary gear, including waders and boots, will be provided. There is a \$3 per vehicle parking fee. The event is free. Meet the guides at Guana Dam Recreational Area. For more information, call (904) 823-4500 or visit https://gtmresearchreserveexplorations.eventbrite.com to reserve a spot online.</p>	<p>'An American Tail' The Florida Theatre presents "An American Tail," Sunday, Aug. 14 at 2 p.m. as part of the theatre's Summer Movie Classic Series. A young mouse named Fievel Mousekewitz and his family emigrate from Russia to the United States by boat after their home is destroyed by cats. Tickets are \$7.50. Visit www.floridatheatre.com to purchase tickets or call (904) 355-2787 for more information. The Florida Theatre is located at 128 E. Forsyth St., Jacksonville.</p> <p>An Evening with Ray LaMontagne The St. Augustine Amphitheatre presents An Evening with Ray LaMontagne Sunday, Aug. 14. Gates open at 6 p.m.; show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$30 and are available at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and St. Augustine Amphitheatre box offices, ticketmaster.com and all Ticketmaster outlets or by phone at (800) 745-3000. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre is located at 1340C A1A S., St. Augustine</p> <p>Practice with Purpose at Big Fish Yoga Practice with Purpose is an all-level yoga class offered on Sundays from 4 to 5 p.m. at Big Fish Power Yoga. The fee for the class is a \$5 cash donation that goes to the charity that Big Fish Power Yoga has selected for the quarter. Big Fish Yoga is located in the South Beach Regional Shopping Center in Jacksonville Beach at 3852 South Third St. For more info, call (904) 372-0601.</p> <p>Collection Tour Join the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens on Sundays for a guided tour of its permanent collection. The tour is free with the cost of admission. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.</p> <p>Annual Activity Member Become an Annual Activity Member at The Players Community Senior Center. Membership includes discounts on fee-based classes, designated events and Coastal Travel along with complimentary participation in a wide variety of scheduled activities. Call Darlene Mahany at (904) 280-3233 for more information.</p>

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Monday, Aug. 15	Tuesday, Aug. 16	Wednesday, Aug. 17	Thursday, Aug. 18
<p>Caregiver Support Group The Players Caregiver Support Group meets every Monday from noon to 1 p.m. at The Players Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Kimberly Weir of Heartland Hospice facilitates a weekly discussion of current concerns and issues of caregivers. For more information, call (904) 280-3233.</p> <p>Darwin & Dinosaurs The Museum of Science and History (MOSH) presents Darwin & Dinosaurs now through Sept. 5 at MOSH located at 1025 Museum Circle, Jacksonville. The exhibition features full-size dinosaur skeletons, scientific instruments, original letters and first editions of Darwin's main works, including "On the Origin of Species." For more information, call (904) 396-MOSH or visit www.themosh.org.</p> <p>First Coast Plein Air Painters exhibition The First Coast Plein Air Painters will have its Summer Members' Exhibition and Sale through Sept. 2 at The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, 50 Executive Way. For more information, call (904) 304-9631 or visit www.ccpvb.org.</p> <p>Habitat for Humanity volunteers Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County is currently seeking qualified homeowners. Habitat does not give away homes for free. Instead, homeowners pay an affordable monthly mortgage payment and Habitat helps build them a simple, decent place to live. For more information on volunteering, donating or qualifying for a Habitat home, visit habitatstjohns.org.</p> <p>Sunshine Center Volunteers The adult day center located in the Coastal Community Center is seeking creative volunteers to assist with simple arts and crafts projects with seniors Mondays through Fridays from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Call (904) 209-3686 for more information.</p>	<p>Board of County Commission meeting The St. Johns County Board of County Commission meets the first and third Tuesdays each month at 9 a.m. in the St. Johns County Auditorium, located at 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine. The board reserves the right to cancel and or change the meeting schedule as needed. Most public hearings for the County Commission will be advertised for 9 a.m. Contact Katie Sapp at (904) 209-0533 with questions regarding the agenda. For more information, visit www.co.st-johns.fl.us/Calendars+/index.aspx</p> <p>Free Bridge Lessons Free beginning bridge lessons are available at the Jacksonville School of Bridge, 3353 Washburn Road., Jacksonville Beach on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Lessons start 9:30 a.m. and end at 10:15 a.m. This is followed by an actual game at 10:30 a.m. and ends by 2:15 p.m. Contact Burt O'Dell at (352) 428-1075 for more information.</p> <p>Sunset Rotary Club weekly 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>Arbor Terrace Life Enrichment Group The Life Enrichment Group Day Program takes place every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra, 5125 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. The group is designed for those with memory changes who would like to stay active mentally, physically and socially. For more information, call (904) 497-4346 or visit www.at-pontevedra.com.</p> <p>Tapas Tuesday The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Café. Every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on the Cummer Café patio, take in the sunset while listening to local musicians with beer, wine, or artfully-inspired tapas for sale at the café. For more information, visit www.cummermuseum.org.</p>	<p>Chamber at Noon The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division Chamber at Noon will be held Wednesday, Aug. 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sawgrass Beach Club, 9797 Summer Place, Ponte Vedra Beach. The speaker will be Richard Goldman, president and CEO of St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors and Convention Bureau. The cost is \$25 for members; \$30 for non-members. To register, visit www.stjohnscountychamber.com.</p> <p>Afternoon Insight: Sea Turtles The GTM Research Reserve invites the public to join them Wednesday, Aug. 17 from 3 to 4 p.m. to learn more than you ever wanted to know about sea turtles. To register for the event, call (904) 823-4500 or visit www.gtmnerr.org/visit/events to register online.</p> <p>PV Professionals Networking Group The Ponte Vedra Professionals Networking Group meets the second, third and fourth Wednesday of the month from noon to 1 p.m. The first Wednesday of the month, the group hosts an after-work social mixer. Meeting locations vary; for more information, call Dave at (904) 248-9871 or visit www.pvpng.com.</p> <p>Ponte Vedra Toastmasters The Ponte Vedra Toastmasters Club offers opportunities for developing your leadership and communication skills. The group meets Wednesdays at The Players Community Senior Center, located at 175 Landrum Lane, Ponte Vedra Beach. The meeting starts promptly at 7:30 a.m. Contact Carmen J. Sardiñas at (904) 382-3303 or contact-5199@toastmastersclubs.org for more information.</p> <p>Music by the Sea concert series The Music by the Sea concert series takes place every Wednesday through Oct. 12, 2016 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the St. Augustine Beach Pier, 350 A1A Beach Blvd. On Aug. 17, Amy Alysia & Soul Operation will perform. The concerts are free; guests can purchase a dinner plate for \$10 from the sponsoring restaurant. Food is served at 6 p.m. and the music starts at 7 p.m. For more information, call (904) 347-8007 or visit www.augustine.com/event/music-sea.</p>	<p>Concerts in the Plaza The 2016 Concerts in the Plaza summer music series continues Aug. 18 with a performance by The Grapes of Roth live at 7 p.m. at Plaza de la Constitución, 22 Cathedral Place, St. Augustine. The concerts continue every Thursday through Sept. 1. All concerts are free. For more information, call (904) 825-1004 during weekday office hours or visit www.concertsintheplaza.com.</p> <p>'Smokey Joe's Café' Alhambra Theatre & Dining presents "Smokey Joe's Café" now through Sept. 4. The theatre is located at 12000 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville. For tickets, call (904) 641-1212 or visit www.alhambrajax.com.</p> <p>North Beaches Art Walk The North Beaches Art Walk will be held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Atlantic and Neptune Beaches Town Center. For more information, call First Street Gallery at (904) 241-6928 or Archway Framing and Gallery at (904) 249-2222 or visit www.nbaw.org.</p> <p>Grief support group A Grief Support Group meets on the third Thursday of every month at St. Paul's Catholic Church, in the library of the Family Life Center, 578 First Ave. N., Jacksonville Beach. The group is for men and women who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. The next meeting will be on Thursday, Aug. 18 at 7 p.m. For information, call Kathy at (904) 553-8933 or Catherine at 247-0665.</p> <p>For the Love of Driving Volunteer drivers are needed to assist seniors in achieving their mobility goals in St. Johns County. Transportation needs range from trips to the grocery store and classes to spousal hospital visits or social activities. Contact the mobility manager at the Council on Aging, (904) 315-6505, or email katie.arnold@stjohnscoa.com.</p> <p>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to carrie@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</p>

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Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty raises more than \$800 for Mission House through community yard sale

More than \$800 was raised in support of Mission House's continued efforts at a recent community yard sale hosted by Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty.

Held July 30 in the parking lot of the Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty Beach office in Ponte Vedra, the event was a success thanks to Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty realtors' dona-

tions and the community support of the event, according to Carole Bayer, a CBV Cares board member.

Bayer said the company is thrilled that together with the community, they raised the amount they did on behalf of Mission House.

Each year, Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty selects a local cause to support under their CBV Cares program. This year, Mission House was selected because of its efforts on behalf of the homeless in the beaches area, Bayer said.

Located at 800 Shetter Ave. in Jacksonville Beach, Mission House is the only day facility that serves the Beaches homeless community, providing clients with food, cloth-

ing and support seven days a week. In addition to hot meals, Mission House offers showering facilities and toiletries, a change of clothing, haircuts, spiritual services and medical care through the Mission House Clinic. Clients are paired with case managers, who provide one-on-one assistance and develop a program aimed to restore the client's independence.



Photo courtesy of Carole Bayer
CBV Cares Chairperson Cindy Nordman with CBV Cares committee members Eva Davis and Carole Bayer

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Benghazi memorial tribute Sept. 10

Friends of Ambassador Stevens to speak at tribute to Benghazi victims

Gen. Thomas McNerney, security expert Clare Lopez and personal friends of the late U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens will be among the guest speakers at a special Northeast Florida memorial tribute to the four Americans killed in the Benghazi attack on Sept. 11, 2012. The public is invited to attend this memorial service.

Organized by the Northeast Florida Benghazi Tribute Planning Team, the memorial tribute will be held on Saturday, Sept. 10 at 3 p.m. at the Times Union Center for the Performing Arts in

Jacksonville. In addition to musical selections performed by patriotic chorus Let Freedom Sing and the Lifesong Ministry Team, the service will include military honors to remember the lives of Stevens, veteran Navy SEAL Tyrone Woods, veteran Navy SEAL Glen Doherty, and veteran Information Officer Sean Smith, who were killed in the attack.

A special highlight of the memorial service will include remarks from members of the Citizens' Commission on Benghazi. In addition to the key speak-

ers, Stephanie Jason and Capt. Ryman Shoaf, USN, Ret. – personal friends of the late Ambassador Stevens – will offer remarks.

Established in July 2013, the Citizens' Commission on Benghazi was comprised of more than a dozen high-ranking retired U.S. military leaders and intelligence officers committed to uncovering the truth on many unanswered questions surrounding the Benghazi attack.

"We are honored that two distinguished members of the Citizens' Commission on Benghazi are traveling to Northeast Florida to join us for this solemn tribute," Team Leader Beth Heath said.

To reserve a seat at this memorial service, visit Eventbrite.com and enter "2016 Benghazi Tribute."

For more information, contact Beth Heath at (904) 705-6439.

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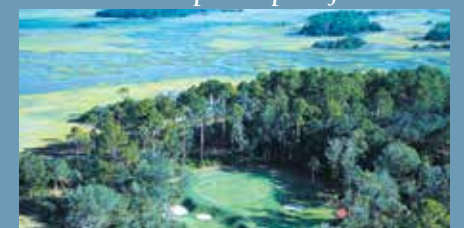
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Coastal Wine Market holds gourmet wine, pasta and cheese pairing

Coastal Wine Market & tasting room served up a selection of gourmet wines, pasta and cheeses at an intimate tasting event held Aug. 5 at the Nocatee shop.

Guests at the ticketed event enjoyed tastings of gourmet rigatoni topped with Italian Gerardo's Marinara and vodka sauces, accompanied by crispy Italian breadsticks and generous slices of parmesan reggiano cheese.

The gourmet food pairing event was just the latest tasting event offered at the new Nocatee wine shop and tasting room. Each Friday, the shop holds a wine tasting from 6 to 8 p.m. where guests can sample six wines for \$10. Guests also receive 20 percent off their first purchase of a bottle of wine with their tasting receipt.

In addition to the Friday evening tastings, this Saturday, Aug. 13 Coastal Wine Market will host a boutique wine tasting with wine aficionado Tony Tirello from 6 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person and include samples of six wines as well as the 20 percent off discount on the first bottle of wine purchased.

Coastal Wine Market's next food and wine pairing event will be a gourmet grilled cheese and panini pairing class. To be held Saturday, Sept. 10 from 6 to 7:30 p.m., the event will offer samplings of panini prepared with gourmet breads and cheeses, and tips on pairing them with wines and beers to enhance the flavors. Tickets are \$30 per person and are limited to 20 people. To register, visit <http://tastingeventsatcwm.eventbrite.com>.



Coastal Wine Market Owner Steve Lourie pours wine for guests.

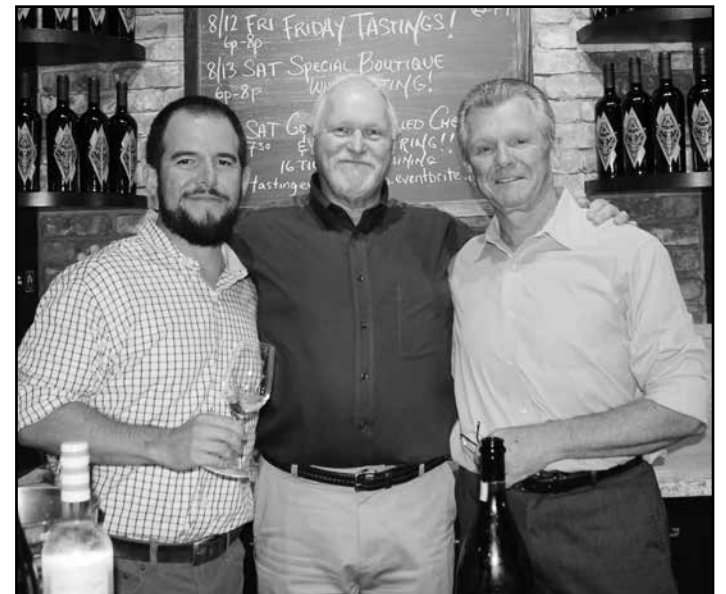
Photos by Susan Griffin



Gerardo's sauces and gourmet pasta



Italian panini with Gerardo's Vodka Sauce for dipping



Steve Lourie, Allen Horne and Dennis Mahoney



Italian wines for tasting



Crispy Italian breadsticks, parmesan reggiano cheese and assorted Italian meats

Ponte Vedra Auto Show Sept. 11

Annual event moves to Nocatee, to include 9/11 memorial service

By Jennifer Logue

More than 100 new and classic cars will be on display next month, when the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosts the 14th annual Ponte Vedra Auto Show.

To be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11, this year's auto show will feature up to 175 domestic and international automobiles vying for more than 30 trophies in such categories as Classic (20 years or older) and Post War (post-1945). In addition to the new location, this year's auto show will feature new categories for golf carts and vintage off-road vehicles, along with live music and family-friendly activities.

In recognition of the fact that this year's auto show falls on the 15th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, the event will begin with a brief ceremony honoring the lives of those lost that day.

"We will be paying special tribute to our U.S. military and first responders," said SJC Chamber President Isabelle Rodriguez, who thanked presenting sponsor Fields Auto Group for their support for this year's event.

"This will be an exciting event showcasing some of the best in the history of the automotive industry," Fields Auto Group Vice President Garry Redig said. "We are looking forward to a great show."

Automobile registration is \$35 per vehicle for pre-regis-

tration and \$50 per vehicle for day of registration. Pre-registration ends at noon on Friday, Sept. 9.

For more information, visit www.pvautoshow.com or contact the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach (PVB) Division at (904) 285-2004. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

The 2016 Ponte Vedra Auto Show is funded in part by the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council.



Photo by Jennifer Logue



Recorder file photo by Susan Griffin

M Shack holds Nocatee grand opening

A little rain couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of local residents last week, when the popular M Shack restaurant held its much-anticipated grand opening in Nocatee Town Center.

Local residents flocked to the event, which included live entertainment and the M Shack food truck on site at the new 2,400 square-foot location at 641 Crosswater Parkway. According to the M Shack website, the new Nocatee location seats 75 indoors, with additional patio seating for 50.

Owned by brothers Matthew and David Medure, the Nocatee M Shack is the latest "fresh-casual" restaurant in the company's eateries, which also include the upscale Restaurant Medure in Ponte Vedra Beach, Matthew's in Jacksonville and St. Augustine's new MBQue. The first M Shack opened in 2011 in Atlantic Beach, followed by locations in St. Johns Town Center and Riverside in 2013 and 2015.

M Shack's menu of burgers, dogs, shakes and fries – along with salad and sandwich options – has made the chain a favorite among First Coast families. The restaurant is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.



Sam Lee provides entertainment



Photos by Susan Griffin

Patrons enjoy a meal at the grand opening of the Nocatee M Shack.



M Shack owners Matthew and David Medure

Vilano hotel proposal

Continued from 7

that the modifications presented at the meeting were an attempt to be responsive to neighbors' concerns about traffic and impacts on quality of life.

"This is a work in progress," Avery-Smith said. "We hear those comments (from the public) and make adjustments. It's a direct

response to those folks in back who are concerned about traffic. It's a negotiation."

She also disputed residents' contention that the area is primarily residential, pointing to several restaurants along A1A.

"We've all been to Cap's, we've been to Aunt Kate's, we've been

to The Reef," she said.

As for traffic, she added, planned FDOT improvements to the St. Augustine intersection of May Street and San Marcos Ave. were expected to ease traffic backups over the Usina Bridge to Vilano Beach.

In the end, the majority of PZA board members said they were reassured by the studies conducted by county staff indicating that

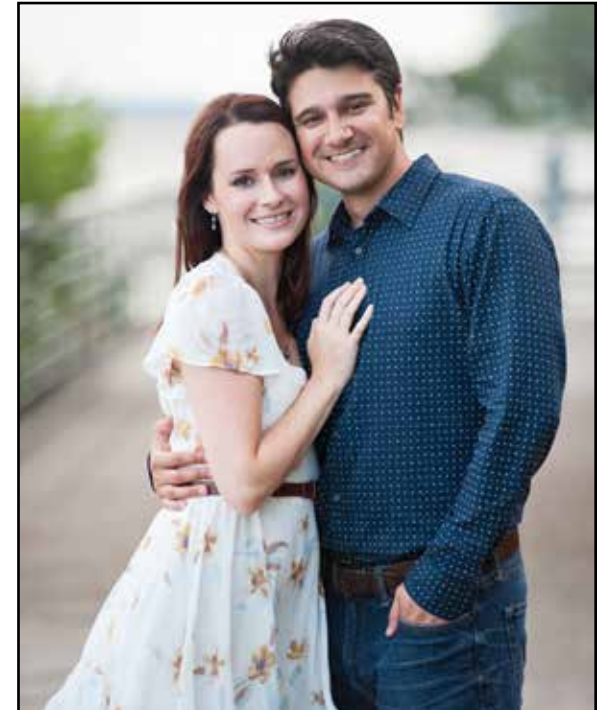
traffic increases would be negligible and the overall impact of the project positive.

"We all live in an area where we get frustrated by traffic," member Jon Woodard said, "but we have to rely on the experts."

Added PZA Chair Jeffrey Martin, "For me, it comes down to the tax revenue generated. (This project) creates jobs, tourism, a bed tax – those are all good things. We need those things."

The Board of County Commissioners is now scheduled to consider the matter at its Sept. 20 meeting.

Gropper - Johnston



Dr. and Mrs. Richard E. Gropper of Ponte Vedra Beach are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Richard F. Gropper, to Britney T. Johnston, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Gill Johnston of Fernandina Beach. The future groom is a graduate of the University of North Florida and is employed as a health care recruiter for Professional Placement Resources in Jacksonville Beach. The future bride is a graduate of Florida State University. She is a high school teacher with the Duval County Public Schools. A January wedding is planned.

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Local doctors create Zika prevention kit, warn of scenarios that attract mosquitos

Local doctors with urgent care provider American Family Care have created a recommended “Zika prevention kit” in light of four people in Florida having recently been diagnosed with the virus.

To assemble your own kit, the doctors recommend keeping the following protective items on hand:

Bug Spray: Doctors recommend using an EPA registered insect repellent with DEET, picaridin or oil of eucalyptus.

Clothing protection: Consumer Reports found “treating” your clothing is more effective than buying mosquito repellent clothing. Just spray clothing with permethrin that kills mosquitoes on contact with no harmful side effects, treating shirts, pants and socks at least 24 hours before wearing outdoors. Permethrin is a medicine and chemical used as an insect repellent and it is sold at local drug stores.

Yellow “bug light:” A yellow outdoor bulb does not repel bugs, but the American Mosquito Control Association says it will not attract them like some other incandescent lights.

Disinfectant wipes: Keep a package of wet, disinfectant wipes handy for sweat while hiking, exercising or doing yardwork. The body produces lactic acid during exercise and mosquitoes are attracted to it. Cleaning skin off before reapplying bug

spray will help repel bugs.

According to physicians with American Family Care, these four scenarios can also attract mosquitos:

Pregnancy: A study published in the British Medical Journal found women who are pregnant exhale more carbon dioxide, which attracts mosquitoes.

Perspiration: The body produces lactic acid anytime it sweats, which attracts mosquitos. Those who spend a lot of time outdoors can reduce lactic acid by washing with soap and thoroughly drying their skin after exercising.

Type O blood: A study in the Journal of Medical Entomology found people with type O blood were 83% more likely to get bitten by a mosquito. People with Type A were at the lowest risk.

Alcohol: Research published by the Journal of the American Mosquito Control Association suggests alcohol may raise the average body temperature a little, and that change in temperature may attract mosquitos.



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BEAM helps local children start the school year

By Jasmine Marshall

An estimated 800 children and their families filled the Beach Church of Jacksonville Beach Aug. 6 for the 23rd annual Back to School with BEAM event serving hundreds of children for their back-to-school needs.

From 8 a.m. to noon a selection of books, school supplies, clothing, and backpacks were available during the event, which provides essential items for Beaches children in low-income families to help them start the school year.

Back to School with BEAM was the culmination of the organization's summer-long collection of donations at several drop-off locations throughout the community. According to Christina Epstein of BEAM's communications committee, the items are essential for a number of reasons, not the least of which is giving underserved families the help they need to send their kids to school.

"It's a common misconception that there aren't a lot of people in the community that need the service BEAM provides here but that's not the case," she said. "There are lots of people who need help – families who are just trying to make a dollar stretch. And there's nothing wrong with needing help."

Shoppers Shaquanda Robinson and Elnora Martin heralded those efforts as they prepared for the school year, expressing gratefulness for BEAM's commitment to making the back to school process run smoothly.

"It's such a good experience and it's so great that the community pitches in and helps out with this much-needed service," Robinson said.

Martin agreed.

"I've got four children to send back to school so it definitely helps a lot," she said. "This event is heartfelt, it's caring and I look forward to it every year because I can see that they care."

It's a sentiment that rang true Saturday as many community members and long-time BEAM volunteers took to the

space offered by the church to help. Volunteers stacked a plethora of backpacks, organized racks of clothing and packaged bags stuffed with binders, paper and other supplies to hand out during the event, and Native Sun Natural Foods Market's Jacksonville Beach store provided nutritional shakes and snacks.

"Community support has been extraordinary, as it always is," said BEAM Executive Director Susan King, citing the help of the community and organizations such as Native Sun, Ponte Vedra Rotary, Oceanside Rotary and the Exchange Club as key players. "The help of the community is what truly makes this event – people donate supplies, clothes, time, food and all sorts of things to make it work."

King also realized the importance of giving children and families the options available at the "shopping" event, and making sure all schoolchildren can begin the academic year on equal ground.

"Every child deserves to start school on the same foot – with confidence, new clothes and feeling positive about the year," she said.

That vision hasn't changed since the back to school event's inception in 1993, according to its creator Karen Wolfson, past president of The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital and past chair of the Wolfson Board of Directors.

"We felt compelled to start it when BEAM first moved into a new office – there was no more room for the clothing but the children still had a need," Wolfson said. "It gave us the idea for the event."

At its start, Wolfson said, the event served approximately 250 kids with 25



Elijah Harrison poses with the book he chose.

Photos by Jasmine Marshall

volunteers; Saturday's event saw more than triple the amount of children and four times the amount of volunteers. Kids were given their choice of a new backpack, eight pieces of clothing, a \$15 Payless Shoes voucher, a pair of socks and underwear, and one book in addition to a bag of school supplies.

The most valuable thing of all, however, was the peace of mind afforded to the families helped by the program.

"It's fun for the volunteers and the shoppers and necessary because it really does influence the entire year," Wolfson said. "With the beginning of school starting, the purpose is



Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary President Michael Bruce, Paul Cosgrave and Clare Berry (Not pictured: David O'Brien, Kevin and Colin Flanigan, Ken Smith and Turner Street)



to pick children up so they can have a positive experience and to make things easier for families."

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Rotary, community groups host 'Beaches Health Jam'

By Jennifer Logue

Free health screenings, healthy food offerings and a host of fun fitness activities were just a few of the activities available last weekend at the Beaches Health Jam.

Held Aug. 6 at the Carver Center in Jacksonville Beach, the event was organized by Ponte Vedra Beach, Oceanside and Sunset Rotary clubs, and grew to include more than two dozen local community organizations.

"We wanted to do an event that would bring the St. Vincent's Mobile Health Unit to the community," said Oceanside Rotary Community Service Chair Christine Hoffman, noting that local Rotary clubs contributed funds to make the mobile clinic possible. "We're also celebrating 100 years of the Rotary Foundation this year and wanted to find a healthy way to celebrate that."

With participation and support from such groups as BEAM, Mission House, the Salvation Army and the Carver Center, the Health Jam offered attendees the chance to receive free blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol screenings. The event also included the distribution of healthy snacks, kids' activities, and demonstrations of line dancing, tai chi, yoga and Pilates. Local service organizations also had displays where they distributed free educational materials. The event was followed by a kickball game played by teams representing the participating Rotary clubs.

"This is a great way to celebrate the centennial of the Rotary Foundation," said Rotary District Governor Marshall Butler, who was on hand for the festivities. "Maternal health and child health are among the foundation's key priorities, and this is a perfect way to further that cause."



Paramedic and Rotarian Max Snyder conducts health screenings for Carolyn Sue Hines at the Beaches Health Jam. Photos by Jennifer Logue



Leaders from the Ponte Vedra Beach, Sunset and Oceanside Rotary Clubs helped organize the Beaches Health Jam. From left: Sunset President Janeene Hart, Oceanside Community Service Chair Christine Hoffman, Ponte Vedra Beach President Michael Bruce, Ponte Vedra Beach Community Service Chair Sherry Mahoney and Rotary District Governor Marshall Butler.



Line dancing demonstrations were among the activities at the Beaches Health Jam.



The St. Vincent's Mobile Health Unit provided free health screenings. Local Rotary clubs raised funds to make the health unit possible.



Jessica and Kathy DiSiena pass out lunch bags for the Salvation Army.

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Nease NJROTC trains 54 incoming cadets

Eight weeks ago, they were middle school graduates walking across the stages at Valley Ridge Academy, Pacetti Bay, Landrum and several other St. Johns County School District middle schools.

Now, the 54 students are graduates of Nease NJROTC's weeklong summer

Basic Cadet Training (BCT) program. Modeled after military boot camp training environments, the program required trainees to complete a demanding schedule of physical fitness, basic drill movements, and JROTC customs and courtesies, programs and opportunities. The week culminated with a field trip to

Naval Station Mayport in the morning followed, by a formal military-style graduation ceremony.

The training was led by Nease's senior cadets, most of whom participated in the BCT program as incoming freshmen when they first joined the program. This group, known as cadre, filled the roles of the drill instructors, safety officers, medics, operations, supply, athletics, administration and public affairs officers.

"As challenging a week as this was for the trainees, it was every bit as demanding for the cadre," 2nd Platoon Drill Instructor Cali Vaughn said. "I never fully appreciated that leadership required this much work!"

The 54 trainees were divided into four platoons that competed all week in a series of academic, athletic and drill competitions. Senior cadet Brian Swicegood's 4th Platoon received the

notable designation as Honor Platoon.

Two of the new trainees, cadets Anna Hampton and Nick Thoresen, received honors as the top incoming cadets for their overall performance during the week.

Nease NJROTC begins the 2016-17 year as the reigning Most Outstanding Unit in Navy JROTC Area 12, which encompasses 59 high school programs in Northern Florida and the state of Georgia.



Photo courtesy of Nease NJROTC Senior cadet Cali Vaughn trains her platoon in basic drill and marching during Nease NJROTC's Basic Cadet Training program for incoming cadets.

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Fourth installment in 'Greyson Gray' series debuts, targeted at young males

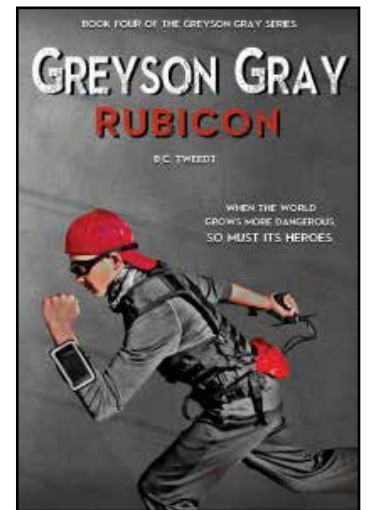
Teacher turned author and youth group mentor B.C. Tweedt debuted the fourth installment in his Greyson Gray series Aug. 9 with "Rubicon," a book exploring a variety of topics and themes targeted toward young male readers and aimed at getting them engaged in reading.

Centered on quirky boy-hero Greyson

Gray and his friends, "Rubicon" explores topics such as the relevance of present-day political and cultural climates, tolerance, division and terrorism in another journey to save the world. Though "Rubicon" maintains lightheartedness and humor that can be likened to "Indiana Jones" and "The Hardy Boys," the book tackles issues

such as dealing with the loss of a parent, betrayal, sense of self and finding meaning in religion.

In "Rubicon," Gray learn the ropes of ammunition, braves explosions and works alongside friends to fight terrorists and face an incredible threat that will challenge him in new ways.



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Magic show teaches kids to take a 'STAND' against bullying

By Carrie Resch

A sea of children, with their parents in tow, filed into the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library Aug. 4 to learn how they can take a “stand” against bullying at Magician Mark Alan’s magic show and have a little fun while they were at it.

Alan has more than 30 years’ experience as a comic magician, and had developed school-tailored shows such as “character counts” and “reading is magic.” Four years ago, however, at his wife Lorraine Stinson’s insistence, the two developed an anti-bullying show called “Take a STAND Against Bullying.” Stinson, who is the media specialist at R.J. Murray Middle School in St. Augustine and a teacher for 20 years prior to that, knew first-hand the importance of just such a show.

“It’s gotten so popular with the schools and the libraries,” Alan said, adding that he was surprised he hasn’t received a lot of requests from middle schools for his bullying show.

Alan said he does about 50 such shows annually, and this year in particular, he’s received a lot of requests from summer camps to come out and spread anti-bully awareness to campers.

For the past four years, the program has been a staple at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, funded by the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

“We think it’s so timely with school starting,” said Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library Youth Services Librarian Anne Crawford, who spoke to the

crowd of about 40 elementary school-aged youth and their parents prior to the show’s start. Crawford’s own daughter Lucy, who will be starting Kindergarten this year, was also in attendance.

“I myself was someone who was bullied as a child, so this particular magic show is very near and dear to my heart,” Crawford told attendees. “We want to give you the opportunity to learn ways to stand up for yourself as well as stand up for your friends.”

She also gave the children permission to do something that is generally frowned upon at libraries – yell.

“When the time comes to yell ‘stop’ in the magic show, I want you to yell really loud!” she said.

Crawford then went on to introduce Alan, who confidently strutted out to the theme song from the movie “Rocky” and immediately started to engage the audience. He asked for several youth volunteers from the audience to assist with a few of his magic tricks – which were used as visual teaching tools – as he educated the children about bullying. In essence, he made the quite serious message of bullying light and easily understandable to the target age group. His performance also garnered a lot of giggles – and not just from the kids. Adults were laughing and seemed to be having a good time as well.

STAND

There are three types of bullying, Alan told the children: verbal, physical and cyber-bullying. Alan was himself

a victim of bullying, an admission he shared with the kids.

The acronym STAND – the main component of the show – stands for “Stop, Tell, Ask, Nobody and Don’t.” That message was prominently displayed on the stage along with “say no to bullying” and “no bully zone” signs.

Alan told the children to put their hands out and yell “stop!” whenever a bully tries to approach them. The next steps are then to tell an adult and ask for help. Nobody deserves to be bullied, he said, so don’t be a bystander.

That message resonated with 8-year-old Izze Munoz, who was one of the children chosen to participate on stage.

“I learned that if another person is being bullied, don’t let that person be

bullied again,” she said.

Munoz attended the show with her grandmother, Joanne Lindsey, and her six-year-old sister.

Lindsey said that both she and the girls’ mother wanted them to know about bullying.

“We tell them all the time, don’t let anyone bully you; go tell somebody,” Lindsey said.

Alan agreed.

“Bullying is everywhere,” he told the audience, “from elementary school through college.”

The core message, he said, is unity.

“We have to stand together because there are way more of us than there are bullies,” he said.



Photos by Carrie Resch

Nicholas Zunno and Lucy Crawford join magician Mark Alan.



Keira LePage assists the magician.



Izze Munoz and Colson Aures lend a hand with the magic tricks.

YMCA campers take a 'trip' to South Africa

By Jasmine Marshall

Ponte Vedra's YMCA was enlivened with dance, music and stunts Aug. 4, when counselors, teens and preteen campers took a virtual trip to South Africa via Skype.

Under the direction of Campsite Director Ryan James, YMCA teen and preteen campers spent the summer preparing a talent show via Skype with the YMCA of Cape Town, South Africa. In a video exchange featuring a rousing rendition of the Cotton Eye Joe dance, the Cha Cha Slide, basketball stunts and a Rubik's cube challenge, the campers finished their performances to the applause of their new friends at Cape Flats, who shared their own dance routines with the Ponte Vedra group.

The exchange grew out of the Y's Super Summer Camp curriculum, which has "taken" the campers to a different

country every day. South Africa was one of the first countries the campers explored, and the one that stuck with them throughout the 10 weeks of preparation, James said.

"It was a country we'd learned about during the first week of camp and it turned into a mission," he said. "As we were learning about it, I realized how important it was to ... find a way to give the kids perspective and work past any misunderstandings they had about the region."

So, alongside James, the campers embarked on an assignment: to find a point of contact in a South Africa YMCA and connect with them. The goal was to present a cultural talent show where the campers share performances with one another. As the YMCA of Florida's First Coast, Inc. is part of an "Official National Coalition" with the YMCAs in South Africa, the connection made the most sense and it facilitated an opportunity for campers in different parts of the globe to communicate.

Arduous as it was to work through connectivity issues and time differences, the connection finally came when the Cape Flats campers filed

onto the screen, bridging the gap between Ponte Vedra and Cape Town.

The importance of the exchange, James said, couldn't be measured.

"I can't put into words how important it is for kids to be able to ... establish this connection with people from different cultures, different countries," he said. "The deeper an understanding you have about people who are different from you, the more you learn about yourself."

Ponte Vedra YMCA Member Experience Director Rick Hyman agreed.

"When you have a program like this you can look forward to being able to see how exposure to another culture and another world can help kids and see how many friends they make," he said. "It's been rewarding to see them learn and make this achievement throughout the summer."



Campers watch as Cape Flats YMCA kids show their own dance routine.



Campsite Director Ryan James smiles as the call connects between Ponte Vedra and Cape Town.



Ponte Vedra YMCA Super Summer campers greet Cape Flats YMCA campers after a rocky connection. Photos by Jasmine Marshall

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Youth of the Beaches Art Guild reunites for ABET fundraiser

By Carrie Resch

Champions of theatre arts in the Beaches community gathered recently for a reunion that was decades in the making.

Alumni and supporters of the Youth of the Beaches Art Guild (Y-BAG) reunited July 28 at a gala reception held at the Beaches Museum and History Park. Y-BAG was a Beaches-based nonprofit organization that offered a summer musical theatre program for youth ages 10-18. The program ran for 25 years, from 1980 to 2005.

“We actually came up with the idea in 1980 and there was really nothing for

the kids at the beach as far as theatre – you had to go to town to do everything,” says Judy Hulett, who founded Y-BAG along with Jane Bull.

Hundreds of children had the opportunity to participate in summer theatre at rehearsals and productions that took place in the evening so the kids could enjoy the beach and outdoors during the day.

“We would have anywhere from 50 to 75 in each production and everybody had a role,” Bull says. “It didn’t cost them anything. Toward the end, we did start charging a \$25 audition fee and that gave them a t-shirt and an ad in the



Photos by Carrie Resch

Y-BAG alum Hap Lynn with Amy Tillotson

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program.”

Although Y-BAG eventually disbanded, it certainly wasn’t the end of Beaches-based theatre arts. The Atlantic Beach Experimental Theatre will this year mount its 25th season. In honor of the milestone silver anniversary, ABET board members came up with the idea for an outreach program to reunite Y-BAG alumni – now grown adults scattered across the country – for a fundraiser and celebration.

The gala was followed by a Y-BAG Alumni Cabaret Show featuring the alumni themselves presented July 29 and 30 at The Foundation Academy. It was something that, as Bull pointed out, was a reversal of roles of sorts, where children of Y-BAG alumni got to see their parents performing in a show rather than the traditional role of parents watching their child’s production.

ABET’s 25th Season

Now president of ABET’s board of directors, Hulett said she is eager for the upcoming season, which reflects the theatre’s mission to bring the

Y-Bag

Continued from 28

excitement of live theatre to diverse audiences.

“We have an awesome 25th season,” Hulett says.

The 25th season of ABET kicks off Sept. 9 with “Merrily We Roll Along,” followed by “Macbeth,” “A Christmas Carol,” “Celebration,” “4,000 Miles,” and “The Hallelujah Girls.” Performances take place at the Adele Grage Cultural Center in Atlantic Beach.



Y-BAG Alumni Cabaret Show Music Director Laura Peden and Lee Hamby, show director



Y-BAG alumni Joanna Yeakel and Katie McCloskey



Y-BAG alumni Erin Rodriguez with Bella and Maria Rodriguez



Y-BAG alumni Chrissy Taylor with E.J. Taylor



Y-BAG founders Jane Bull (left) and Judy Hulett (right) with ABET founder Carson Merry Baillie

A1A Cocktail Trail serves up tourism with a twist

Eight restaurants and bars located along a stretch of State Road A1A from Atlantic Beach to St. Augustine have joined forces to launch the A1A Cocktail Trail.

At each location, patrons can enjoy original cocktails featuring fresh Florida orange or grapefruit juice and spirits from the St. Augustine Distillery. The A1A Cocktail Trail program was developed by the Florida Department of Citrus, St. Augustine Distillery and the St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors and Convention Bureau.

“We are excited about putting Florida on the map as a state that is creating some of the freshest cocktails by combining locally made spirits from Florida agriculture with the world’s finest citrus utilizing our long history of agriculture and sustainable production practices,” said Philip McDaniel, co-founder and CEO of St. Augustine Distillery. “Together, with the Florida Department of Citrus and St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra &

The Beaches Visitors and Convention Bureau, we are proud to promote the spirit of Florida.”

Participating bars and restaurants include North Beach Fish Camp in Neptune Beach; Ragtime Tavern Seafood & Grill in Atlantic Beach; Hoptinger in Jacksonville Beach; Cap’s On the Water and The Reef in Vilano Beach; and Odd Birds, The Floridian and A1A Ale Works in downtown St. Augustine.

A1A Cocktail Trail passports are available at Florida Welcome Centers and participating bars and restaurants. Participants who have a passport stamped at all eight locations can redeem it for a free collectible A1A Cocktail Trail t-shirt and branded wooden coaster set.

More information about the program is available at www.a1acocktailtrail.com.



Photo Courtesy of the St. Augustine Distillery

Amy Carpenter from the Florida Department of Citrus (left) and Kara Pound from the St. Augustine Distillery (right) visit with Matt Stevens (middle), manager of A1A Ale Works in St. Augustine, to unveil the new A1A Cocktail Trail program.

REVIEW Alhambra's 'Smokey Joe's Café' serves up one hit after another

By Jennifer Logue

If the names Leiber and Stoller don't ring a bell, chances are their songs will.

From "Hound Dog" and "Jailhouse Rock" to "Yakety Yak," "Stand by Me" and "Love Potion Number 9," lyricist Jerry Leiber and composer Mike Stoller were the creative team behind some of the most memorable songs of the 1950s and 1960s. Their rock and roll hits – infused with a heapin' helpin' of rhythm and blues – helped jumpstart the careers of everyone from Elvis Presley and The Coasters to Ben E. King, The Drifters and more.

In 1995, "Smokey Joe's Café" brought nearly 40 of the songwriting duo's hits to Broadway in a fast-paced musical revue that became the longest running revue in Broadway history. And the Alhambra Theatre & Dining's production, which opened last week, lives up to that record, offering a high-energy, fast-paced trip down memory lane in a show where every number is a hit.

The Alhambra's cast of five men and four women ably sings and dances its way through the Leiber and Stoller catalog, capturing both the innocence and optimism of the 1950s. Clad in



Photo courtesy of Alhambra Theatre & Dining

The cast of Smokey Joe's Café brings to life the popular songs of Leiber and Stoller.

SMOKEY JOE'S CAFÉ continues on **Page 32**

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The Nelons, Michael English to perform at Jacksonville gospel concert on Aug. 13

Grammy nominated recording artists The Nelons and Michael English will join other gospel artists for a performance at the Dinsmore Baptist Church Saturday, Aug. 13 at 6 p.m. as part of The Sing Tour.

Together, The Nelons and English represent more than 75 years in Christian music.

"It will be a lot of fun," Kelly Nelon Clark of The Nelons said. "Not only will we be singing the classics that have stood the test of time, we will also share many wonderful and interesting stories behind these timeless songs."

The musical ministry of The Nelons was formed after family patriarch, the late Rex Nelon, had already enjoyed a 20-year career as a member of the legendary The LeFevres. The Nelons have been singing hit songs and bridging the traditional sounds of gospel music with contemporary influences, that has been known to inspire listeners of all ages for decades. The group, which was recently inducted into the Gospel Music Association's Hall of Fame, has enjoyed much success as part of the Gaither Homecoming Tour and Video Series.

English is known as one of the most powerful communicators in Christian

music. As a young teen he sang with his father and brother, and shortly after high school graduation, joined his first full-time quartet, The Singing Americans. In 1985, English joined the Gaither Vocal Band. His popularity led to addiction and a spiral into depression that he chronicles in his autobiography, "The Prodigal Comes Home." After a life-changing encounter with God, English's career came full circle. Today, he continues to perform solo concerts, sharing the message of grace found through Christ.

In addition to The Nelons and English, the evening will also feature female vocalist Amber Nelon Thompson, who travels full-time with The Nelons. Thompson has established a solo career with multiple releases, and was named as the youngest Dove Award nominee in history by the Gospel Music Association.

Jeff Stice, a six-time recipient of the Singing News Fan Award for Favorite Musician, will also perform.

The Dinsmore Baptist Church is located at 10500 Old Kings Road in Jacksonville. Tickets start at \$16. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (904) 422-3163 or visit www.lifelineconcerts.com.



Photo courtesy of Writer's Ink Publishing, Inc.

The Nelons

Jacksonville Symphony expands program for young professionals

The Jacksonville Symphony has expanded its UpTempo program for young professionals.

Benefits include invitations to Monthly Member Experiences, four UpTempo concert vouchers, \$25 tickets to all Jacksonville Symphony concerts and discounts to Premier Symphony events in addition to receiving one year of the symphony's new Contributing Member benefits.

Additional changes to the program include the formation of a steering committee to assist in planning and hosting each of the membership events. This committee will include a membership chair and a host for each event.

According to Director of Patron Engagement Jennifer Behr, the new membership offerings are structured to provide better access for young professionals throughout the season.

"After the success of last year's program, our members shared extremely thoughtful feedback that inspired us to offer membership benefits to include more frequent and diverse opportunities for the young professionals of the area to connect and enjoy the Symphony," Behr said. "With these improvements, we are one step closer to building the next generation of Symphony enthusiasts and supporters".

Membership to the enhanced program will cost \$150 per person or \$225 per household. To register, email Membership@jaxsymphony.org, call (904) 354-4092, or visit www.jaxsymphony.org/UpTempo.

Monthly member events include:

Sept. 30, *The Rite of Spring, Opening Night*

Oct. 1, *Bachtoberfest, Beer Garden*

Nov. TBA, *UpTempo On Stage*

Dec. 4, *Hansel and Gretel, Pre-Concert Brunch*

Jan. 5, *Mozart and McGill, Symphony in 60*

Feb. 2, *French Connection, Symphony in 60*

Feb. 25, *Second City's Guide to the Symphony, Post-Concert Party*

March 2, *Haydn's "Miracle" Symphony, Symphony in 60*

March 17, *The Chieftains*

April 27, *Tchaikovsky's Pathétique, Symphony in 60*

May 20, *Mahler's Resurrection, Elevated Post-Concert Dinner*

YP History Happy Hour: Casa Marina Hotel & Restaurant

The Beaches Museum Young Professional group will hold a "History Happy Hour" at the Casa Marina Hotel Thursday, Aug. 25 from 6 to 8 p.m.

The event will include a history tour of the hotel – located at 691 First St. N. in Jacksonville Beach – and a cocktail in the The Penthouse Lounge. History Happy Hour is free to YP group members, \$5 for non-members.

The Beaches Museum Young Profes-

sional group provides members the opportunity to participate in events throughout the year including visits to historic locations, presentations by local figures and other opportunities to learn, network and socialize, all while supporting the Beaches Museum & History Park.

For more information, contact The Beaches Museum & History Park at (904) 241-5657 or visit www.beaches-museum.org.

Smokey Joe's Café

Continued from 24

retro-style bowling shirts for the men and vintage pinup-style dresses for the women, the cast seems right at home singing such popular tunes as "Dance with Me," "On Broadway," "Young Blood" and "Kansas City." The men's voices blend together particularly well on such songs as "Searchin'," "Yakety Yak" and "Charlie Brown," with Peter Jackson providing the basso profundo required for maximum effect.

The show's doo wop-style choreography is punctuated with ample amounts of humor, as the cast brings the stories behind such songs as "Love Potion Number 9" and "Searchin'" to life. The Alhambra production also features a good amount of cast-audience interaction, with guests being called upon to join in the fun. One such scene had the audience in stitches as a hapless male audience member found himself in the clutches of a song siren played to perfection by Dayna Richardson.

While the show's first act is more of

a straight revue – with the cast members singing and dancing to recorded music – Act II adopts a more theatrical feel, as the stage is transformed into Smokey Joe's Café, complete with a live band on stage and café tables where cast members act out the vignettes of the show's tunes. The second act also makes judicious yet effective use of reprises: When Sarah Sanders first sings "Fools Fall in Love" in Act I, for example, it is with all the joy and unbridled enthusiasm of one fully under the spell of a new romance. Yet when she reprises the number in

Act II while drowning her sorrows in Smokey Joe's Café, the song becomes a cynical lover's lament for the newly brokenhearted.

By the time last call rolls around at Smokey Joe's Café, the audience is singing and clapping along after an evening spent reminiscing to the soundtrack of their lives.

Smokey Joe's Café runs through Sept. 4 at the Alhambra Theatre & Dining in Jacksonville. For tickets or more information, visit www.alhambrajax.com.

Murphy wins Olympic gold

Bolles graduate wins 100-meter backstroke, sets Olympic record

Bolles graduate Ryan Murphy won the Olympic Gold Medal in the 100-meter backstroke Monday, winning in an Olympic record-setting 51.97.

Murphy came from behind to win the medal, garnering the gold and ascending to the podium, where he was joined by silver medalist Xu Jiayu of China and USA teammate David Plummer, who captured the bronze. The 21-year-old University of California-Berkeley student was scheduled to compete in the 200 back and on Team USA's 4x100 medley relay squad later this week.

Murphy's win followed the Gold Medal-winning performance of Caeleb Dressel, who along with Murphy was a member of the Bolles Sharks club. Dressel captured the gold in the 4x100 free relay.

Murphy graduated from the Bolles School in 2013 after participating in his first Olympic Trials during 2012. A six-time NCAA champion, Murphy is also a 15-time Florida High School Class 1A State Champion who set the national high school record in the 100 back in November 2012. In 2013, he was named National High School Swimmer of the Year.



Photo courtesy of UC-Berkeley.

World Golf Hall of Fame to hold induction ceremony in NYC during Presidents Cup week



The World Golf Hall of Fame & Museum will stage its 2017 Induction Ceremony on Tuesday, Sept. 26 in New York City in conjunction with the Presidents Cup, to be played at nearby Liberty National Golf Club.

"The addition of the World Golf Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony enhances what will already be an exciting Presidents Cup week," said Tim Finchem, PGA Tour commissioner and chairman

of the World Golf Foundation Board of Directors.

Jack Peter, president of the World Golf Hall of Fame & Museum, is also excited about the opportunity.

"The opportunity to align the biennial Induction Ceremony with the Presidents Cup in one of the most vibrant cities in the world is thoroughly in line with our objective to raise the profile of the institution," Peter said.

"The Presidents Cup captures a robust international audience, and we look forward to kicking off the week's celebrations with the enshrinement of another deserving induction class."

Venue details as well as the Induction Class of 2017 will be announced later this fall.

Last summer, the ceremony was staged the week of the 144th Open Championship in historic St. Andrews,

Scotland, where Dame Laura Davies, David Graham, Mark O'Meara and the late A.W. Tillinghast were enshrined.

Located in World Golf Village in St. Augustine, the World Golf Hall of Fame & Museum features interactive storytelling and exhibitions featuring artifacts, works of art, audio, video and photography significant to the history of golf and its members.

Ponte Vedra's Furyk makes PGA Tour history by carding 58

Pro golfer named 2016 recipient of Payne Stewart Award

Ponte Vedra Beach's own Jim Furyk made PGA Tour history Sunday, becoming the first golfer in tour history to card a 58.

Furyk's record-setting achievement happened Aug. 7 during the final round of the Travelers Championship at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, CT. After scoring a tournament record-setting 27 on the front nine, all eyes were on Furyk as he completed the round, garnering 10 birdies, an eagle and no bogeys on his way into the record books.

Prior to Sunday, Furyk, 46, had been one of just six golfers to ever score 59, joining that exclusive group in 2013 during the second round of the BMW Championship.

Payne Stewart Award

Just two days after making PGA Tour history, the tour announced that Furyk had been selected as the recipient of the 2016 Payne Stewart Award. Created in 2000 – a year after the legendary Stewart died tragically during the week of the Tour Championship – the Payne Stewart Award is presented annually to a professional golfer who exemplifies

Stewart's character, charity and sportsmanship.

Furyk was selected for the honor by a committee comprised primarily of past award recipients.

"I am incredibly honored to receive the Payne Stewart Award," Furyk said. "I was fortunate enough to know Payne as a colleague and friend, and I always admired the character and spirit he brought to the game of golf."

The award will be presented Sept. 20 in conjunction with the PGA Tour Championship in Atlanta. In addition to a sculpture by Bob Pack, the award includes an annual \$500,000 grant, with \$100,000 of that amount going to the Stewart Family Foundation and \$100,000 to The First Tee of the Ozarks (\$100,000). The remaining \$300,000 goes to a charity designated by that year's recipient.

Furyk has chosen to have the grant go to the Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation, the charity which he and his wife founded to aid children and families in need. Organizations that will benefit through the grant include Blessings in a Backpack, Community PedsCare, MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation,



Recorder file photo by Carrie Resch

the Monique Burr Foundation, Operation Shower and Wolfson Children's Hospital.

A Pennsylvania native, Furyk and his wife have been Ponte Vedra Beach residents since the mid-1990s.

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U9 Pretty Fierce 3v3 national champions



Recorder file photo by Carrie Resch

The U9 Pretty Fierce girls' soccer team recently won the 3v3 U9 National Championships held at the ESPN Wild World of Sports.

Coached by Frank Bunton and Sam Wooten, the team had an undefeated tournament season going into the championships. Competition at the national level was fierce, team members said, with the semi-finals going to Golden Goal (1st goal wins) in over-

time. In the finals, the team secured the championship with a 5-1 victory. The team only allowed four goals to be scored on them throughout the entire tournament.

The U9 Pretty Fierce team is comprised of three Ponte Vedra Soccer Club players – Abigail W., Olivia B., and Alia S. – and three Clay County Soccer Club players, Brooke B., Faith S., and Kirra D.

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Overcome cellphone, social media obsession, and win back the intimacy in your relationship

By Neil Rosenthal
Second in a two-part series



Neil Rosenthal
Columnist

Couples often want opposing things. They want a close passionate relationship with their spouse or intimate partner – and they want the instant stimulation and feelings of connection they get from social media. And all too frequently, those two desires are in opposition to one another.

That is, in order to get the rush social media, texting, emails, phone calls or live streaming offers, people often spend too much time on their devices and thus trade-off the closeness and intimacy of their relationship.

That, in a nutshell, is the dilemma facing an increasing number of couples. She wants to be with him, but he is focused on his Facebook connections. He wants to go to bed to be with her, but she wants the instant gratification she gets from her social media connections. She wants to talk, but he is streaming Netflix or Amazon Prime. He invites her for a hike, but she feels the need to frequently stop so she can check emails and the news cycle.

One of them increasingly feels they are playing second fiddle to their partners' device or social network. Add in the demands of work, family, children and everything else, and your partner may feel she or he simply isn't a terribly high priority to you. And frequently your devices distract your attention from each other, so that while you are together, you are elsewhere at

the same time. This leads to scattered conversation with poor eye contact and a sense of disconnection, so an increasing number of couples are dissatisfied with the intimacy in their relationship.

Here's what you can do in order to take back that intimacy. First, have a clear and straightforward conversation with your partner about any cyber-related rules you would like enforced. Perhaps you would like an agreement about when to shut off your devices, or a "no restaurant, no dinner table and no bedroom" rule. This would be the time to make such agreements with each other.

Second, increase the amount of quality one-on-one talks the two of you have with each other – with all devices off. A relationship needs time, attention and focus in order to deepen and feel close. Third, go out and do things with each other.

A walk in the park, a weekend getaway, a game of cards. All of those give the two of you comfortable ways to reconnect. Fourth, challenge yourself to find new things you would like the two of you to do together that would be interesting or fun.

Finally, be willing to give your partner the passwords to all your devices. You'll hopefully reassure him or her that your social networks are not intended to replace the relationship, and that you're not hiding any social connection that could threaten the relationship.

Neil Rosenthal is a licensed marriage and family therapist. He is the author of the bestselling book Love, Sex, and Staying Warm: Creating a Vital Relationship. Contact him at 303-758-8777 or visit neilrosenthal.com.

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9. June 6, 1944
13. Amnion, pl.
14. Le ____ L'eman, a.k.a. Lake Geneva
15. Sandy color
16. Watts events, 1965
17. Health resort
18. Remove lid
19. *TV chemistry teacher gone bad
21. *Varsity jacket decoration
23. Always, to a poet
24. Toward sunrise
25. Glide in Aspen
28. Fat and flour sauce
30. Kick the bucket
35. "____ Brinker, or The Silver Skates"
37. UPS competitor
39. Saint in Mexico
40. October stone
41. Opposite of heads
43. *High school student
44. Ancient Roman's garb
46. Half-man, half-goat
47. "All for one, one for all" sword
48. "Don't you ____ my blue suede shoes"
50. Tow rope alternative
52. Don't do this at home?
53. Part of air terminal
55. New Zealand parrot
57. *ABC, It's easy as 123, as simple as ____"
60. *Mirriam's wordy counterpart
64. *Begin, began, ____
65. *The state sets a minimum one to start school
67. Intense
68. Rekindled
69. Marbled bread
70. *Do this in math class
71. End of prayer
72. Basic unit of electric current
73. Plural of #62 Down

DOWN

1. Stay out of its way
2. Gulf V.I.P.
3. Mountain cap?
4. One tenth
5. Less taxing
6. Additional
7. *Geography classroom prop
8. Milan's La ____
9. Bad impression
10. Vegas cube
11. *Biology lab supply
12. Casual affirmative
15. Monument Valley landforms
20. Rainbow fish
22. Sixth sense, for short
24. Make reparations
25. *American Academy of Pediatrics' recommendation
26. On the fritz
27. Absurd
29. Sky defender
31. Assign PG-13 or R, e.g.
32. Incompetent
33. "____ clear"
34. *Miss ____, Matilda's teacher
36. Woman's underskirt
38. Lump in yarn
42. Above "Don't tread on me"
45. Powerfully persuasive
49. Viet ____
51. Sales lure
54. "Miss America's head-dress
56. British race track
57. Regard
58. Eye up and down
59. The Colosseum today
60. "Read'em and ____"
61. Desmond ____, apartheid opponent
62. Evening purse
63. Sales force
64. Lingerie staple
66. *PE

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