

# Ponte Vedra Recorder

*Not your average newspaper, not your average reader*

March 16, 2017  
Volume 47, No. 11  
75 cents

PonteVedraRecorder.com



The Gift of Giving

Pages 17-24



All About Pets

Pages 29-31



Panthers beat Sharks

Page 33



## GOING GREEN

Kilts and bagpipes were the order of the day in St. Augustine March 11, when thousands turned out to view the Ancient City's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Read more on page 24.

Photo by Jennifer Logue

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## Send us your news

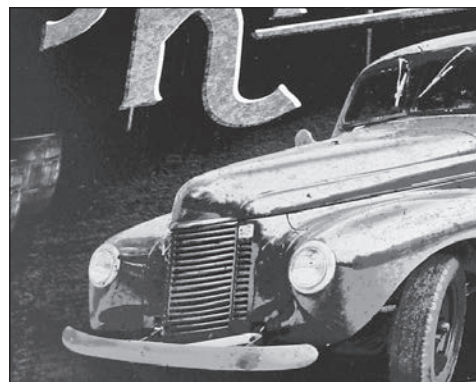
We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. E-mail submissions to **pvrecorder@opcfla.com** or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



Visit our website at  
**www.pontevedrarecorder.com**

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**www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder**

## WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

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

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

No one correctly identified last week's photo as the Cobalt Moon Center in Neptune Beach. Better luck this week, readers!

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



## ADOPT A PET

### CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Brittany! I'm an 8-month-old female kitten who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center as a stray. As this animal was a stray there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit us today here at the pet center! #36660



### DOG OF THE WEEK

My name is Bentley, and I'm a 2-year-old dog who is looking for a new home. I was brought in by my owners because they did not want me anymore. Please come visit me today here at the pet center. This dog is heartworm positive, and is sponsored by the nonprofit Friends of the St. Johns County Pet Center, which will sponsor the adoption fee as well as up to \$250 toward the treatment of the heartworms. #36947



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

## St. Johns County Pet Center

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

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

P	L	A	I	D		D	O	C		W	H	O	M
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T	E	S	T			S	E	A		Y	E	S	E

3	8	1	9	2	6	4	5	7
4	9	2	7	5	1	8	3	6
7	5	6	4	8	3	1	2	9
9	4	3	8	7	5	6	1	2
6	1	5	3	4	2	7	9	8
8	2	7	1	6	9	5	4	3
5	3	9	6	1	8	2	7	4
2	6	4	5	3	7	9	8	1
1	7	8	2	9	4	3	6	5

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

## Nature Connects®

Art with  
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Art by Sean Kenney

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May 7, 2017



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# Council on Aging to hold Annual Sunshine Golf Tournament March 31

The Council on Aging (COA) will host its annual Sunshine Golf Tournament March 31 at 1:30 p.m. at the St. Johns Golf and Country Club. The tournament's proceeds will benefit the COA Sunshine Center and Memory Enhancement Program assisting dementia and Alzheimer's patients and their families. The event will include a Captain's Choice tournament and a BBQ Buffet awards ceremony.

The cost of participation is \$100 per golfer or \$380 per team of four, with a buffet-only option of \$22. To learn more about the tournament or sponsorship opportunities, call Debbie Van Gemert at (904) 209-3684 or visit [www.coasjc.com/fundraising](http://www.coasjc.com/fundraising). The St. Johns Golf and Country Club is located at 205 St. Johns Golf Drive in St. Augustine.



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## COMMENTARY

# When the ‘free press’ isn’t free

By Jennifer Logue

A free press is one of the hallmarks of our society. But what happens when the “free press” isn’t free?

As a volunteer, I often write and distribute news releases in my spare time on behalf of local charities and nonprofits. Given my familiarity with newspaper standards and local media outlets, I find that helping these organizations spread the word about their activities is one way I can use my particular skills and talents to help them achieve their missions. And 99.9 percent of the time, these news releases are published in local media outlets with no problem – and at no charge.

So, it was with great surprise that I received an email from [www.HistoricCity.com](http://www.HistoricCity.com) in response to a news release I sent recently about an upcoming charity golf tournament. On its website, HistoricCity.com declares its editor-in-chief, Michael Gold, to be “a champion of the free press.”

But apparently to Historic City News, the news isn’t free. “Thank you for providing your press release,” the email said. “For the information to be published,

follow this link to our secure online order page and complete the form for a COMMERCIAL PRESS RELEASE.” (Their emphasis, not mine.)

That brief message was followed by a link whisking me to a page where I was instructed to fork over \$39.99 in order to have this nonprofit’s charity news shared on the HistoricCity.com website.

“We push all commercial press releases to our social media properties...,” the site read. “It all happens automatically when you submit your press release to Historic City News at the low price of only \$39.99. We accept VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover Card and PayPal to expedite publication of your message.”

In my 30-plus years in the media industry, I have never seen a reputable news outlet demand payment to publish genuine news of community interest, especially when it seeks to inform residents about fundraisers for charities and nonprofits. News releases are entirely separate from paid advertisements, and for a media outlet to insist on payment for news coverage is considered highly unethical. For if the press is to remain free, its news cover-

age should also be free of any financially motivated conflicts of interest.

“Thank you for your consideration,” I replied, “but we will instead rely on real newspapers to publish the information for free. As they should.”

The response from HistoricCity.com was swift. “Look, lady, you solicited us,” the email began. “We get your message in front of tens of thousands of our daily readers for \$39.99.... And, aren’t you a paid consultant? A little less self-righteousness would be appreciated.”

After correcting the erroneous assumption that I had been paid to distribute the release, I assured HistoricCity.com that I would do my best to alert unsuspecting nonprofits that the site’s practices are in fact considered unethical by all accepted standards of journalism. Our exchange concluded when HistoricCity.com directed me to “Remove our email address from your sucker list of potential free advertising sources....”

For the record, let me assure readers that the Ponte Vedra Recorder, like any reputable media outlet, does not charge to publish news of community events

that are of genuine public interest. While we cannot guarantee publication or exact placement in the paper of every news release or tip we receive, we do our best to share as much news about local events and happenings as we possibly can – and at no charge.

For those who wish to guarantee placement of their news and have approval over how their information appears, we do offer paid advertisements (and yes, we greatly appreciate the support of our advertisers). But there is no quid pro quo, no purchase required, to share what’s happening in our community. And there shouldn’t be. That’s why we’re here.

So, keep sending in your news, Boy Scouts! And that goes for you, too, churches, synagogues, schools, libraries, civic groups, sports teams, businesses, garden clubs, homeless shelters and all the other organizations that make up the rich fabric of life here in Ponte Vedra and the Beaches. We are eager to share your news. For free.

*Jennifer Logue is managing editor of the Ponte Vedra Recorder.*

## Traffic task force to present findings at April 25 public meeting

By Jennifer Logue

The results of a Ponte Vedra Beach traffic study will be presented at a public “town hall” meeting to be held Tuesday, April 25 at 7 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

The Citizens Traffic Task Force (CTTF) will join with traffic consultants from the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO) to present the study’s findings, along with recommended improvements to local roadways. The

CTTF-sponsored study includes all critical roadway systems from JTB to Mickler’s Landing and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Intracoastal Waterway, incorporating data gathered from the recent North Ponte Vedra Beach traffic study.

Following the presentation, the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and offer feedback on the recommendations.

“Traffic in our community has become everybody’s problem,” CTTF Chairman Garry Phillips said. “If you think that’s an

exaggeration, try driving into the Ponte Vedra Beach community any weekday afternoon from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. It’s wall to wall traffic on A1A, all the way from the JTB expressway to Solana Road.”

Founded in 2014, CTTF includes citizens and community leaders from throughout the Ponte Vedra Beach area. In addition to NFTPO, the task force has worked with St. Johns County and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to secure funding to study and

find solutions to the area’s increasing traffic congestion.

Jim Sabo, president of the Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition, said that local elected officials and FDOT representatives are expected to attend the April 25 meeting.

“We encourage everyone to come and bring a friend,” Sabo said. “This is the best opportunity to make your thoughts known and be a part of making near-term traffic flow improvements to a situation that is only getting worse.”

## SHORT TAKES

### The Adventure Project to present ‘Improvapalooza’

St. Augustine’s The Adventure Project will celebrate its one year anniversary Saturday, March 25 with “Improvapalooza,” a night of improv comedy featuring acts from Florida’s First Coast. The show’s lineup will include “Beastwood,” “It’s All About Amy,” “More Cowbell Musical

Improv” and street improv. The event will be held at the Corazon Cinema and Café located at 36 Granada St. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30 p.m. Entry is \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door.

For more information about improv shows, events and classes in St. Augustine, visit The Adventure Project website at [www.adventure-project.com](http://www.adventure-project.com).

### ToneVendor to present the Spring 2017 St. Augustine Record Fair

The Spring 2017 St. Augustine Record Fair, presented by local record store ToneVendor and the St. Augustine Amphitheatre, will be held Sunday, March 26 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre. This semi-annual record fair is a free, family-friendly event and

is open to the public. Music lovers and collectors are invited to shop thousands of music-related items, including new and used vinyl records, CDs, cassettes, posters, turntable equipment and supplies, memorabilia, collectibles and more. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre is located at 1340C A1A South in St. Augustine.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I attended the PZA hearing regarding the digital billboards issue. As I was listening to the board and the billboard industry speak, I realized that the billboard industry loved to create confusion around the details of how long the ads are, how long it takes to read one, how long it takes to be distracted, how long a distraction takes to lead to an accident, etc. When, in fact, all we really need to do is acknowledge them as the distraction that they are.

According to IT Strategies (A Boston-based digital printing consulting firm), in 2012, over \$25 million was spent by the billboard industry collectively to lobby for the allowance of electronic billboards. If they truly are not a distraction, then why do they need so much money

to convince us otherwise?

Car companies are utilizing “Heads Up Display” technology. BMW lists this benefit under their safety features and says, “One second is all it takes for you to take your eyes off the road to look down and see that you’re traveling at 60 MPH. But in that one second, you’ll also have traveled 90 feet – and a lot can happen in that distance.”

Volkswagen prides themselves on their “Heads Up Display” safety technology and states, “The driver’s eyes remain on the road, with the on-screen information appearing to be two metres in front of the vehicle. The advantage of this is that projecting alerts into the driver’s immediate field of vision...” They are using this technol-

ogy to better keep the driver’s eyes on the road ahead of them, not glancing on a display to the side.

Automobile companies are putting vital information, such as MPH or even driving directions in the line of vision of the driver. They know that even a one second glance away can cause a distraction.

No one argued over how long a text would have to be to be considered a distraction. These are just distracting tactics by the multibillion-dollar billboard industry to distract us from the fact that billboards are distracting.

Lisa Johnson Cook  
Ponte Vedra Beach

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Virtue in athletics

I personally witnessed something very amazing over the past four months. I believe many of us have concern about where athletics is taking some of our young people. Much of professional sports is plagued with greed, selfishness and a “win-at-any cost” attitude.

Athletics is about virtue, discipline, perseverance, self-mastery, Christian example and learning to work with others. These are all qualities the Good God wants us to develop, which are supposed to spill over into all other areas of our lives. Winning is “just” a byproduct from

doing it for the right reason.

Well, the Providence girls’ high school basketball team is a great example of this. Not blessed with the greatest talent, they grew and developed in all the qualities above. They won close game after close game with exemplary teamwork and a refreshing joy in their demeanor, as they marched to a record of 27-0 before losing in the state championship game. But if one was to observe the post-game festivities, you would wonder if Providence was victorious, as all the girls had smiles on their faces as

they congratulated the other team.

The ultimate truth is that they were victorious. They had grown as a team to learn that virtue is the pinnacle of all human action and achievement – especially in sports. If one strives to live and model virtue, one must foster a certain detachment from the outcome.

“Hats off” to the Providence girls and coaches!

Peter D. Kuhlman  
Ponte Vedra Beach

SHORT TAKES

**World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX Theater to premiere “Tommy’s Honour”**

The World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX Theater will debut “Tommy’s Honour” March 27 to benefit The First Tee of North Florida. To be held from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., the screening will be one of only three premieres in the country. “Young

Tom Morris” general admission tickets are \$100 each and include a welcome reception with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, general admission seating, an introduction of the movie from the production team and the national premiere of “Tommy’s Honour.” The Old Tom Morris VIP package is priced at \$2,500 and includes a VIP

welcome reception with celebrity hosts Jim Furyk and Josh Scobee, cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, four VIP premium seats, an introduction of the movie from the production team, a chance to win a six-day golf trip to Scotland for four, guaranteed playing rounds to one of six cities selected by draft order and the national premiere

of “Tommy’s Honour.” For more information or to purchase tickets visit [www.thefirstteenorthflorida.org/ways-to-help/tommyshonour](http://www.thefirstteenorthflorida.org/ways-to-help/tommyshonour)

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TOP STORIES

Year in Review: New owners propose developing 40 acres of Ponte Vedra golf club

BREAKING NEWS

St. Johns County Christmas holiday office hours

COMMUNITY NEWS

St. Johns County to host "Tree-lighting" program

SPORTS

St. Johns County basketball team practices

PV2-LV36251



*Born in Gainesville, Laura Baugh grew up in Long Beach, California. In 1971, at 16, she became the youngest winner ever of the U.S. Amateur – a distinction she held until 2006. A Northeast Florida resident since 2015, the six-time LPGA runner-up and author of “Out of the Rough” now teaches golf at Sawgrass Country Club.*

# Laura Baugh

By Jennifer Logue

## What brought you to the First Coast?

The charming people and the beautiful beach! There is also a very knowledgeable population of golfers and challenging golf courses.

## You’ve enjoyed a long successful career in professional golf. What first piqued your interest in the sport?

I have always played golf. My dad played golf and whatever he did I wanted to do – I just wanted to be with him! I won a golf tournament at 3 years old, so I seriously mean I have always played golf!

## You enjoyed success in golf at a very young age. What are some of your career highlights?

I was fortunate to win many amateur titles, but the biggest was the Women’s U.S. Amateur at age 16. I turned pro at 17 and was Rookie of the Year on the LPGA tour at 18 years old. I played the LPGA tour for over 20 years, then I worked as an announcer with TV – including, CBS, ESPN and the Golf Channel for 10 years – and now I teach golf. So, there is not a question about golf I can’t answer!

## Has women’s professional golf changed since you began your career?

Ladies’ golf has increased in volume, and the equipment and course conditions have improved. That allows the players to hit it farther and have more shots – but talent in any era is talent. Great players would be great players regardless of which era they played in. It’s just a certain work ethic and natural ability.

## Do you think golf has gained in popularity among women?

Women’s golf has gained popularity but it has a long way to go! Fashions need to improve and we need to make golf challenging and fun!

## You now teach golf at Sawgrass Country Club? What are a few key tips you give to novice players?

Three things. 1) Develop a pre-shot routine. 2) Create a full backswing. 3) Transfer your power through. You do not have to lose distance as you mature; you can hit it farther than you ever have! It’s all about loading the right side (if you are a right-handed golfer).

## What do you enjoy most about living in Ponte Vedra?

The ability to make a difference each day. A walk on the beach puts life in the right perspective and keeps my priorities in the right order. Truly a blessing.



Photo by Jasmine Marshall





Photo submitted by Lacey Taylor

**Troop 288 scouts Josh Frantz, Parker Shannon, Andrew Brown, Henry Curran and Victor Manley recently attained Boy Scouts' highest rank, achieving the prestigious Eagle Scout rank.**

# Five attain Eagle Scout rank in Troop 288

Five local youths reached the pinnacle of scouting recently, attaining the coveted Eagle Scout rank.

Henry Curran, Josh Frantz, Victor Manly, Parker Shannon and Andrew Brown received the Boy Scouts' highest rank after years of working to complete projects on leadership, service and character. To achieve the Eagle rank, each scout completed a community service project. Curran collected, repaired and presented 16 bikes to residents of The Sulzbacher Center, while Frantz cleaned and landscaped the pavilion at the Clara White Mission, for which he also built a garden bench.

Manly created several sets of wooden corn-hole and Jenga games for three Ponte Vedra schools, while Shannon led a book collection drive for childhood literacy organization Books-A-Gogo, donating more than 3,000 books. Brown, meanwhile, poured a concrete addition to the front outdoor area at St. Francis House in St. Augustine, which serves the homeless population by providing access to essential services to help achieve stability and self-sufficiency.

Each scout also participated in countless hours of additional community service and earned more than 21 merit badges while developing skills in camping, cooking, fishing, hiking and more.



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PV2-LV36263



# Nease NJROTC places first in Northern Florida, Georgia for third consecutive year



The Nease NJROTC drill team celebrates winning the Area 12 Regional Championships.

Nease NJROTC won Area 12 Drill Championships for the third consecutive year March 4, besting the top 16 programs in North Florida and the state of Georgia and earning an automatic invitation to April's Navy National Drill Championships.

Nearly 60 NJROTC programs within Area 12 competed at local drill meets during the fall and winter with only the top 16 teams advancing to championships.

"This title serves as a reminder that hard work and perseverance pays off," Naval Science Instructor Gunnery Sergeant Duane Hanson said. "We competed against some incredibly talented schools during the competition."

The drill competition is a compilation of events covering marching drill, academics

and athletics. Nease placed first in color guard and armed basic drill, second in personnel inspection, overall drill, overall athletics and pushups and third in unarmed exhibition drill, academics, sit-ups and the 8 x 220 relay.

Several cadets also received individual medals for top performances. Erin Sass placed first overall in pushups and third in sit-ups, while Cali Vaughn and Lilly Short placed first and second in sit-ups, respectively.

"Having won the Area 12 Championships the past two years, we felt a lot of pressure to perform as well this year," said Cadet Battalion Commander Jacob Hunt. "We've got a close-knit group and really wanted another shot for a national title."

Photos provided by Nease NJROTC



Nease Color Guard members Erin Sass, Lucas Pels, Lindy Gosage and Ryan Berry compete at the Area 12 Championships.

Next up, Nease will attend the Navy Nationals April 7-8 at Naval Air Station

Pensacola to compete against the top 25 NJROTC units in the country.



Nease NJROTC Battalion Commander Jacob Hunt receives the championship trophy.

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Nease Unarmed Exhibition drill team competes at Area 12 Championships



Nease NJROTC took first place for the third consecutive year.



# Residents present plan to create 'Ponte Vedra's Central Park'

Group seeks volunteers to join effort to preserve 40 acres of golf course slated for development



By Jennifer Logue

Jake Bestic recalled his reaction the first time he saw the proposed plans to develop 40 acres of the Oak Bridge Golf Club as a continuing care retirement community with hundreds of units.

"I...was absolutely mortified at the thought of having something like this on this beautiful piece of land," Bestic said.

A local Realtor, Bestic lives in the Hidden Oaks neighborhood, which abuts the part of the golf course slated for development. Since learning of the plans to develop the land, he and his neighbors have launched a grassroots campaign to purchase the property in question from golf course owner Alta Mar holdings and preserve it as a community park and botanical garden. The group shared its vision with approximately 40 residents last week at a community meeting held March 7 at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Public Library.

The meeting followed a Feb. 6 vote by residents of Sawgrass Players Club to lift deed restrictions on the golf course, thereby enabling Alta Mar to move ahead with its proposal to sell the course's back 40 acres for development. At last week's community meeting, however, Bestic stressed that the Players Club vote was by no means the last word on the property's disposition.

"Nothing about this deal is set in stone," said Bestic, noting that it will likely take an estimated nine months to a year before Alta Mar works through the local regulatory process and the proposal makes it to the Planning and Zoning Agency. After holding public hearings on the plan, the PZA will forward its recommendation for approval or denial to the Board of County Commissioners.

In the meantime, Bestic and his neighbor, Frank Levene, are hoping to launch

an aggressive fundraising campaign to raise the funds needed to purchase the land from Alta Mar. According to Bestic, the Holland & Knight law firm is representing the group pro bono, working to draft an offer to purchase that would give the group a right of first refusal and one year to raise the funds needed to purchase the land. If the Board of County Commissioners approves Alta Mar's development plans, that cost could range as high as \$16 to \$22 million, observers estimate.

Those figures don't deter Bestic.

"It's doable," he said. "There's a lot of money in our town and there are lot of giving people in our town as well."

## Ponte Vedra's "Central Park"

Proponents of the park proposal say preserving the golf course land would fill a critical need for more open space in Ponte Vedra at a time when development continues to increase the community's density.

"We don't have any central gathering places in Ponte Vedra Beach, period," Bestic said, noting that many of the community's recreational areas are located in gated communities or belong to private clubs. The golf course land, he continued, "is the perfect spot for the public park we want and need."

Those sentiments were echoed by Deb Chapin. The District 4 representative on the St. Johns County Recreation Advisory Board, Chapin is the creative force behind the drive to create a Palm Valley-Ponte Vedra Greenway and Preserve that would connect Landrum Lane to Solana Road.

Noting that the PVPV Greenway project was in the process of forming strategic partnerships with other groups, including the National Park Service, Chapin said she believes the "Central Park" concept would support her initiative's efforts to preserve what little open space remains in

Ponte Vedra.

"The quality of life is really becoming a challenge here," she said. "We're very supportive of this potential opportunity. It's a need that has very critical timing."

Beyond the aesthetic and environmental benefits of a centralized park, supporters said, preserving the land as a park would prevent a new development from adding to Ponte Vedra's traffic woes and affecting local property values.

"As a real estate professional, I am very concerned about what the property values would do if the development were to come to fruition — not just the property values of homes around the golf course, but the property values of every home in Ponte Vedra," Bestic said. "As soon as our town starts to become known as the assisted living capital of North Florida, then we're in trouble."

While many attendees expressed enthusiasm and support for the proposed park, some residents wanted specifics on how its construction and ongoing maintenance would be funded. Others expressed doubts the money to purchase the land could be raised in time.

Realtor Cindey Nordman, however, said groups across the country have been successful in preserving valuable parcels of land as open space.

"This isn't something that's never been done before," she said. "This isn't an im-

possible dream, but it is a very hard one."

The next step, group members say, is to gain widespread support across the community. Organizers have already launched a website — [www.sawgrassvillagepark.com](http://www.sawgrassvillagepark.com) — where residents can learn more and sign a petition supporting the park proposal. The focus now, they say, is on spreading the word and gaining as much community support as possible to demonstrate the plan's popularity and viability.

"Jake has started a flame to educate all of us on what we can do," Nordman said. "But this has to be community driven — we have to take action."

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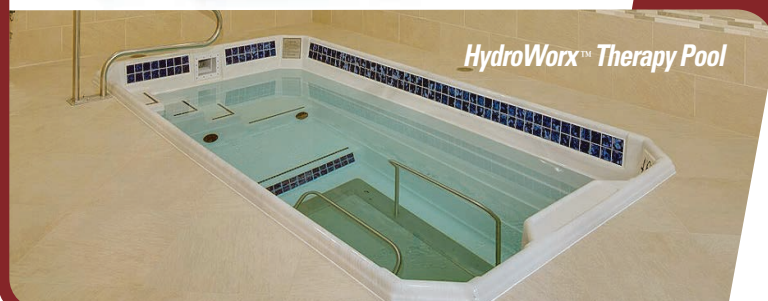
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Models display some of the fashions presented at the Sawgrass Women's Club luncheon and fashion show.

# Sawgrass Women's Club holds annual fashion show



The Sawgrass Women's Club held its annual luncheon fashion show earlier this week. Held Monday at Sawgrass Beach Club, the show featured looks from shops and boutiques modeled by local women.



Marina Vita and Ora Vella



Jill Fennessey



Joan Johnson and Elsie Jones

Photos by Jasmine Marshall





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Thursday, March 16	Friday, March 17	Saturday, March 18	Sunday, March 19
<p><b>Boardwalk Talk: Dr. Wayne Wood</b> The Beaches Museum and History Park will present a Boardwalk Talk with Dr. Wayne Wood March 16 at 5:30 p.m. Wood's lecture, titled "Mid-Century Modern Architecture: The Beaches' Amazing Legacy" will take place in the Beaches Museum Chapel. The event is free to museum members with a suggested \$5 donation for non-members. For additional information, contact the museum at (904) 241-5657 or visit <a href="http://www.BeachesMuseum.org">www.BeachesMuseum.org</a>.</p> <p><b>'The Mystery of Irma Vep'</b> The Limelight Theatre will present Charles Ludlam's satirical two-act play, "The Mystery of Irma Vep," through Sunday, April 2. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and at 2 p.m. on Sundays throughout the show's run. Combining elements of Victorian melodrama and dark romance into a comedy, the play sees werewolves, vampires, ghosts and mummies through a parodied horror show complete with special effects. Regular admission tickets are \$26. The Limelight Theatre is located at 11 Old Mission Ave. in the Uptown San Marco district. Free parking is available on the street and in the parking lot behind the theater.</p> <p><b>Pre-K Storytime Class</b> The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library invites all children ages 3 and older and their caregivers to a newly launched Storytime Class event from 11 to 11:45 a.m. With lengthier themed stories, singing, Shaky Egg dancing, fingerplays and Circle Time interaction that culminates in a craft that focuses on teaching scissor, glue, and coloring skills, this class is specifically designed for children who can sit independently. Call Youth Services Librarian Anne Crawford at (904) 827-6950 with any questions.</p> <p><b>Spring Break Magic Show</b> School-age children and their caregivers are invited for a special sports-themed magic show with magician Mark Alan. Join the library for its first annual Spring Break Magic Show, made possible by the Friends of the Library, on March 16 from 3 to 4 p.m. All children 10 and younger must be accompanied by an adult in the event for the duration of this magic show.</p>	<p><b>PV Professionals Networking Group</b> The Ponte Vedra Professionals Networking Group meets Fridays at 9 a.m. at Watson Realty Corp., 615 Highway A1A S., Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call Gloria at (904) 635-6103, visit <a href="http://www.pvpng.com">www.pvpng.com</a> or email <a href="mailto:pontevedrapng@gmail.com">pontevedrapng@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Anastasia Music Festival</b> The St. Augustine Amphitheatre will act as host of the debut Anastasia Music Festival to be held March 16-18. The three-day festival will be a celebration of bluegrass music suitable for the entire family, featuring a lineup of more than 20 artists including headlining act the Del McCoury Band, Elephant Revival and Joe Pug, among others. Ticket packages for the festival's three-day run are available and single day tickets range from \$50 to \$70. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre's shuttle system will begin its run 45 minutes prior to showtime. For more information about ticket prices event schedules and shuttle stops, visit <a href="http://www.anastasiamusicfestival.com">www.anastasiamusicfestival.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Garden Month at Cummer Museum</b> This March, the Cummer Museum will celebrate its annual Garden Month through a variety of garden-related activities, including tours, lectures, concerts, and art workshops for visitors of all ages. Garden Month is a celebration of the historic gardens built by museum founders Arthur and Ninah Cummer. Recognized by the National Register of Historic Places, the gardens are examples of a range of early 20th-century garden design.</p> <p><b>Live Music at Table 1</b> Table 1 at 330 A1A N will host Robbie Litt live starting at 7:30 p.m. in addition to the entertainment, guests can enjoy bar bites starting at \$7 and 2-for-1 well drinks, domestic drafts and house wine by the glass.</p> <p><b>Coastal Wine Market Wine Tasting</b> Coastal Wine Market hosts Friday wine tastings from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B, Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p>	<p><b>2017 Salt Life Fest</b> Jacksonville Beach's Seawalk Pavilion will play host to the second annual Salt Life Fest Saturday, March 18 from noon to 10 p.m. The 2017 celebration includes sets by Rachel Warfield, Porch 40, Dead 27S, Ramajay Intercoastal, Dangermuffin, Of Good Nature and The Mantras, as well as food trucks and a marketplace of local and regional crafts and wares. The event is free to attend, but VIP tickets are available for purchase. To buy VIP tickets, or for more information about the 2017 Salt Life Fest, visit <a href="http://www.saltlifefest.com">www.saltlifefest.com</a> or email <a href="mailto:info@saltlifefest.com">info@saltlifefest.com</a>.</p> <p><b>'Just for Teens' Gaming Club</b> The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library invites teens ages 13-18 to its "Just for Teens" gaming club during a monthly gaming event. Guests are welcome to play Playstation 3 and Nintendo Wii U games rated "E" through "T." Snacks and board games will also be provided. The event will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, call the library at (904) 827-6950.</p> <p><b>Tasting Tours</b> The Tasting Tours will offer two special tours in celebration of St. Patrick's Day in St. Augustine March 17-18. The two and a half hour "St. Patty's Beer Crawl Tour" will feature visits to St. Augustine pubs and microbreweries from 4 to 7 p.m. for \$49 per person, while the three-hour "Food Truck, Craft Beer and Roadster Tour" will feature stops at local food trucks aboard the Red Roadster for \$99 per person. Reservations are required for both tours. For more information, call (904) 325-3911 or visit <a href="http://www.thetastingtours.com/st-patricks-tours1.html">www.thetastingtours.com/st-patricks-tours1.html</a>.</p> <p><b>ABET to present '4,000 Miles'</b> ABET Theatre will present "4,000 Miles" by Amy Herzog and directed by Rhodie Jackson, following 21-year-old Leo after suffering a major loss on a cross-country bike trip as he seeks solace from his spirited 91-year-old grandmother Vera in her West Village apartment. Over the course of a month, the unlikely roommates infuriate, bewilder and ultimately reach one another. This play stars Michael Wills, Meganne McCawley Johnson, Alexis Boucugnani and Kayla Le. Tickets are \$20. For reservations, visit <a href="http://www.abettheatre.com">www.abettheatre.com</a> or call (904) 249-7177.</p>	<p><b>St. Paddy's Run</b> The St. Paddy's Run will take place Sunday, March 19 at Evergreen Cemetery. Runners are encouraged to wear green in commemoration of St. Patrick's Day. The race will begin at the entrance at 8 a.m. The entrance fee is \$35 through March 18 and \$40 on race day. Race packets can be picked up on Friday, March 17 and Saturday, March 18 at a 1st Place Sports location of choice from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and one hour prior to race time. For more information or to register, visit <a href="http://www.1stplacesports.com/stpaddys.html">www.1stplacesports.com/stpaddys.html</a>.</p> <p><b>All-County High School Art Show</b> The St. Augustine Art Association will host the 12th Annual All-County High School Art Show through April 2. The show will featured select pieces of artwork by students in grades 9-12 in a juried exhibit. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. The exhibit is free and open to the public. The St. Augustine Art Association is located at 22 Marine St. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.staaa.org/juriedexhibits.html">www.staaa.org/juriedexhibits.html</a> or call (904) 824-2310.</p> <p><b>Katz 4 Keeps Adoption Weekends</b> Join Katz 4 Keeps March 18-19 for a weekend adoption event helping cats and kittens find their forever homes. This event will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Katz 4 Keeps facility located at 935B A1A North in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information about this event or organization, call (904) 834-3223 or email <a href="mailto:info@katz4keeps.org">info@katz4keeps.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Collection Tour</b> Join the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens on Sundays for a guided tour of its permanent collection. The tour is free with the cost of admission. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville.</p>

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Monday, March 20	Tuesday, March 21	Wednesday, March 22	Thursday, March 23
<p><b>‘Choosing Cancer Fighting Foods’</b> Ponte Vedra YMCA’s Y Healthy Living Center will present “Choosing Cancer Fighting Foods” March 20 at noon. During this event, guests will explore how nutrition can be used to fight and prevent cancer. The event is free and open to the public. For more information and to reserve a seat, call (904) 202-5376 or visit <a href="http://www.baptistjax.com/ymca">www.baptistjax.com/ymca</a>. The Y Healthy Living Center is located in the Ponte Vedra YMCA at 170 Landrum Lane.</p> <p><b>Luncheon at LuLu’s</b> Join the Ponte Vedra Woman’s Club Monday, March 20 for a luncheon at LuLu’s Waterfront Grille from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. After a brief meeting, guest speaker Peggy Cornelius will discuss her start in the construction and renovation of homes. Guests purchase their own meals. LuLu’s Waterfront Grille is located at 301 N. Roscoe Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>‘Intimate and Exceptional’ Exhibit</b> The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach will host “Intimate and Exceptional: Works from the Cultural Center Teaching Staff” through March 24 in which the work of instructors will be on display. The exhibit features pieces in several media, including paint, ceramics and glass. The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach is located at 50 Executive Way. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.ccpvb.org">www.ccpvb.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Meet the “Friends for the Arts”</b> Get involved in the arts by joining a team of fellow art supporters at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. Help develop and support fundraising projects and help initiate special projects to benefit and promote The Cultural Center and the arts in our community. For more information visit <a href="http://www.ccpvb.org/friends-for-the-arts">www.ccpvb.org/friends-for-the-arts</a>.</p>	<p><b>Ponte Vedra Democratic Club</b> Join the Ponte Vedra Democratic Club for a meeting and social on Tuesday, March 21 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at The Clubhouse at TPC Sawgrass. The event is \$10 at the door and will feature a cash bar. RSVP at <a href="http://www.facebook.com/pontevedrademocrats">www.facebook.com/pontevedrademocrats</a>.</p> <p><b>Farmer’s Market</b> Join the Palm Valley Community Center Farmer’s Market every Tuesday for fresh local produce, fresh seafood and artisan breads and sauces from 1 to 5 p.m. at 148 Canal Blvd.</p> <p><b>First Coast Card Club</b> The First Coast Card Club invites community members to its weekly “Let’s Play Cards!” event. On Tuesday, March 21 at 1:30 p.m., the club will meet at the St. Augustine Main Library located at 1960 N. Ponce De Leon Blvd.</p> <p><b>Sunset Rotary Club Meeting</b> 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 <a href="mailto:jwhart1208@gmail.com">jwhart1208@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Tapas Tuesday</b> The Cummer Museum of Art &amp; Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Café. Every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m., take in the sunset on the Cummer Café patio while listening to local musicians, with beer, wine or artfully inspired tapas for sale at the café. Reserve your table by calling (904) 899-6022. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.cummuseum.org">www.cummuseum.org</a>. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave..</p>	<p><b>Forward Leadership St. Johns</b> Be a part of the 2017 Forward Leadership class, designed to equip active adults age 50 and over with insights and first-hand knowledge to enhance positive change in the community through advocacy and volunteerism. This six-week program will take students behind the scenes of education, healthcare, tourism, history and government in St. Johns County. To be held Wednesdays through March 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the sessions will enable participants to meet with local leaders, including St. Augustine Mayor Nancy Shaver, Tax Collector Dennis Hollingsworth and Sheriff David Shoar. For more information on how to apply, call Sue Richerson, program manager, St. Johns County Council on Aging at (904) 209-3631.</p> <p><b>Toastmasters Club</b> Toastmasters Club #5199 of Ponte Vedra Beach meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at the Players Community Senior Center. These meetings will help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane. Email Carmen at <a href="mailto:carmenjsardinas@gmail.com">carmenjsardinas@gmail.com</a> for additional information.</p> <p><b>Well-being Wednesday</b> During and after the Mid-Week Market in Bull Park, free well-being classes will be held at the Adele Grage Cultural Center. Qigong classes, including Tai Chi, are now available Wednesday mornings at the Adele Grage Center from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Instructors and speakers are encouraged to contact the department of recreation and special events at (904) 247-5828 for more details about providing the community with well being information and classes.</p> <p><b>Life Enrichment Group</b> The Life Enrichment Group is designed for those with memory changes who want to remain mentally, physically and socially active, while giving caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. The program is offered daily, serving Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra area. For more information call (904) 417-7354 or email <a href="mailto:life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com">life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b>Savvy Job Hunters</b> Christ Episcopal Church will host another workshop in its series of Savvy Job Hunter events March 23 from 9 a.m. to noon in its Parish Center Conference Room. This event’s speaker will be Brad Raney. An author, management trainer and entrepreneur, Raney will present two topics with “VOWELS for Jobseekers” and “Advanced Networking Strategies,” during which he will discuss the seven habitual characteristics that define success factors and techniques for forming connections. Immediately following the workshop, Buddy Webster, partner and president of LEADERS Professional Recruiting, Inc., will be available for five-minute resume reviews. Christ Episcopal Church is located at 400 San Juan Drive at Solana Road East in Ponte Vedra Beach. Guests are advised to park on the upper deck to enter the second-floor conference room. RSVP to Cindy Corritore at <a href="mailto:ccorritore@christepiscopalchurch.org">ccorritore@christepiscopalchurch.org</a>, or the Pastoral Care Office at (904) 285-7390, ext. 231. For more information, contact Pam Ottesen at <a href="mailto:pottesen66@gmail.com">pottesen66@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Life Enrichment Day Retreat</b> Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra hosts a Life Enrichment Day Retreat every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Arbor Terrace Ponte Vedra, 5125 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. The group is designed for those with memory changes who would like to stay active mentally, physically and socially. For more information, call (904) 834-7578 or visit <a href="http://www.at-pontevedra.com">www.at-pontevedra.com</a>.</p>

Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to [jasmine@opcfla.com](mailto:jasmine@opcfla.com), post online at [www.pontevedrarecorder.com](http://www.pontevedrarecorder.com) using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.

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Attendees at the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset's recent membership drive "Meet and Greet" display some of the 99 jars of peanut butter collected for Blessings in a Backpack of St. Johns County.

Photos by Susan Griffin



# Sunset Rotary membership drive supports Blessings in a Backpack

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset's recent "Meet and Greet" membership drive was a boon to local charity Blessings in a Backpack.

As part of the club's membership drive, members and guests were encouraged to bring jars of peanut butter for donation to Blessings in a Backpack of St. Johns County, which provides backpacks full of food to local students who otherwise would go hungry over the weekend.

As a result of the drive, the Sunset Rotary donated 99 jars of peanut butter, which was to be sent home with local children over spring break.



Sunset Rotary President Janeene Hart, Pat Kasella and Shelley Morgan



Linda Ash and Carol Maurer

## Foundation for life: The Plantation's nonprofit helps employees pursue post-secondary education

By Jasmine Marshall

The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach is perhaps best known for its stately homes, newly upgraded golf course and numerous amenities.

Since 2013, however, The Plantation has quietly served the community through the establishment of a nonprofit corporation known as The Plantation Foundation, the mission of which is to provide association staff and families with financial assistance for post-secondary education.

Formed independently from the association by Plantation residents themselves, the foundation provides a way to support the dependable team of employees that community members consider part of the family. Since its formation, President Susan Birk said, it has raised more than \$200,000 in support of its goal, with 163 members donating \$61,000 in 2016.

"Our neighborhood is very appreciative of the professional and service-oriented staff we have," Birk said. "Many of our employees work and go to school ... and those involved in the foundation value post-secondary education and the

opportunities it can provide. We hope this allows these students to follow their dreams without the burden of debt."

The foundation is funded through donations and events wherein Plantation members informed of the foundation's purpose and goals throughout the year. Members make donations to a general fund. Once applicants are approved, grants are made for them. All employees become eligible after six months.

According to The Plantation General Manager and COO Rob Schlingmann, the foundation provides more than just monetary support.

"Aside from monetary grants, the more valuable aspect of what the foundation provides is ... the guidance and help they receive in their career paths," he said. "When board members speak with employees and students, they're speaking with someone who has a wealth of knowledge and is able to foster their careers and aspirations."

Likewise, he said, the act of extending support to employees bolsters the family-oriented atmosphere of The Plantation for employees and associates.

"More than anything, we hope that the employees and the members feel that this is a family environment through the foundation," he said. "(The employees) may stay with us or move on — but we're all in this together and we want to help them become successful."

According to Birk, students helped by the foundation have gone on to pursue degrees in criminal justice, business, aviation management, radiation therapy, graphic design, mechanical engineering and pre-veterinary medicine. This semester, 10 employees and two children of employees were awarded grants to attend the University of North Florida, Florida State College at Jacksonville, Jacksonville University, Flagler College and the University of North Florida.

Now in its fourth year, both Schlingmann and Birk hope the nonprofit will continue to foster the growth of Plantation employees as well as the pursuits of their lives.

"The foundation is a way for us to support (the employees') lives outside of work," Birk said. "And the foundation is something that everyone can support and be proud of."



# Jacksonville 'Take Steps' walk for Crohn's & Colitis Foundation April 22

The Jacksonville Take Steps walk to benefit the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America will be held Saturday, April 22 at 9 a.m. at the Seawalk Pavilion in Jacksonville Beach.

The daylong event is part of a nationwide series of walks to support the 1.6 million Americans who have inflammatory bowel disease. In addition to the fundraising walk, the event will feature a kids' zone with clowns, coloring contests and other activities. Entertainment and IBD-friendly food items will also be available at the walk, which will be followed by a nearby after party.

Jacksonville Take Steps is presented by the Borland Groover Clinic in cooperation with North Florida Sales, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, Baptist Health Systems and Smart Pharmacy. According to nonprofit watchdog Charity Navigator, 83 cents of every dollar raised through the Take Steps walks and other fundraisers goes toward research, public and professional education and patient support services in communities across the nation. Corporate sponsorship range from \$250 to \$5000 and are still available.

There is no registration fee to participate in the Take Steps walk. The day will begin at 9 a.m. with registration and refreshments, with the walk set to step off at 11 a.m. To register, visit [www.cctakesteps.org/jacksonville2017](http://www.cctakesteps.org/jacksonville2017).



Crohns & Colitis Foundation photo

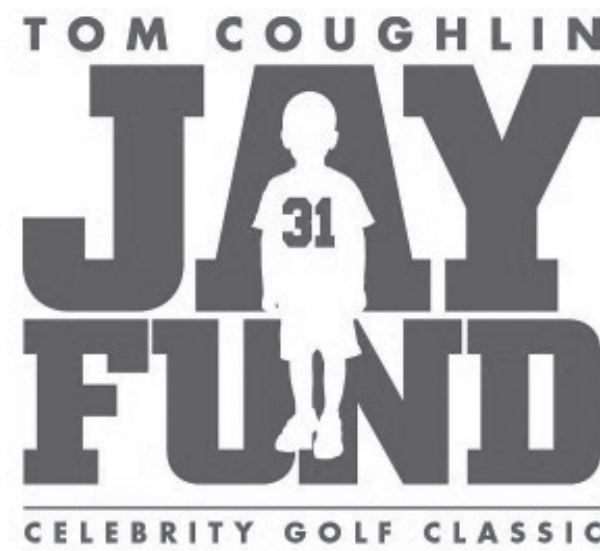
# Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Celebrity Classic May 21-23



The Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Celebrity Golf Classic is set for May 21-23 at TPC Sawgrass. The 2017 celebration will see dozens of sports and entertainment guests, among them Chris Berman, Prince Amukamara and Sean McDonough, who will join Coughlin in supporting local families tackling childhood cancer.

The invitation-only event kicks off Sunday evening with dinner and an online silent auction. The auction will be open a few days ahead of time for online bidding and will close at 9:15 p.m. on Sunday. The dinner will honor local families battling cancer and introduce the annual Tom Coughlin Jay Fund scholarship recipients. Coughlin will present a special message and guests will have the opportunity to meet participating celebrities.

On Monday morning, the tournament will get off to a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m., with each foursome



matched with a celebrity participant. A special awards ceremony luncheon is scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m.

Entering its 22nd year, the golf classic has become the signature event of the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund, which began in 1996 to celebrate the life of Jay McGillis and raise funds for local families battling childhood cancer. The first tournament raised \$51,600, a figure that would climb to more than \$500,000 for the 2016 event.







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**Visit <http://www.missionhousejax.org/mission-house-endowment/> to learn more!**





## Walk for Cures! Saturday, April 22

Seawalk Pavillion, Jacksonville Beach

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To learn more about Take Steps, call Ginger Peace at 904-553-9743, or email her at [gpeace@crohnscolitisfoundation.org](mailto:gpeace@crohnscolitisfoundation.org).

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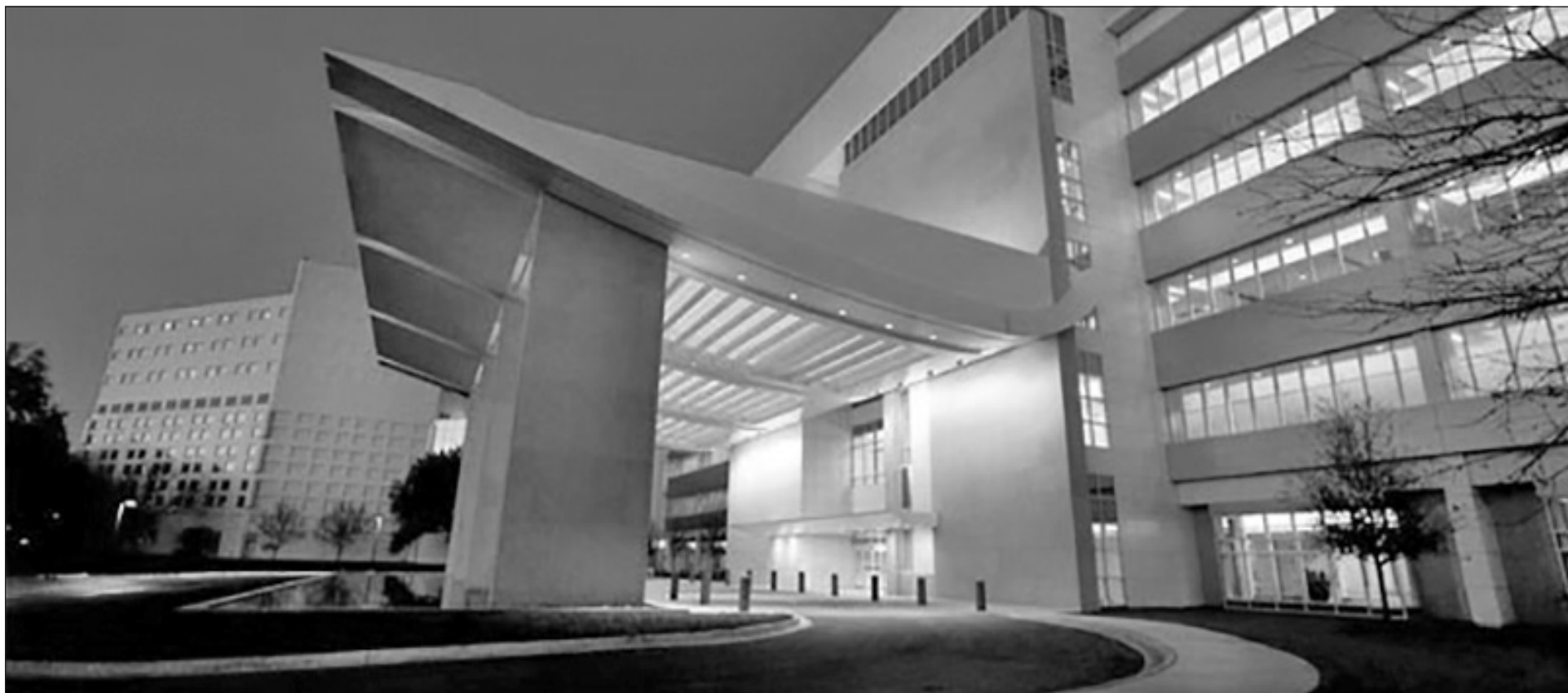
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# Mayo Clinic continues expansion with \$70M project to expand Davis, South buildings



Mayo Clinic recently announced another major construction project on its Florida campus with the investment of \$70.5 million to add four floors to Mayo Building South and to remodel the existing space in the Davis Building. The project will add 80,000 new square feet and renovate the existing 40,000 square feet, and is expected to be completed in 2019. This expansion will provide space for cardiovascular, cardiology and cardio-thoracic surgery program areas, an expansion of the spine center and pain rehabilitation programs, additional surgical rooms, space and equipment to establish a molecular imaging center for radiology and an expansion of the laboratory.

A \$25 million gift from the family of Dan and Brenda Davis of Jacksonville helped spur the next phase of the expansion. The family's gift will support the Mayo Building South construction and the recruitment of world-renowned physicians and researchers.

"To solidify our position as the premier destination medical center in the Southeast, we plan to recruit the brightest people, significantly expand our space, and continuously improve our technology to enhance our ability to deliver the highest quality of care for our patients," said Gianrico Farrugia, M.D., vice president, Mayo Clinic, and

CEO of Mayo Clinic in Florida. "We are extremely grateful to the family of Dan and Brenda Davis for their generous and unyielding support for Mayo Clinic. The history of Mayo Clinic in Florida is enshrined and made possible by the incredible generosity of generations of the Davis families."

The construction is the latest in the substantial growth the Florida campus has seen in the past two years. During this time, Mayo Clinic has invested more than \$300 million in major construction projects and added 900 new staff members.

## Continued growth

Over the next five years, Mayo Clinic's Florida campus will add about 300,000 square feet of space and hundreds of additional new staff, including more than 100 physicians. In preparation for this new expansive growth, Mayo Clinic is working with the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization and Florida Department of Transportation on improvements for traffic around the campus.

"We are seeing tremendous growth in recruiting outstanding academic medical personnel and adding much needed space for our staff to work and care for patients," Farrugia said. "As we grow, we will double our capacity to care

for patients of all ages. That's why it is important for patients to know that 85 percent of all commercial insurance plans are accepted at Mayo Clinic's Florida campus."

Mayo Clinic already has begun constructing an innovative destination medical building that will provide integrated services needed for complex cancer, as well as neurologic and neurosurgical care. Initially rising four stories, the 150,000-square-foot building has the potential for 11 more stories. The building is expected to be completed in 2018.

Another major construction project underway on Mayo's Florida campus is a state-of-the-art positron emission tomography (PET) radiochemistry facility. The facility, which is expected to be completed in 2018, will house a radiochemistry laboratory and a cyclotron, a particle accelerator important in the production of radiopharmaceuticals. The facility will produce Mayo-developed Choline C-11 used in certain PET scans. The scans are the latest advancements in imaging tests that light up prostate cancer wherever it is found and provide targets for therapy. Locating recurrent prostate cancer sooner may enable Mayo physicians to target the cancer more quickly, before it spreads further. This allows for more

effective treatment. The cyclotron also will produce other radiopharmaceuticals to image a variety of organs and develop the next generation of imaging techniques.

In addition, Mayo Clinic and United Therapeutics Corporation are collaborating to construct a three-story, 75,000 square-foot building to house technology that will significantly increase the volume of lungs for transplantation by preserving selected marginal donor lungs and making them viable for transplantation. The lungs will be made available to patients at Mayo Clinic and other transplant centers throughout the U.S. The organizations also will work together on regenerative medicine research, a game-changing area of medicine with the potential to heal damaged tissues and organs. The building will house a biotechnology center aimed at attracting new companies to Northeast Florida. Construction is expected to be completed in 2019.

"For health care to reach its full potential, we have to discover, translate and apply new solutions," Farrugia said. "We must bring together talented and curious minds from health care and all kinds of industries to nurture an environment that encourages collaboration and innovation."

Subscribe to the Recorder! Call (904) 285-8831.



# Save Guana Now to host fundraising gala April 8

Save Guana Now will host a fundraising gala April 8 from 5 to 9 p.m. at a private home in Ponte Vedra to benefit the advocacy group's conservation efforts.

To be held at 1254 Neck Road in Ponte Vedra Beach, the event will feature live music

and a silent auction. A Mangroves-catered dinner of beef roast in a beef jus and wine reduction sauce, seared crab cakes with remoulade sauce, calypso chicken breast cutlets in coconut lime butter sauce, organic greens salad, organic braised green beans, garlic herb

new potatoes, dessert and assorted appetizers will also be served. Admission is \$60 per person, \$40 of which is tax deductible. Ticket price includes beer and wine.

For more information and to purchase a ticket, visit [www.saveguanainow.org/](http://www.saveguanainow.org/)

donate-1. A \$2 service charge will be added to each ticket. Payments made by check do not require a service charge and may be made payable to Save Guana Now and mailed to Save Guana Now, P.O. Box 2111, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, 32004.

## New Alzheimer's Association report shows growing cost and impact of Alzheimer's disease on nation's families, economy

According to findings from the 2017 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures report, Alzheimer's deaths have nearly doubled in the past 14 years, and total payments for caring for individuals living with Alzheimer's or other dementias have exceeded a quarter trillion dollars, topping at \$259 billion.

Florida ranks second highest in prevalence for the disease in the nation, with more than 520,000 people living with Alzheimer's. In response, Florida Representatives Scott Plakon (R-Longwood) and Matt Willhite (D-Wellington) are distributing purple ties and scarves to their fellow legislators in the hope that they will wear them to spread awareness.

"Alzheimer's disease affects more lives than just those diagnosed," the representatives said. "This disease deeply affects their families and friends as many take on the role of caretaker. Our state needs to champion efforts to find a cure by funding new research projects, supporting families and caretakers and overall by raising awareness on this important issue."

In the Jacksonville area, where an estimated 31,000 people are living with Alzheimer's, the figures resounded with Representative Tracie Davis.

"Having lost several family members to this horrid disease, it's imperative that we continue to support our caregivers and educate our community about the increased cost associated with it."

### Alzheimer's ripple effects

Although deaths from other major causes have decreased, new data from the report shows that deaths from Alzheimer's disease have increased significantly. Between 2000 and 2014, deaths from heart disease decreased 14 percent, while deaths from Alzheimer's disease have increased 89 percent. Alzheimer's disease is becoming a more common form of death and, barring the development of any medical breakthroughs, shows no signs of slowing down.

This development has led to an increased burden on caregivers, with more than 15 million Americans providing unpaid physical, emotional and financial care for the estimated 5.5 million Americans living with the disease. In 2016, that totaled an estimated 18.2 billion hours of care, valued at \$230.1 billion. The report also found that the strain of caregiving produced serious physical and mental health consequences, with 35 percent of Alzheimer's and other dementia caregivers reporting that their health had gotten worse due to their responsibilities. Depression and anxiety are also more common among these caregivers than among people providing care for individuals with other conditions.

At the epicenter of the disease are women, who disproportionately contribute to the makeup of that support, acting as

roughly two-thirds of Alzheimer's caregivers. New findings highlighted in the report show that 69 percent of caregivers providing more than 40 hours of care per week are women. More specifically, more than 30 percent of dementia caregivers are daughters.

### Soaring Cost, Prevalence and Mortality

The Facts and Figures report provides an in-depth look at the latest national statistics and information on Alzheimer's prevalence, incidence, use and costs of care, caregiving and mortality. Every 66 seconds, someone in the United States develops Alzheimer's dementia. By mid-century, someone in the U.S. will develop the disease every 33 seconds.

Findings in the report show that, for the first time, total annual payments for health care, long-term care and hospice care for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias have surpassed a quarter of a trillion dollars. Additionally, despite support from Medicare, Medicaid and other sources of financial assistance, individuals with Alzheimer's or other dementias still incur high out-of-pocket costs. The average per-person out-of-pocket costs for seniors with Alzheimer's and other dementias are almost five times higher than aver-

age per-person payments for seniors without these conditions (\$10,315 versus \$2,232).

The total national cost of caring for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias is estimated at \$259 billion (excluding unpaid caregiving), of which \$175 billion is the cost to Medicare and Medicaid. In Florida, the report estimated total Medicaid costs for people with dementia aged 65 and older at \$2.3 billion for 2017. In the next eight years, that figure is expected to increase 46.9 percent.

The full text of the Alzheimer's Association 2017 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures report can be viewed at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org). The report will also appear in the April 2017 issue of "Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association."

"The Alzheimer's Association offers many education programs, support services and resources to all of our local families in need," said chapter CEO Kay Redington. "An extremely valuable resource is the free 24/7 Helpline manned by dementia specialists day and night. If there are questions or concerns, 1-800-272-3900 is the number to call — specialists are always available, and help is offered in 27 languages."





# St. Patrick's Day Parade honors Stand Together St. Augustine volunteers

By Jennifer Logue

St. Augustine was a sea of green Saturday, when thousands of spectators flocked to the Ancient City for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The yearly tradition featured an estimated 1,000 participants, including four Celtic pipe and drum corps and numerous community groups. Serving as honored "grand marshals" of this year's parade were volunteers from Stand Together St. Augustine, which raised money to aid local victims of Hurricane Matthew.

Spectators clad in everything from kilts to Kelly-green pirate attire lined the streets of the historic district as the parade wended its way to and from Francis Field, traveling down Orange Street to Avenida Menendez, past the Castillo de San Marcos and then up Cathedral Place near the Plaza de la Constitucion. Attendees then had an opportunity to enjoy more holiday heritage at the Celtic Music & Heritage Festival happening at Francis Field.



Photos by Jennifer Logue

Josh and Tracy Sabotin traveled from Orlando with daughters Sophia and Natalie to view St. Augustine's St. Patrick's Day Parade.



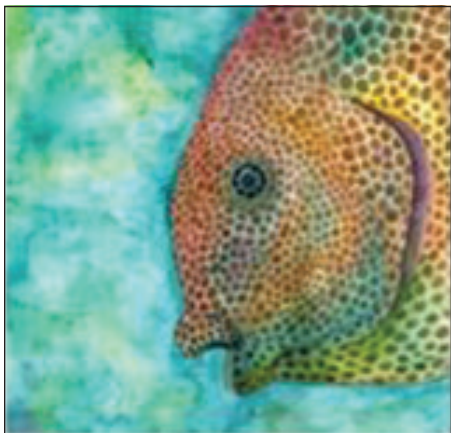


## Old Town Art Show to return for its seventh year

St. Augustine's Old Town Art Show will return for its seventh annual event Palm Sunday weekend.

Artists and fine craftsmen from the First Coast and around the country will once again convene at the Francis Field, transformed into an outdoor art gallery, in historic downtown St. Augustine. The professionally juried art and fine craft event will feature a host of selected artists brought together by Show Director Lynn Wettach. Presented by Holiday Art Shows, the 2017 event will see more than 100 artisans exhibiting jewelry, photographs, sculpture, pottery, painting and other works in a variety of mediums. Artists will be available throughout the show to discuss their work and answer questions.

This rain or shine event will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 8 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 9. Free parking is available in the Visitor's Center parking deck. Francis Field is located at 25 W. Castillo Drive. For more information, visit [www.OldTown-ArtShow.com](http://www.OldTown-ArtShow.com), or contact Lynn Wettach at (904) 794-0084 or [lynn@holiday-artshows.com](mailto:lynn@holiday-artshows.com).



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**Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**4:00 - 6:30 PM**  
**Ponte Vedra Wellness Center - Nocatee**

- **Free Event - Open to the Public**
- **Food, Chair Massages, Fitness Demos**
- **Kids Activities and Face Painting**
- **Raffle Drawings - WIN A BEACH CRUISER**



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#### Nocatee Town Center/834-2717

Watson Realty Bldg, Across From Publix  
 205 Markside Ave, Suite 200  
 Ponte Vedra, FL 32081

[www.pontevedrawellnesscenter.com](http://www.pontevedrawellnesscenter.com)

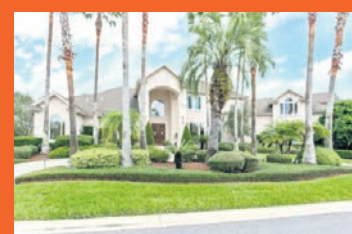
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PV2-LV36281  
 PV2-LV36285



## Ponte Vedra Wellness Center owner thankful for community support after expanding business to Nocatee

By Jon Blauvelt

More than a year after Ponte Vedra Wellness Center opened its second location in Nocatee, founder and practice owner Dr. Erika Hamer is confident her business is succeeding there because of support from the community, and it's her mission now to pay it forward.

"Without people in the community, without our patients, without everybody being so welcoming and allowing me to be part of the community, I wouldn't be here," said Hamer, whose office is located within the Nocatee Town Center next to Watson Realty. "I want to do something to give back. It's about being able to serve others."

Opened in February 2016, the Nocatee office offers the community all the same services as the center's Ponte Vedra Beach location, including chiropractic adjustments, spinal decompression, physical therapy and rehab services, personal training and nutrition counseling, therapeutic massage and community health events. Hamer said her team has worked over the past year, however, to understand the specific interests and needs of the Nocatee community and tailor its offerings accordingly.

Many of their patients, she said, are active individuals over 65 who are inhibited by conditions such as herniated discs and are seeking therapy to resume their active lifestyles. As a result, Hamer said her team is focusing their services and several of their events on how to stay active without incurring injury. For example, she plans to hold more free stretching classes over the next year.

"There are a lot of fitness facilities within Del Webb and the Nocatee fitness center," said Hamer, who added that the center also sees many families. "We want to make sure they're able to utilize those facilities to the fullest ability."

To thank these new patients for contributing to the office's first year of business, the wellness center is hosting a one-year anniversary party and wellness event March 23 from 4 to 6:30 p.m. The free, family-friendly event will feature fitness demonstrations and chair massages as well as highlight the wellness center's offerings. The event will also highlight nearby Nocatee Town Center businesses to showcase their services, which is extremely important to Hamer.

"If we bring in other business partners, we're also helping small business own-

ers," said Hamer, who also emphasizes the importance of participating in community wide events like the Nocatee Farmers Market. "And I think that's a major part of what a community stands for."

Participating businesses will include Blue Water Dental, Coastal Wine Market, Ponte Vedra Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics, State Farm Insurance, Trompe L'oeil Luxury Hair Salon, Watson Realty Corp. and Wise Women Gynecology.

In addition to the event, the wellness center's Nocatee location is extending two special anniversary offers. For new patients, the practice is offering an initial visit, consisting of an exam, treatment recommendations and a half hour fitness assessment, for \$49. The wellness center is also offering current patients two personal fitness training sessions for the same price.

Overall, Hamer is working hard to integrate the wellness center into the Nocatee neighborhood and is looking forward to serving more patients within the community.

"The first year has been great," she said. "It's been wonderful to be in the Nocatee community and to really grow as the community grows."



Dr. Casey Means and Dr. Erika Hamer of Ponte Vedra Wellness Center stand outside of their Nocatee office, which recently eclipsed one year of business.



Photos courtesy of Ponte Vedra Wellness Center  
Ponte Vedra Wellness Center's Nocatee office

## MOVERS & SHAKERS



Photo courtesy of FOMA  
Dr. Ronald J. Renuart was recently elected president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA).

### Florida Osteopathic Medical Association elects Renuart president

Ponte Vedra Beach resident Dr. Ronald J. Renuart was elected president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) at the organization's 2017 Annual Convention Feb. 22-26 in Weston.

A fellow of the American College of Physicians and former chief of staff at Baptist Medical Center in Jacksonville Beach, Renuart has served on FOMA's execu-

tive board and board of trustees and as a delegate to the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). As a colonel in the Florida Army National Guard, he served three combat tours, including service in Iraq and Afghanistan. He served for six years as the chief medical officer for the National Guard and retired after 20 years of decorated

service.

In 2005, he was appointed to the Florida Medicaid Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee by Governor Jeb Bush and elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2008. He was the chairman of the Veterans and Military Affairs Committee, vice chair of the Health & Human Services Committee and the K-12 Education Subcommittee.

In his tenure in the House, Renuart authored landmark legislation pertaining to concussions in youth athletics, prostate cancer research, the Florida GI Bill and the craft distillery industry.

### HarborChase of Jacksonville receives 2017 Customer Experience Award

HarborChase of Jacksonville recently announced that the company is the recipient of Pinnacle Quality Insight's 2017 Customer Experience Award.

The local assisted living and memory care community qualified for the award in the categories of "Recommend to Others" and "Variety of Food/Menu Choices," for its customized menu designed and developed by Harbor Retirement Associates (HRA) chefs.

### Freedom Boat Club welcomes new dock manager

Freedom Boat Club recently named Jordan McKenna as a new dock manager.

A senior at Flagler College studying business administration and management information systems, McKenna will be responsible for assisting members as they embark and disembark from the boats, maintaining the cleanliness of boats and assisting with other daily tasks at Camachee Cove Marina in St. Augustine.

### Jimerson & Cobb named to Gator100

Jacksonville-based law firm Jimerson & Cobb was named to the University of Florida's 2017 Gator100 during an on-campus ceremony Feb. 10.

Sponsored by the UF Alumni Association, in partnership with the UF Entrepreneurship & Innovation Center, the Gator100 honors the 100 fastest-growing businesses owned or led by UF alumni.

Jimerson & Cobb is one of only four law firms to make the list, coming in at No. 37 in the rankings.



# Transparency is the language of trust



**Harry Pappas**  
Columnist

**By Harry Pappas**

I suggest that the most important messages are often short. For example, “Will you marry me?” “I do.” “Not guilty.” “The Giants win the pennant!” “Score!” “You’re fired.” “I love you.”

This illustration is one of my favorite short communications. While trust is arguably the prism through which all business success must pass, it is an increasingly rare commodity in our current culture. In fact, I put forth that we are in a crisis of trust. Regrettably, little trust is everywhere, which is why so many folks have become increasingly suspicious and skeptical. Unfortunately, I am one of these untrusting peeps who repeatedly request that one prove their trustworthiness before I engage in a business relationship.

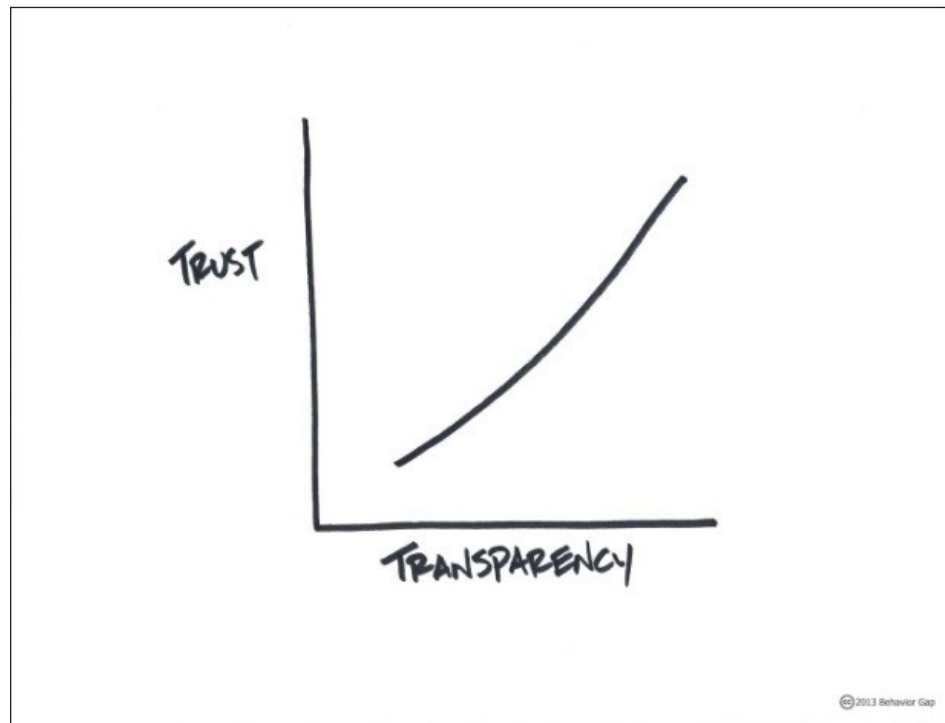
In his classic book, “Innovation and Entrepreneurship,” business guru Peter Drucker wrote, “The purpose of a business is to create a customer.” What I find remarkable is that all businesses want customers, but very few companies have systems in place to prove to customers their trustworthiness. Trust is not a request; it is earned. Trust is not spoken; it is a feeling. If you think about it carefully, we tend to judge ourselves by our intentions while we judge others on their behavior. Customers have no way to observe sincerity

except through external actions.

Like many things in life, the solutions are likely in the basics. While the fundamentals may appear simple, it is far from easy. Trust does not happen without a lot of incredibly hard work and effort. I suggest that if companies, including financial advisors like myself, do the following consistently, the trust will be earned, clients will come onboard, and one’s efforts will monetize.

1. Tell the truth
2. Take responsibility
3. Don’t make excuses
4. Be transparent
5. Be proactive
6. Be consistent
7. Be friendly
8. Be sincere
9. Do what we say we will do
10. Communicate consistently
11. Create tremendous value
12. Demonstrate that we care

A business’s client service methodology is one of the most critical means that differentiate the best from the rest. In my practice, my staff and I clearly understand and appreciate that our clients are our competitors’ best prospective client. Therefore, we conduct our business as if we are at risk of losing them. I believe if companies work incredibly hard to earn our trust and to show us that they genuinely care, I think you and I will care back. Allow me to close with arguably the



most famous short message ever written... Amen!

**Harry Pappas Jr. CFP®**  
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## FirstAtlantic Bank hosts chamber ‘Before Hours’

FirstAtlantic Bank welcomed local business and community leaders March 8, when the bank hosted a “Before Hours” networking get together for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to networking, the event showcased the complete makeover of the bank’s financial center and featured a drawing for gift baskets as well as breakfast catered by KC’s Kitchen.



Malcom Anthony and Robin Giddens Sheppard



Photos by Susan Griffin

First Atlantic Bank staff members join Ed Mercel (right), chairman of the board of directors for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce PVB Division, at the “Before Hours” social gathering March 8.





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## Movers & Shakers

Continued from 26

### Clockwork Marketing Services recognized with Companies with Heart award

Public relations firm Clockwork Marketing Services was recently recognized as one of Northeast Florida's top Companies with Heart, an honor presented by 904 Magazine that acknowledges a

company's overall philosophy of giving back to the community.

In 2016, Clockwork Marketing provided pro-bono public relations services to the Monique Burr Foundation for Children, the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital Art and Antiques Show and Learn to Read Jacksonville. The firm also supported Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville, Leadership Jacksonville and Habitat for Humanity of Jacksonville (HabiJax).

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# St. Augustine Humane Society provides affordable spay and neuter services for World Spay Day

The St. Augustine Humane Society recently participated in the 24th Annual World Spay Day, a campaign for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the Humane Society International and the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association. Throughout the month of February, the local nonprofit provided 72 affordable spay and neuter services to help save the lives of animals.

“Everyday in our area and throughout the United States, thousands more puppies and kittens are born than human babies,” said Carolyn Smith, St. Augustine Humane Society’s executive director. “That means there will never be enough homes for all the dogs and cats born each year until more people realize the importance of spaying and neutering.”

All pet owners who brought their pets to the clinic in February for spay and neuter services were eligible for a prize to include a gift certificate courtesy of Columbia Restaurant’s Community Harvest program. Tina Devores and her dog Sterling of St. Augustine won the \$100 Columbia Restaurant gift certificate.

Staff veterinarian Dr. Lauren Rockey, and her team of technicians and volunteers regularly perform approximately 30 to 40 spay and neuter surgeries per day, along with preventative care for client-owned dogs and cats. The clinic is certified from the Humane Alliance as a National Spay/Neuter Response Team (NSNRT) and is the only certified Humane Alliance clinic in St. Johns County among 155 nationwide.

The Humane Society’s spay, neuter and surgery clinic is open every Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The wellness clinic is open every Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pet owners must pre-register for spay and neuter surgery. The Humane Society’s resource center includes a wellness and preventative care clinic, low-cost spay and neuter clinic, grooming facility, and a pet food pantry. These and other services enable local pets to live healthily in their homes for life. Business hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., with the office open Saturday by appointment. The Humane Society is located at 1665 Old Moultrie Road in St. Augustine.



## COMMENTARY

# How safe is your pet when you board them?



By Frank Sausedo

All pet owners love their furry little pets and consider them part of the family. We would do anything for our pets. I know mine has more toys than I did as a kid.

Annie was a happy little dachshund

who loved to play with her toys, and I would come home from work early as many times as I could, just to

throw her toy of the day and have her bring it back for more. This could last for hours. She was a rescue; we got her when she was just three months old, and she is now

8. Now the horror story.

My wife and I are business owners in Ponte Vedra, and it’s very hard for us to get away on a vacation. It’s been almost five years now. A few weeks ago, we finally got some time off and decided to go to Myrtle Beach for a week of golf, great restaurants, and shopping. We dropped our pets off at a Jackson-

ville vet as we have done several times in the past. We paid extra for the bigger room with a camera and better care.

One day on our vacation, we got a call from the vet’s office saying that Annie had been overdosed on her meds, receiving 10 times the amount she was

BOARD continues on Page 30



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# Loretta Swit invites friends to come together for Ayla's Acres gala



Photo by Susan Griffin

Recorder file photo: Members of the cast of M\*A\*S\*H attend last year's gala to benefit Ayla's Acres No-Kill Animal Shelter. This year's gala, hosted by Loretta Swit, will be held April 7 and will feature a new cast of celebrity guests.

Actor Gregory Harrison will be among the celebrity guests to visit Ponte Vedra April 8, when the "Trapper John, M.D." and "Logan's Run" star joins actress Loretta Swit for "The Loretta Swit Annual Gala" to benefit Ayla's Acres No-Kill Animal Rescue.

To be held Friday, April 7 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse, the gala will feature Swit and several of her friends to help raise funds for Ayla's Acres. In addition to a gourmet dinner and music by Gainesville's Gosia and Ali featuring Harold Fethe, the gala will feature a live auction where attendees may bid for time with the celebrities, a stay in Cancun, a two-night stay at The Collector Luxury Inn and Gardens in St. Augustine and more. A silent auction and quickfire raffle will be held as well.

The gala will also be the setting for the announcement of the winner of a 2017 Hyundai Elantra. Tickets for a chance to win are capped at 4,000 and will be available right up until the drawing is held that evening. The winner does not need to be present to win.

All proceeds from the The Loretta Swit & Friends Annual Gala will be used for the construction of Peter's Friends Animal Resource Center in St. Johns County. Peter's Friends will include an adoption center, an education facility for school and community organizations, and a low and no-cost spay and neuter clinic.

"The Loretta Swit and Friends Gala is an important component in making Peter's Friends a reality," Ayla's Acres Executive Director Fran Charlson said. "Thanks in part to the success of last year's M\*A\*S\*H Gala, we were able to purchase 17.5 acres of land in St. Johns County for Peter's Friends Animal Resource Center. The civil and environmental engineers are doing their jobs, and it is almost time for the real work to begin on this much-needed facility for St. Johns and the surrounding counties."

Several gala ticket packages are available. V.I.P. tickets entitle the guest to attend a meet and greet with the stars prior to the event. These limited-availability tickets may be purchased individually or in tables of eight. General tickets may be purchased individually or in tables of ten. All attendees will have a chance to mingle with the celebrities throughout the evening.

Tickets starting at \$165 are available for purchase online at [www.aylasacres.org/events](http://www.aylasacres.org/events). That page will also regularly update people on confirmed celebrity appearances, a link to purchase tickets for the 2017 Hyundai, and other news that will be of interest to ticket holders. Hilton Garden Inn – Jacksonville / Ponte Vedra will offer discounted rooms for people attending the event. Call (650) 520-5201 for more information.

## Board

Continued from 29

supposed to be given, and was rushed to the ER down the street. She had stopped breathing and had to be resuscitated. We immediately packed up and headed home in a hurry.

The owner admitted that it was their fault. The tech was supposed to look at the intake card and the bottle. If there was a discrepancy, he was to call a doctor immediately. The intake girl typed in 4.0 when the bottle said clearly .40, so the tech only read the intake card, not following procedure.

Annie fought for her life for several days. After six days, the ER released her to us. Annie is starting to walk a bit, but she is blind, deaf, has brain damage and cannot bark. I will give praise to Dr. Zach Bissell, who happened to be in the area when this happened and rushed her to the ER. There, Dr. Bissell and Dr. Jones, owner of the

ER, worked on her for hours trying to get her stable. The care Dr. Jones gave her was way beyond exceptional.

But what now? Annie still suffers, my wife and I are suffering and crying daily that she is not our Annie anymore. No one is sure if she will recover, but it's not likely. There are no laws that protect our little pets.

This is not to hurt one boarding place, because it can happen at any facility. How safe our your pets? We give them to people we trust to care for them, but when they don't? I have written to our state senator, congressman, U.S. senator, to change the laws for our pets. They are not personal property, they are our family. I urge all of you who have pets to #1, be careful where you board them, and #2, please email your congressman and anyone who will listen. We never thought this could happen to us, and it could very well happen to you.

## Loretta Swit & Friends Annual Gala



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*Friday, April 7, 2017  
6:00 p.m.*

*TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse  
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Loretta Swit



Gregory Harrison

*Purchase Tickets at 904.325.3554 or online at  
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The Loretta Swit & Friends Annual Gala event sponsors include Branch Reconstruction LLC, Faux Paws, The Collector Luxury Inn & Gardens, Thompson Realty & Development Inc., and Hilton Garden Inn – Jacksonville/Ponte Vedra. PV2-LV36300



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# Jason Day praises new 12th hole at THE PLAYERS Charity Challenge



TPC Sawgrass showcases the redesigned 12th hole during the Feb. 7 Charity Challenge.

Photo by Jon Blauvelt

## By Jon Blauvelt

In his first trip back to TPC Sawgrass since winning last year's PLAYERS Championship, Jason Day praised the course's redesigned 12th hole after attempting it first-hand during the THE PLAYERS Charity Challenge.

"Strategically, it's placed perfectly," said Day following the Feb. 7 charity event. "It'll be interesting to see if a lot of guys go for it."

Traditionally held on the course's historic No. 17, the Charity Challenge was held this year at No. 12 to showcase the modifications that have been made to transform the hole into a drivable par four, which required shortening the hole significantly to make the green reachable off the tee.

The world's No. 2 ranked golfer demonstrated the new hole by teeing off for each of the charities at the event. Although he spoke highly of the changes, he was unsuccessful in landing any of his 10 shots on the green. "I think I may be laying up for the tournament," he quipped after his third shot sailed into the newly added pond to the left of the hole.

After he finished his tee shots, the celebrity representatives for each charity took over, with Day coaching them through their second shots. Former PGA Tour player Jeff Klauk won the challenge after his shot finished closest to the hole, rolling just 7 inches shy. Klauk, who previously won the competition in 2012, secured a \$10,000 donation for the Epilepsy Foundation of Florida as he became the challenge's only two-time winner. Former Jacksonville Jaguars kicker Josh Scobee finished in second place on behalf of Wolfson Children's Hospital, with his shot landing just over a foot from the hole.

Day then surprised each participating charity with a check for \$5,000 on behalf of his charitable organization The Brighter Days Foundation. THE PLAYERS presented Day's charity with a \$5,000 check as well.

Following the charity event, THE PLAYERS Championship Executive Director Jared Rice called the 12th hole modifications "transformational," noting that no bigger change has been made to the course since it was opened in 1980. At the same time, he affirmed that the hole is still consistent with the element of risk/reward that was so important to former PGA Tour Commissioner Deane Beman and golf course designer Pete Dye when they developed it.

"Now having that 11, 12, 13 opportunity for birdie, an eagle, for birdie on 13, makes this little corridor of golf an amazing place to watch the world's best athletes at what they do really go for it, and that's pretty exciting," said Rice, who was appointed to his current position in December.

Day said that the biggest challenge presented by the changes to No. 12 will be on the left side of the hole, where a mound was converted into a fairway bunker and a pond was added adjacent to the green. Players will have to be especially accurate to mitigate the changes, he said, adding that the position of the tee will determine how golfers approach the hole. Overall, Day predicts a high percentage of players will attempt to drive the green.

After Day won THE PLAYERS Championship last year, TPC Sawgrass was closed for six months to renovate not only the 12th hole, but also the practice grounds and facilities and the area between the sixth and seventh holes to make it a more open and enjoyable vista for fans, Rice said. In addition, all greens and bunkers were rebuilt and resurfaced, with the greens on holes one, four, nine, 11 and 13 expanded for new hole locations. The tees on seven and 15 were also repositioned.

"I drove in this morning, and it just felt like a major championship, and we're not even close to tournament time" said Day regarding the condition of the course. "I enjoy coming every single year, and I'm looking forward to coming back and defending this year."

THE PLAYERS Championship 2017 will be held May 9-14.

## Results of THE PLAYERS Charity Challenge

**Epilepsy Foundation of Florida:** Jeff Klauk, former member of the PGA TOUR and Web.com Tour – 7 inches

**Wolfson Children's Hospital:** Josh Scobee, former Jacksonville Jaguars kicker – 1 foot, 2 inches

**True Blue Navy Benefactors:** Laura Baugh, former member of the LPGA Tour and current golf instructor at Sawgrass Country Club – 7 feet, 8 inches



Photo by Susan Griffin

PGA Tour player Jason Day (left) and THE PLAYERS Championship Executive Director Jared Rice (right) present former PGA Tour player Jeff Klauk (center) with a \$10,000 donation for Epilepsy Foundation of Florida after Klauk won the Charity Challenge.



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

PGA Tour player Jason Day coaches First Tee of North Florida representative Spencer Schindler through his shot at THE PLAYERS Charity Challenge Feb. 7.

**North Florida Junior Golf Foundation:** Todd Bork, head golf professional at San Jose Country Club – 9 feet, 11 inches

**St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation:** Clint Avret, head golf professional at Timuquana Country Club – 17 feet, 3 inches

**The Boselli Foundation:** Tony Boselli, former Jacksonville Jaguars offensive tackle – 27 feet, 6 inches

**The First Tee of North Florida:** Spencer Schindler, alumnus of The First Tee program and Flagler College golfer – 30 feet, 7 inches

**Tom Coughlin Jay Fund:** Curtis Dvorak, co-host of "First Coast Living" morning show and former Jaguars mascot (Jaxson de Ville) – 32 feet, 9 inches

**Angelwood:** Jeff Lageman, former Jacksonville Jaguars defensive end and current co-host of "Jaguars This Week" radio show – 50 feet

**K9s for Warriors (2016 Charity Challenge Winner):** Bob Duval, past PGA TOUR and PGA TOUR Champions winner – 52 feet



## BASEBALL

# Panthers beat Sharks 4-3



#8 Eric Aleman of the Sharks lines a base hit

Photo by Chris and Jerry Norton

By Jerry Norton

Special to the Recorder

The Ponte Vedra Sharks found themselves on the short end of the 4-3 final score against their archrival, the Nease Panthers, last week. Ponte Vedra came into the matchup against Nease boasting a 5-1 record, but several untimely errors proved costly for the Sharks against the visiting Panthers.

Nease opened the game with an unearned run in the first inning off Shark starter Jack Hahnemann, then Ponte Vedra answered in their half with a pair of base

runners thanks to an error by Panther shortstop and a hard single to left by Quinton Brehm. With runners on first and third, Nease turned Hahnemann's sharp ground ball into an inning, ending double play – a call strongly disputed by Sharks Coach Tom Stanton. The play cost the Sharks the tying run and would loom large later in the game.

Nease extended their lead to 4-0 with three more unearned runs in the third frame. Chris Eichorn led off with a single to left, then advanced when the Sharks misplayed Jared Whittle's bunt bid for a base hit. Next, Jayson Sowden reached on

an error by the Shark shortstop. Eichorn scored on the play and Whittle moved to third. A pair of wild pitches allowed both Whittle and Sowden to score.

Nease starter Leighton Alley held the Sharks at bay for the next three innings, allowing just Zach Chappell's single in the second and a pair of walks in the fourth.

Ponte Vedra rallied for two in the fifth. A base hit by Duncan Van Kuteran and a walk to Jacob Young chased Alley. Collin Garner came on for the Panthers and walked Brehm to load the bases. Aleman's single to right drove in two runs and left the Sharks trailing 4-2.

The Sharks' Kevin Faulkner pitched perfect relief, blanking the Panthers in the sixth and seventh innings, striking out three and allowing no hits.

Ponte Vedra mounted a seventh inning rally started by Young's base hit up the middle. Aleman delivered his second single of the game, then he and Young moved up a base on a wild pitch. Carter Page came through with a single to center to score Young but Aleman was cut down at the plate trying to score the tying run, ending both the inning and the game.



Duncan Van Kuteran pitches in relief for the Sharks

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6. Second mo.  
9. Wild guess  
13. Ottoman Empire bigwig  
14. Unit of length of yarn  
15. \*Rock collector's pick-up  
16. Blockbuster starring Sigourney Weaver  
17. "\_\_\_\_\_ the President's Men"  
18. Lively  
19. \*Bibliophile's pastime  
21. \*Knit or purl  
23. Sigma Alpha Epsilon  
24. \*Birdwatching site  
25. Prohibit  
28. \*Coin collectors amass it  
30. Red Sea nation  
34. \_\_\_\_\_ Andrews, sportscaster  
36. \_\_\_\_\_ meter or \_\_\_\_\_ scope  
38. Caterpillar hairs  
40. Cogito \_\_\_\_\_ sum  
41. \*Collector's item to a philatelist  
43. One of deadly sins  
44. Respected Hindu  
46. Boris Godunov, e.g.  
47. Buenos \_\_\_\_\_  
48. Spaghetti \_\_\_\_\_  
50. In a frenzy  
52. Actor Stallone  
53. Quiet time  
55. Lamb's mother  
57. \*Crossword, e.g.  
60. \*Hobbyist, techni-

**DOWN**

1. Practice in the ring  
2. Opposite of sun-kissed  
3. Most populous continent  
4. Storage place, pl.  
5. "Flashdance" song  
6. \*Vexillology subject  
7. Underwater electricity generator  
8. \*Model-builder's wood  
9. Let it stand, to proof-reader  
10. Cleopatra's necklace  
11. Egyptian hieroglyph for "life"  
12. Turkish title of respect  
15. Kerri Walsh's moves  
20. Some tides  
22. "\_\_\_\_\_ your hand at..."  
24. \_\_\_\_\_ verb, like "ask around"  
25. \*What an apiarist likes  
26. Woven wall hanging  
27. \*When backyard astronomers gaze

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29. Cobblestone

31. Mix together

32. Tiny purses

33. Like Flonase

35. Type of film

37. Mosque V.I.P.

39. \*Crafters'e-outlet

42. Preface

45. Novelist Honoré de \_\_\_\_\_

49. 1/100 of afghani

51. Zambian or Malawian money

54. Fido's restraint

56. Olden day anes-

thetic

57. Assume a posture

58. Russian mountain range

59. Eagerness

60. Again

61. Alleviate

62. Celestial bear

63. Whiskey grain, pl.

64. \*Model-builder's purchase

66. Diminutive

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# Bolles names Belger new head football coach



Wayne Belger

Bolles football offensive coordinator Wayne Belger will take over as head coach of the team after longtime coach Charles “Corky” Rogers announced he’s leaving the program due to medical complications.

“I know we can keep the program Corky started going strong,” said Belger, who has coached with Rogers at

Bolles for more than 28 years. “We are going to keep everything the same as we can, keep up the hard work and see the pay off on the field.”

After struggling with a medical illness for an extended period of time, the 73-year-old Rogers recently announced his resignation, capping off a 45-year career that produced the most wins, state titles, championship game appearances, Hall of Fame inductions and collegiate players of any coach in Florida. The legendary Bolles coach said there is no better person than Belger to take over the position.

“One of the things I told them was not only was he deserving of the job, but I knew the other coaches wanted to work for Wayne,” said Rogers, who is leaving Bolles with 466 wins, which is ranked fifth all-time in the nation. “Bolles is a special place, and he knows Bolles and its athletes and will do a wonderful job.”

Belger played for Rogers at Robert E. Lee High School during his first winning game in 1972 against Ed White, and they have been together

ever since. The partnership with Rogers goes deeper than just the two of them: Belger’s oldest son, Matthew, played in Rogers’ 250th win at Bolles while his youngest son, Mitchell, played in his 300th.

“I think the reason we have been together so long is because when I first coached him, I saw competitiveness

in him that was similar to mine – here was a common ground there and a nice mix,” said Rogers. “I could not be happier for him.”

Rogers has led the Bolles program since 1989. He will work until March 17 before Belger officially takes over, just in time for spring practice to begin in April.



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# Sharks softball team splits pair



#6 Scotland David slides safely into second

Photos by Chris and Jerry Norton

## By Jerry Norton

Special to the Recorder

Ponte Vedra's softball team split a pair of non-district games at home last week. The Sharks were victimized by errors March 6, allowing three unearned runs in a 4-3 loss to Trinity Christian. Then they bounced back with a solid 7-1 errorless win over Fletcher March 8.

The Trinity game, a make-up of an earlier rained out matchup, saw the Christians jump

out early with an unearned run in the first inning. But the Sharks answered with a run in the third. Scotland David laced a single to left and moved to third on Quinlan Richmond's infield single off the pitcher's glove. With two outs, Farley Callaghan stroked a solid single to left scoring David.

After Trinity regained the lead in the fifth with a single run, the teams traded scoreless innings until the seventh, when two more unearned runs in the top of the seventh gave



#8 Michelle Leone throws from her knees to get the force out.

the visitors a 4-1 advantage.

Still the Sharks weren't ready to pack it in. After lead-off singles by Michelle Leone and David, Callaghan lined a single to left for her third hit of the game, loading the bases. Taylor Bradshaw picked up an RBI with a groundout to third scoring Leone. David was thrown out at third on Richmond's infield grounder and Richmond would later score when Bailey Wagoner lined a base hit to center leaving the Sharks trailing 4-3. The

Sharks had runners on second and third but weren't able to deliver the knockout blow.

Leone and Callaghan had three hits for Ponte Vedra in the loss while pitcher Michelle Holder and David each had two.

Things were more promising for the Sharks against Fletcher. They scored three times in the third inning then cruised to a 7-1 win.

Bradshaw's base on balls started matters for the Sharks. She moved over on Catherine Beaton's perfect bunt base hit. Pitcher Michelle Holder then doubled down the left field line, plating Bradshaw and moving Beaton to third. Kiley Hennessey's sac fly delivered Beaton, and Holder would score on a Fletcher error.

The Sharks put the game out of reach in the fourth inning, scoring four times before a batter was retired. Holder opened the inning with a single to center followed by a walk to Hennessey and Olivia Bruch's bunt single. David's base hit to center scored Holder and Hennessey. Richmond kept the line moving with base hit to center and Bradshaw drove in Bruch and David to give Ponte Vedra a 7-0 lead.

Holder, David and Richmond each collected two hits for the Sharks. Holder struck out five and allowed one earned run to pick up her seventh win of the year against four losses.

# Shark boys' lacrosse rolls over Bartram

## By Jerry Norton

Special to the Recorder

The Sharks lacrosse team continued its domination of District 6 opponents March 7 at the Shark Tank with a 20-2 mercy win over the Bartram Trail Bears. Thus far this season, the Sharks have amassed 79 goals and have allowed just 10 against their four District 6 opponents — Fleming Island, Creekside, Nease and the Bears.

Bartram stood little chance against the powerful Shark attack that saw Ponte Vedra jump in front 30 seconds into the game on a goal by CD James. Before the first quarter was three minutes old, the Sharks were in front 4-0 thanks to goals by Clay Welch, Matt Keller and Dylan Hess.

Minutes later, Reid Smith pushed the Shark advantage to 5-0 when he converted a pretty pass from James. When the first quarter ended, the Sharks were up 7-0 on goals by Smith and Keeler.

Things didn't fare any better for the Bears in the second period. Three minutes in, Walker Azzaro found the back of the net, to put Ponte Vedra on top 8-0. Then Smith and Keeler produced a four-goal avalanche in the span of less than three minutes for a 12-0 Shark advantage. James and Tony Rossi con-

cluded the first half scoring for Ponte Vedra.

The game continued in the second half under the mercy rule. When the dust had finally settled, the Sharks out-scored the Bears six to two in the final 24 minutes, winning 20-2.

Top scorers for Ponte Vedra included Smith and Keeler, each with four goals and an assist; Welch with three goals and an assist; and James with two goals and three assists.

The Sharks then hit the road on Friday for a pair of non-district games against two higher ranked teams — Friday against Jupiter and

Saturday against Gulliver Prep.

The matchup against the Jupiter Warriors provided a good test for the Sharks as they work to prepare for the challenges of upcoming post-season play. Jupiter (9-1) bested the previously unbeaten Sharks 15-9. Goal scorers for Ponte Vedra included Smith with three goals, Welch with two goals and an assist, Jack Burke with two goals, Keeler with a goal and an assist, and Andrew Bray with a goal.

Gulliver Prep wasn't nearly the test the Sharks expected and Ponte Vedra handled the

Raiders easily, 18-6. Once again, the scoring power for the Sharks came from a familiar group of players; Smith (five goals), Welch (four goals and two assists), Burke (two goals), Keeler (one goal and one assist) and James (two goals). In addition, Azzaro (two goals) and Jason Prince (two goals) also found their way into the Shark scorebook.



#24 Matt Keeler slides past the Bartram defender to set up a shot on goal.



Photos by Chris and Jerry Norton

Shark goalie Wyatt Shupler is at the ready for a shot by Bartram Trail.



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