

Ponte Vedra 

Recorder

November 2, 2017
Volume 47, No. 44
75 cents

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com

DESIRE CUP

Gators meet Bulldogs at TPC Sawgrass



Celebrities and former University of Florida and University of Georgia athletes gather last week at TPC Sawgrass, where Gators legend Danny Wuerffel hosted them to compete in the 7th Annual Desire Cup benefitting Desire Street Ministries. **Read more on pages 34-35.**

Photo by KWhite Photography



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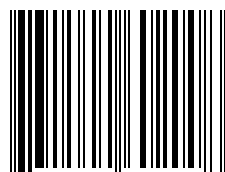
Senior Financial Advisor
First Vice President - Investments
818 US Highway A1A N, Suite 102
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Phone: (904) 361-7047
e-mail: bryan.fazio@wellsfargo.com



PV2-LV44200

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One of Us

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Send us your news

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

E-mail submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com

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



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Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

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

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



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

Jon Blauvelt
Editor
jonb@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3939

Samantha Logue
Reporter
samantha@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3945

Paris Moulden
Page Designer/Reporter
paris@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3943

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

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

Suzanne Kirby
Account Executive
Suzanne@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3941

Kristin Flanagan
Account Executive
(904) 285-8831

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

Benjamin Naim
Intern
recorderintern@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3943

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10 readers correctly identified last week's photo as the PV Arts & Crafts sign. Good job, everyone! The winner of the random drawing was **Bob Pape**. Congratulations, Bob – you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



ADOPT A PET



CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Ester, and I am a 4-year-old female cat who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center as a stray. As this animal was a stray, there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #39579

Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to its 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 Road off U.S. 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.**



DOG OF THE WEEK

My name is Odie, and I am a 7-year-old female lab/hound mix who is looking for a new home. I was brought here as a stray after my family gave me up to the pet center. I am heartworm positive, so the adoption fee is waived. The friends of the pet center are willing to sponsor up to \$250 toward the treatment of the heart worms. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #40356

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PV2-LV4189

Annual Palm Valley Boat Parade to kick off holiday season Dec. 2

A time-honored holiday tradition, the annual Palm Valley Boat Parade will be held Dec. 2 at 6 p.m.

The parade route will begin just south of the Palm Valley Bridge (County Road 210) and travel north to the end of Marsh Landing. All are welcome to participate and view the parade from any of the numerous restaurants along the Intracoastal, including LULU's, Barbara Jean's, Palm Valley Fish Camp and PVO (Palm Valley Outdoors).

Prizes will be awarded in numerous categories, including a grand prize of \$5,000. There will be a

lighted dock competition as well, with prizes going to the top three docks.

Parade participants must attend the mandatory Captain's Safety Meeting Saturday, Nov. 11 at The American Legion Palm Valley Post 233 at 560 North Wilderness Trail in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Since the event's origination in 1993, the Palm Valley Boat Parade has offered spectators a uniquely personal and interactive holiday experience, due to the narrow nature of the Intracoastal Waterway. For registration and additional information, visit www.palmvalleyboatparade.com.



Photo courtesy of Wendy Patton

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COLLECTION

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<p>EAST COAST CANAL EST \$1,359,000</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Wonderful family compound on the Intracoastal. Property includes main home with gourmet kitchen, screened porch & brick patio, garage apartment, 4-car garage, dock, covered boat lift & spectacular water views. MLS 851813</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Carol Cantalupo 904.614.4598 CJcantalupo@WatsonRealtyCorp.com Barbara Maple 904.280.2829 BarbaraMaple@WatsonRealtyCorp.com</p>	<p>MARSH LANDING CC \$1,100,000</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Island style home on a quiet street surrounded by lagoons. This home was totally remodeled with a large addition. Other features include a saltwater pool, large covered lanai, fire pit, dream kitchen, 2 master suites, 3 additional bedrooms, a loft, & Brazilian hardwood & slate flooring throughout. MLS 906235</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Suzanne Schinsing 904.314.0331 SSchinsing@WatsonRealtyCorp.com</p>	<p>PONTE VEDRA BEACH \$1,025,000</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Classic beach cottage in Old Ponte Vedra. This meticulously maintained brick ranch sits on almost 1/2 acre with a pool, large family room with brick fireplace, Florida room, an updated kitchen, screened lanai & lush private backyard. MLS 896951</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Jeanie Leapley 904.673.8846 JLeapley@WatsonRealtyCorp.com</p>	<p>PALM VALLEY \$995,000</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Enjoy peaceful country life in the middle of Ponte Vedra Beach with this picturesque property on 3.75 acres. The house overlooks a beautiful patio with pool & a large pond surrounded by trees. This unique property is perfect for the nature lover! MLS 905578</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Linda Ostoski 904.422.1098 LindaOstoski@WatsonRealtyCorp.com</p>	<p>THE GROVE \$899,999</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Incredible 1.4 acre family compound just steps away from the ocean. Enjoy the privacy of the Guana Preserve in your backyard, over 4,000 SqFt of living space, 5 bedrooms, a chefs kitchen, screened lanai, pool & stocked fish pond. MLS 865376</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Murray Beard 904.465.2784 MurrayBeard@WatsonRealtyCorp.com Elise Beard 904.463.7774 EliseBeard@WatsonRealtyCorp.com</p>
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Save Ponte Vedra Beach: Residents band together on beach renourishment plan

By Jon Blauvelt

A group of concerned and frustrated Ponte Vedra Beach residents is banding together to implement a long-term beach renourishment and preservation plan following the damaging impacts of Hurricane Matthew, Hurricane Irma and subsequent nor'easters.

Referring to themselves as the Save Ponte Vedra Beach Group (www.savepontevedrabeach.com), the residents gathered for the second time this past month on Sunday, Oct. 29 at Sawgrass Country Club to review their action plan and bring interested homeowners up to speed. They say Ponte Vedra Beach is one of the few communities in the state that does not have a beach restoration program in place, and they're tired of waiting.

"What we decided is we're mad as hell," said Dr. Shyam Paryani, one of the organization's leaders, to the approximately 100 people at the meeting. "We're not going to take it anymore. We decided to do something about it."

The group has studied beach restoration programs in neighboring communities, such as Amelia Island, Jacksonville Beach and St. Augustine Beach, and now they're ready to implement one for Ponte Vedra Beach, spanning from the Ponte Vedra county line to the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve. Before doing so, however, the residents in the group plan to send a poll to beach homeowners to ensure they have support.

"We need to know that we have a majority with us to go ahead with this program, or we can't do it," said Lori Moffett, another Save Ponte Vedra Beach leader.

If the group receives that support, it plans to hire an engineering consultant who could provide a coastal assessment and suggest which long-term program would be best (e.g. dredging). And then the residents would plan to hire an economic consultant who could determine what is fair for each homeowner to pay for the project.



ABOVE: Dr. Shyam Paryani and Lori Moffett answer questions at the Oct. 29 Save Ponte Vedra Beach meeting at Sawgrass Country Club.



LEFT: Dunes on Ponte Vedra Boulevard now resemble cliffs, leaving homes there in peril.

Photos by Jon Blauvelt and Kitty Switkes

Moffett said the cost of the program would be determined by the results of the study, but that the group would plan to work with the county and fund the project via a property taxing vehicle known as a MSTU (Municipal Service Taxing Unit). Paryani added that Save Ponte Vedra Beach plans to lobby the state legislature for state matching funds. He noted that several members of the organization attended a special meeting Oct. 18 organized by the Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District (MSD) to hear from and speak with county and state officials about what can be done to save their

beaches. The group's conclusion from the meeting was that the officials will help them, but it's ultimately up to the residents to get the ball rolling and implement the project.

"If you don't do it yourselves, nothing will get done," said Paryani. "We saw it after Hurricane Matthew. Nothing got done."

As for a timeline for the project, Paryani said that if the residents can garner support, complete the studies quickly and apply for 2018 state matching funds, they hope the beach restoration project will begin in the fall of 2018.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

With the last couple of years and the damage done with Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Irma, Ponte Vedra Beach needs to address long-term beach renourishment. We are one of only a few oceanside communities in the state that does not have a program in place, with all of our surrounding communities in full swing with dredging or trucking sand programs.

After Matthew, Gov. Rick Scott established a Disaster Recovery Program in which the state offered matching funds for beach renourishment. Currently, South Ponte Vedra and Flagler County are earmarked to receive approximately \$17 million of these state matching funds. When the legislative sessions start up in January, they will establish another Recovery Program for Irma in which we will need to be in position for and eligible to receive.

Apparently, after Matthew, North Ponte Vedra was not considered to be in dire enough condition to warrant state funds. Currently, Rep. Cyndi Stevenson is on board with our beach being "critically eroded," and thus eligible for the governor's Disaster Relief Recovery Program. Congressman DeSantis also feels that we are eligible, and that we need to garner the support of the majority of our community and go after the funds.

We are working with the county and Commissioner Dean to set up a taxing vehicle, such as a MSBU or MSTU, to raise funds for a coastal assessment and cost allocation study, and to identify which long-term sand program would be most beneficial for our community.

We need the support of the community in order for the county commissioners to sign off on allowing us to tax ourselves. This will not come to fruition, if the community does not want this, or does not make this happen. Visit www.savepontevedrabeach.com for additional information.

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers invite public to St. Augustine Beach renourishment community meeting

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District is inviting the public to attend a community meeting Thursday, Nov. 2 for the upcoming St. Augustine Beach renourishment project.

The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at the St. Augustine Beach City Hall Commission Chambers at 2200 A1A South in St. Augustine Beach. The purpose of the

meeting is to provide information about the project and any potential impacts to the area. A brief presentation will be followed by a question and answer period.

Construction is expected to begin in November and will last for approximately three months. The contractor will place ap-

MEETING continues on **Page 5**

Ponte Vedra couple donates \$75 million to University of Chicago business school

Donation just part of Wallmans' impact on higher education

By Paris Moulden

Giving back is an integral part of life for Ponte Vedra residents Richard and Amy Wallman.

Last month, the couple donated \$75 million to the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, the place where they met and that helped them on their road to success.

"Going to Chicago gave me confidence early in my career," Richard Wallman said. "When you're starting out, that confidence was very important."

Richard graduated from Booth in 1974 and began his career with Ford Motor Company. He later served as chief financial officer and senior vice president of Honeywell International, Inc., and its predecessor AlliedSignal. Amy began her career at Ernst & Young after graduating from UC Booth in 1975. She was also director at Omnicare from 2004-2015.

Their donation to Booth will be used for scholarships that focus on increasing diversity, the Wallmans said, as well as for research and co-curricular programming. The Wallmans explained that they gave school Dean Madhav Rajan latitude to spend it where he thinks it's most beneficial.

The school's academic high honors distinction will also be named in honor of the Wallmans. Graduating MBA students and alumni who earn high honors at Booth will be known as Amy and Richard F. Wallman Scholars.

"It's exciting because each graduation, we'll go to the event if there's a Wallman Scholar," Richard said. "I never went to my college or Chicago graduation, so it will be nice going to graduation."

The couple, who moved to the First Coast 16 years ago, has been considering making the large donation to UC Booth for some time. The Wallmans said hearing Rajan's plans for the school sealed the deal.

"We knew we had to be doing something and kind of just the question of when do you pull the trigger and the timing, and the dean had some great ideas," Amy said.

Plus, they wanted to be able to enjoy what the donation would ultimately accomplish.

"I think by doing it now you get to see the fruits of what you've done, as opposed to waiting until you're dead," Richard said.



Photo by Paris Moulden

Richard and Amy Wallman donated \$75 million to the University of Chicago business school where they met.

The Wallmans also said their goal for the contribution is that it doesn't just help students go to school or help while they're in school, but extends to the rest of their lives.

"(My hope) is that the school continues to be a great business school, and produces graduates who make a difference," Richard said. "Not just in the business world, but in other ways. That they take their success and create good outcomes because of their success."

Amy said she's already seeing change at UC Booth in students wanting to give back rather than just focusing on their own business success.

"A few of the most recent graduates from Chicago have gone into the nonprofit world," she said. "It's very different coming out of business school, but again, it's a

"We're strong believers in education and providing tools for somebody to gain what we gained."

Amy Wallman

On providing scholarships

generation that's been brought up to be aware of what's happening in society and to help out, so if we can help fray the cost to keep them going to school for that, then that's great."

The opportunity to receive a college education is significant to the Wallmans, who have provided 58 scholarships to three different universities: UC Booth; Richard's alma mater, Vanderbilt; and Amy's alma mater, Boston University.

"We're strong believers in education and providing tools for somebody to gain what we gained," Amy said.

Amy recalls being one of the few women attending business school in the mid-1970s, which is part of the reason the scholarships the Wallmans have given have been exclusively to women.

For Richard, granting scholarships to women was more of a family consideration.

"At Vanderbilt, my mother and her three sisters went there, so we made it (scholarships) for females to honor them," he said.

Regardless of who the scholarships are granted to, the Wallmans like to know how the recipients fare after graduation.

"The only request we make of our recipients is that once a year they send us an email or call us and let us know what's going on," Richard said. "That sort of makes our day when we get their email, because they're very nice people. They're always grateful, but knowing that we had a small impact on their life makes us feel good."

At the end of the day, the Wallmans feel it's important to make a difference when and where you can.

"We knew we wanted to give back because life's been very good to us, and we wanted to share our good fortune," Richard said. "I think it's a responsibility that when the sun shines on you, you should help others."

Meeting

Continued from 4

proximately 800,000 cubic yards of beach quality sand from the navigation channel and ebb shoal onto eroded areas. During this time, beach access at Pope Road will be closed as this area will be used to stage equipment and materials.

The purpose of the project is to mitigate down-drift shoreline impacts caused by the federal navigation channel at St. Augustine Inlet, and provide storm damage reduction for upland development.

This project will renourish critically eroded shoreline between the southern lim-

its of Anastasia State Park (8th Street) in St. Augustine Beach. The federal project, led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is in partnership with St. Johns County.

"This project exemplifies the great partnership between the Corps and St. Johns County," said Project Manager Jason Harrah. "We want to ensure that the public is well informed of the upcoming project, projected dates of beach closure, etc."

The cost share is 80.5 percent federal and 19.5 percent non-federal.

Project updates will be available at www.saj.usace.army.mil/StAugustine-Beach and via social media pages – facebook.com/JacksonvilleDistrict and twitter.com/JaxStrong.

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A Nocatee resident, Jennifer Borocz is the women's golf head coach at Jacksonville University.

Jennifer Borocz

By Jon Blauvelt

Can you please briefly tell us about your background?

I was born and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota. I was a multi-sport athlete in high school and chose to pursue a college scholarship to play golf at Sam Houston State University. I excelled in the classroom and on the golf course. I was the first graduate of the Professional Golf Management program in 2009, with a 3.72 cumulative GPA. My collegiate playing career was highlighted by being named the 2008 Southland Conference Golf Student Athlete of the Year, a four-time Southland all-conference selection, team captain and by leading SHSU to the Southland Conference title in 2004 and 2007. Throughout my career, I was an individual medalist and runner-up in numerous events and was named to all-academic and all-scholar teams. Upon graduation, I was elected to PGA Membership and began working for the TPC Network.

I worked at TPC Twin Cities as a PGA assistant golf professional and during the winter months transferred to TPC Sawgrass. While at TPC Sawgrass, I was able to continue playing golf at a high level and won numerous PGA tournaments including the 2011 PGA Women's Stroke Play Championship, 2010 North Florida Section PGA Assistant's Championship and the 2010 and 2011 North Florida Section PGA Women's Championship. In December 2011, I left TPC Sawgrass to start a family. In August 2012, I was offered the head women's golf coach position at Jacksonville University. I am currently in my sixth season at the helm, and we continue to have unparalleled success each season, both on and off the course.

Can you please tell us about your team's recent success in October? What's this mean for the program?

We've been making progress each year both on and off the course. This year's team has the most depth we've ever had, and it has shown in our first three events of the year. We are led by Michelle Forsland (sophomore), the 2017 ASUN Freshman of the Year and first team all-conference, and Amanda Detmer (junior), who was named to the 2016 ASUN Freshman Team. We added local Ponte Vedra High graduate Hannah Berman to our roster, and she has been a steady addition to our program. Our first event of the year was canceled due to Hurricane Irma and we missed eight days of practice so I wasn't too sure how that was going to affect our team. The team worked hard once we resumed practice, and we won our home event at Marsh Landing CC, the 10th Annual Jacksonville Classic. Michelle and Amanda shared individual medalist honors as well as Co-ASUN Golfers of the Week. This gave the team a lot of confidence as we traveled to Pinehurst Resort to compete in our next event. It was here where we set individual and team records including low 36-hole individual, low 54-hole individual and low 54-hole team. In our final event of the fall season, we finished as team runner-up at the 40th Annual FIU Pat Bradley Invitational. Michelle finished the event T3, and we had four players in the Top 25.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

What are your goals for the team moving forward?

The ultimate team goal is to win the ASUN Conference Championship in April. In the meantime, we want to win at least one more tournament, bring the team scoring average under 300 and achieve the highest team GPA. It's tough to go into a two-and-a-half month break before we begin competing again.

What's your best advice for a student athlete in the Ponte Vedra/Beaches area who is hoping to play sports in college?

The best advice I can give is to do your research and go somewhere that you will be able to play. Nobody likes to sit on the bench and not get any playing time, and this happens more times than not. Recruits get blinded by material things and don't realize that they will never get a chance to play. This leads to a bad experience, and they will likely end up transferring, thus going through the recruiting process again.

What do you enjoy most about living in Nocatee?

Nocatee is a great place to live, and we couldn't imagine living anywhere else in Jacksonville. We enjoy the family-friendly atmosphere, and all of the amenities offer so much to do. We recently got a golf cart so we are enjoying riding around Nocatee. We are excited to ride around and enjoy the holiday decorations that our fellow residents put out.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I don't have a lot of free time as I'm currently working towards my master's degree and am the tournament chairperson for the Northern Chapter of the North Florida Section PGA. I also volunteer to coach our son's sports, and we are currently coaching PVAA baseball. We do enjoy going to Disney World when we have time, and we try to play some golf as a family.

To watch a video portion of the interview, visit pontevedrarecorder.com and click One of Us.

A sample of our listings



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\$5,750,000

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

113 CUTTER COURT
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210 DEER COLONY
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325 PANTHER CHASE TR.
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24448 MOSS CREEK LN.
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124 TEAL POINTE LANE
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- 5221 BENTPINE COVE RD. \$1,159,000
- 5227 BENTPINE COVE RD. \$999,000

- 5233 BENTPINE COVE RD. \$349,000 - Lot
- 5256 COMMISSIONERS DR. \$349,000 - Lot
- 5251 BENTPINE COVE RD. \$319,000 - Lot

Under Contract
277 LINKSIDE CIR.
\$969,000

New Listing
285 MARSH COVE
\$699,990 - Preserve at Ponte Vedra Lakes

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

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

24527 INDIAN MIDDEN WAY
\$693,000

New Listing
54 DAVIN COURT
\$679,990 - Preserve at Ponte Vedra Lakes

3858 BRAMPTON ISLAND CT N.
\$648,900 - Jacksonville Golf & CC

New Listing
35 DAVIN COURT
\$529,990 - Preserve at Ponte Vedra Lakes

145 KINGFISHER DR.
\$499,000 - Marsh Landing Lot

MARINA SAN PABLO #705
\$464,000

MARINA SAN PABLO #302
\$455,000

TRICIA BOWERS
904.254.0446

Presented by Tricia Bowers
Reduced
116 LAUREL COURT
\$959,000

Presented by Tricia Bowers
Reduced
148 GOVERNORS ROAD
\$775,000

Presented by Tricia Bowers
New Listing
226 SOUTH ROSCOE BLVD.
\$640,000

756 PROMENADE POINT
\$305,000 - Lot

JULIE CHILDERS
904.270.9710

Presented by Julie Childers
New Listing
1236 1ST ST N. - JAX BEACH
\$534,000

Presented by Tricia Bowers
Reduced
239 BELLE DR.
\$350,000 - Satsuma, FL

Presented by Julie Childers
Under Contract
1517 MAYFAIR RD.
\$375,000 - Jacksonville, FL

14411 MARINA SAN PABLO PL #11
For Rent \$4,950/mo.

REDUCED
2615 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD.
\$1,599,000

REDUCED
3141 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD
\$1,545,000

REDUCED
2921 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD.
\$995,000

REDUCED
3115 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD.
\$995,000

137 HARBOURMASTER CT.
\$599,000

REDUCED
2659 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD.
Storm Damaged "As Is" Only \$525,000

2797 S. PONTE VEDRA BLVD.
\$475,000

REDUCED
5673 GRAND CAYMAN RD.
\$448,750

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Thursday, Nov. 2	Friday, Nov. 3	Saturday, Nov. 4	Sunday, Nov. 5
<p>Culinary Talk and Taste with Lucia Biscaglio The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach will welcome Le Cordon Bleu-trained chef Lucia Biscaglio to be a guest instructor for the next cooking workshop, Culinary Talk and Taste, Nov. 2 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Chef Lucia will be serving a light tasting menu while discussing the origins of food, preparation and food pairing techniques. Pre-register for the event by visiting www.ccpvb.org/adultartsprograms or by calling (904) 280-0614 ext 204. The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach is located at 50 Executive Way.</p> <p>Yoga for Survivors The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a "Yoga for Survivors" class Nov. 2 at 11:30 a.m. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations are invited to join in this gentle and safe yoga practice, which is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.</p> <p>Episcopal School of Jacksonville Fine Arts Department presents 'The Wiz' A beloved Broadway gem, "The Wiz" infuses L. Frank Baum's "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" with a mix of rock, gospel and soul music. This timeless tale of Dorothy's adventures through the land of Oz is a family-friendly, fun and modern musical. "The Wiz" will be shown Nov. 2 and 3 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 4 at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and senior citizens; purchase tickets at www.esj.org/fine-arts/events-tickets/fine-arts-event-tickets.</p> <p>Erica Courtney visits Underwood's Jewelers Erica Courtney will be visiting Underwood's Jewelers in Ponte Vedra Beach to present her entire jewelry line to the public. She will also be taking private appointments for those interested. The event will take place Nov. 2 at Underwood's Ponte Vedra, located at 330 A1A N., Suite 204 in Ponte Vedra Beach; call (904) 280-1202 for more information.</p>	<p>Coastal Wine Market wine tasting Coastal Wine Market hosts Friday wine tastings from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B in Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p> <p>Cannon Firing Demonstration at Castillo de San Marcos National Parks Service volunteers and personnel demonstrate a cannon firing at the Castillo de San Marcos museum / monument every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rangers and volunteers demonstrate the weapons and relate the experiences of the colonial Spanish soldier of 1740s St. Augustine. Firing times are subject to change depending on weather conditions and staff availability. Castillo de San Marcos is located at 1 S. Castillo Drive in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Free exercise program THE PLAYERS Center in Ponte Vedra is partnering with the Arthritis Foundation to provide a free exercise program on Wednesdays and Fridays through Dec. 1 from 2 to 3 p.m. The class will feature a low-impact workout proven to reduce pain and decrease stiffness, and gentle range-of-motion exercises suitable for all fitness levels and abilities. Call (904) 280-3233 to reserve a spot. The PLAYERS Community Senior Center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra.</p> <p>Penumbra: The Space between Light and Dark Experience this exhibition showcasing the work of Julianne French, Debra Mixon Holliday and Masha Sardari on its last day at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, located at 50 Executive Way. The exhibition includes many mediums, such as photography, monochrome transfers and print making. Admission is free. The gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.</p> <p>Book sale Join the Ponte Vedra Library for a book sale Nov. 3 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The library is located at 101 Library Blvd.</p>	<p>ArborEATum Wine & Food Fest Nearly 20 restaurants, caterers and local craft brew masters will be on hand for the fourth annual ArborEATum Wine & Food Fest from 3 to 6 p.m. Nov. 4. To be held at 1445 Millcoe Road, this event will feature seasonal cheeses, desserts, coffees, local craft beers, more than 100 wines from around the world donated by Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits and live entertainment provided by Sidetrack Duo. Tickets cost \$55 per person and \$100 per couple; they can be purchased in advance at the event page at www.jacksonvillearboretum.org. Guests must be 21 years or older to attend.</p> <p>Riding the Rails: Pablo Beach Riding the Rails: Pablo Beach, presented by the Beaches Museum & History park, will celebrate all things trains Nov. 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Activities will include three operating model train layouts, a static display of historic model trains, antique cars from the early 1900s, and demonstrations of antique toys. Tours of the Museum's 1911 steam locomotive, the 1900 Florida East Coast Foreman's House and the Mayport Depot will also be available. This event is free and open to the public; call (904) 241-5657 or visit www.beaches-museum.org for more information.</p> <p>First Coast Walk for Apraxia The 2017 First Coast Walk for Children with Apraxia event will take place Nov. 4 at the Bolles School Football Field, located at 7400 San Jose Blvd. in Jacksonville. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the walk begins at 10. Proceeds will benefit important apraxia programs. Contact Michelle Leigh at apraxiajax@gmail.com for more information.</p> <p>Jacksonville Spartans fall service project The Jacksonville Spartans, the official North Florida affiliate of the Michigan State University Alumni Association, are looking for all Michigan State University Alumni to participate in this year's fall service project supporting The Salvation Army and The Mission House. Alumni are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to the next MSU football game watch party at Philly's Finest Nov. 4. The non-perishables collected will be used to put Thanksgiving Day meal baskets together for delivery to local families. Philly's Finest is located at 1527 3rd St. N. in Jacksonville Beach. For more information, call (904) 366-9993.</p>	<p>SeaWalk Stroll honoring Jimmy Gilbert Rock Solid Law will host a SeaWalk Stroll Nov. 5 at 2 p.m. to honor the late Jimmy Gilbert, a bass player, singer and vice-mayor of Neptune Beach. The Stroll will start near Casa Marina (6th Ave. N.), travel down the SeaWalk, progress onto Beach Boulevard and possibly over in front of the amphitheater. This event is open to the public.</p> <p>Sandals, Shorts and Steel Drum Service Every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to noon, St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church invites guests to put on sandals and shorts for a more casual worship service featuring the tropical sound of steel drum music. The church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>An Evening with Shelby Lynne and Allison Moorer The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will host critically acclaimed sister duo Shelby Lynne and Allison Moorer. Their album "Not Dark Yet" provides a potent look at their individual and collective artistry through song choices from writers like the Louvin Brothers, Nick Cave, Kurt Cobain and Jessie Colter. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the performance starts at 8. Visit www.pvconcerthall.com for ticket information. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N.</p> <p>St. Augustine Record Fair The St. Augustine Record Fair, presented by local record store ToneVendor and the St. Augustine Amphitheatre, will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 5. The fair is a free, family-friendly event that 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, posters, turntable equipment and supplies, memorabilia, collectibles and more. DJ sets by Ancient Deep will take place throughout the day, and food and beverages will be available for purchase from food trucks and Amphitheatre concessions. The event will also feature more than 60 music vendors. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre is located at 1340C A1A S.</p>

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Monday, Nov. 6	Tuesday, Nov. 7	Wednesday, Nov. 8	Thursday, Nov. 9
<p>Flagler College Art and Design Department faculty exhibition This exhibition at the Crisp-Ellert Art Museum, located at 48 Sevilla St. in St. Augustine, features works by the faculty of Flagler College's Art and Design Department. The artists' bodies of work vary in method and material and encompass painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, video, photography, print and digital design and animation. The Museum's hours are Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.</p> <p>'Thor' showing at World Golf Hall of Fame Imprisoned, the mighty Thor finds himself in a lethal gladiatorial contest against the Hulk, his former ally. Thor must fight for survival and race against time to prevent the all-powerful Hela from destroying his home and the Asgardian civilization. This movie is showing at the World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX Theater at 1:15 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 7:15 p.m. and 10:15 p.m. The World Golf Hall of Fame is located at 1 World Golf Place in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Kids Free November at World Golf Hall of Fame Kids under 12 can visit the World Golf Hall of Fame & Museum for free during the month of November (offer valid for up to five children) with a general admission paying adult. No coupon is necessary. The museum is open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday noon to 6 p.m. The World Golf Hall of Fame & Museum is located at 1 World Golf Place in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Jacksonville Job Fair The Jacksonville Job Fair, hosted by Coast-to-Coast Career Fairs, will offer guests an opportunity to speak with hiring managers from a variety of companies in the ballroom of DoubleTree by Hilton in Jacksonville. Attendees must arrive no later than 11 a.m., wear business professional attire and bring at least 10-15 copies of an updated resume. Visit www.coastto-coastcareerfares.com and click on "Jacksonville job fairs" to register. DoubleTree is located at 1201 Riverplace Blvd.</p>	<p>Prenatal Yoga Prenatal Yoga, taking place from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Y Healthy Living Center at 170 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach, is a class for women to empower themselves through yoga, meditation and guided visualization. This approach is gentle and safe for women in all stages of pregnancy. Interested participants should bring a yoga mat, towel and water to class. There is a \$13 entrance fee per attendee. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit baptistjax.com/hlc to register.</p> <p>Free Admission at Cummer Museum Every Tuesday, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens offers visitors free admission to its galleries and gardens through its "Florida Blue Free Tuesday" promotion. The Cummer Museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.</p> <p>First Coast Card Club The First Coast Card Club will meet throughout the month of November at various locations in the Ponte Vedra / St. Augustine area. Join the group Nov. 7 at the St. Augustine Main Library at 1960 N. Ponce De Leon Blvd. at 1 p.m. Contact Lea and Mark at (904) 829-0643 to RSVP and for more information and verification of events.</p> <p>Ask the Expert: Digestive Health Series Learn about the gut-brain connection with Julie Schafer, MPH from Baptist Health and learn how to improve brain health by improving gut health. This event will take place Nov. 7 at noon at the Y Healthy Living Center at 170 Landrum Lane. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit baptistjax.com/hlc to reserve a spot.</p> <p>Wine class and tasting event at TPC Sawgrass TPC Sawgrass will host a wine class and tasting event Nov. 7 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The class will offer wines from Lake County, California. Cost to attend is \$25; call (904) 543-5105 to make a reservation. TPC Sawgrass is located at 110 Championship Way in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p>	<p>Toastmasters Club Toastmasters Club #5199 of Ponte Vedra Beach meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center. These meetings help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Email Lucy Reep at lucyreep@gmail.com for additional information.</p> <p>Detox with Your Doctor Balanced Physician Care will host a "Detox with Your Doctor" event Nov. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at 115 Professional Drive - Suite 104 in Ponte Vedra Beach. Attendees will be guided through a seven-day science-based detox health program. Call (904) 930-4774 or visit www.BalancedPhysicianCare.com for more information.</p> <p>Yoga at church Join St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal for Yoga every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring a mat to this yoga class, which is suitable for all skill levels and ages. St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Middle school book talk Middle schoolers in grades six through eight are invited to join the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library for a book discussion along with food, movies, dioramas and more. Attendees are encouraged to bring a bag dinner and a favorite book to share. Call the library at (904) 827-6950 for more information. The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library is located at 101 Library Blvd.</p> <p>Free concert at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre The Front Porch Series will present "The Black Lillies" and "The Dustbowl Revival" live and free from the St. Augustine Amphitheatre Front Porch Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6). No tickets are necessary. The Black Lillies band members describe themselves as "Tennessee music." They combine Memphis soul and blues with Nashville's classic country. The Dustbowl Revival plays funk rhythm music. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre is located at 1340C A1A S.</p>	<p>Adventures in the Arts Ellen Diamond will present videos and comments about Henri Matisse, featuring Rosamund Bernier from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, Nov. 9 at 2 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Library. This event is free and open to the public - it is part of the "Adventures in the Arts" series sponsored by Cummer Beaches and Friends of the Library. The Ponte Vedra Beach Library is located at 101 Library Blvd. Contact Marianne Stein at (904) 280-2976 for more information.</p> <p>AAUW annual author luncheon with Kathy Stark and Michael Butler, Ph.D. The annual Author Luncheon featuring Kathy Stark and Michael Butler, Ph.D will take place Nov. 9 at 11:30 a.m. at Serenata Beach Club, located at 3175 S. Ponte Vedra Blvd. Both authors will be signing and selling their books. Attendees may select one of three entrees: chicken piccata, grilled atlantic salmon or Mediterranean pasta. A cash bar will be available. Admission costs \$35 prepaid; make reservation checks payable to "AAUW, St. Augustine Branch" with a meal choice noted on the check mailed to Peggy Kinchen, 51 Lee Drive, St. Augustine, no later than Oct. 30. Visit www.staugustine-fl.aauw.net for more information.</p> <p>Throwback Thursday at the Corazon Cinema and Cafe "Taming of the Shrew," a 1967 classic about a Brutish, fortune-hunting scoundrel named Petruchio who tames his wealthy, shrewish wife, Katharina, will be playing at the Corazon Cinema and Cafe as part of its "Throwback Thursday" event at noon. The Corazon Cinema and Cafe is located at 36 Granada St. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to recorderintern@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</p>



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Seymour's, the beach's only used book store, presents its fantastic **Bag Day Sale** Saturday, November 4, 2017

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PVHS graduates commissioned as naval officers

When Daniel Wise and Marcus Dunlap graduated from Ponte Vedra High School together in 2012, both were standout students and athletes. Now five years later, they are members of the same graduating class again—this time from the United States Navy's Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island.

Officer Candidate School (OCS) includes a difficult 12-week program involving intense physical training and rigorous academic work in areas such as navigation, U.S. naval history, military ethics and leadership. Wise and Dunlap graduated with a class of 72 men and women on Oct. 6 and were commissioned as naval officers.

Wise is the son of Jennifer and Phil Wise and brother of Rachel Wise of Ponte Vedra. Having served as the Regiment Medical Officer in OCS in charge of all candidates' injury and medical needs on base, he has been designated as a Naval Aviation Officer and has received orders to Washington, D.C., awaiting further orders to Naval Flight School in Pensacola, Florida, for two additional years of flight training. Wise previously graduated from Georgia Tech University with a degree in



Photo courtesy of David Dunlap

Marcus Dunlap (left) and Daniel Wise celebrate their graduation from Officer Candidate School on Oct. 6.

aerospace engineering.

Dunlap, who is the son of Holly and David Dunlap and brother of Causey Dunlap of Ponte Vedra, is also a Bucknell University graduate with degrees in East Asian studies (Chinese language) and economics. He has been designated as a Surface Warfare Officer and has received orders to report for duty aboard the USS Germantown—an amphibious assault vessel at Naval Station Sasebo, Japan. The Germantown is a member of the Seventh Fleet in the Pacific and is a forward deployed ship used primarily to deliver Marines and equipment to various amphibious landings throughout the Pacific. Following three months on the Germantown, Dunlap will report to Naval Station San Diego, California, for Surface Warfare School. He will then redeploy to the Germantown.



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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



By Jon Blauvelt

We're extremely proud to be celebrating a few recent accomplishments and milestones at the Ponte Vedra Recorder.

Jon Blauvelt
Editor

We took home 18 awards – including four first-place

honors – at the annual Community Papers of Florida conference held in October in South Florida. The Recorder received First Place for Best Editorial for an article on the Riding the Wave of Autism Surf Camp (credit: Jon Blauvelt); Real Estate Advertising for Fred Miller Group (full color/process, less than half page, credit: Kristin Flanagan-King); Black and White and/or Spot Color Ads for Bath House Pet Grooming (credit: Ed Johnson); and Best Special Section Cover Design-Newsprint for the Recorder's Birthday Party Planner (credit: April Snyder).

The Recorder received nine second-place honors in the following categories: News Story for an article on Hurricane Matthew (credit: Jennifer Logue); Self-Promotion in the newspaper (credit: April Snyder); Retail Advertising for Lemon



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

The Ponte Vedra Recorder won 18 awards from the Community Papers of Florida.

Twist Boutique (full color/process, less than half page, credit: Ed Johnson); Automotive Advertising for Fields Auto Group (full color/process, half page or more, credit: Kristin Flanagan-King); Dining & Entertainment Advertising for Le Macaron (full color/process, less than half page, credit: April Synder); Black and White and/or Spot Color Ads for TechVine (credit: Susan Griffin); Adver-

tising Campaign for Pivot CPAs (credit: Mark Berman); Best Special Section Cover Design - Newsprint for the Recorder's Sand Castles supplement (credit: April Snyder); and Best Special Section Cover Design – Glossy for the First Coast Register (credit: Don Christian and Cary Howard).

The Recorder also received five third-place honors in the following categories:

Personal Column on mainstream media (credit: Jennifer Logue); Automotive Advertising for Atlantic Infiniti (full color/process, less than half page, credit: April Snyder); Real Estate advertising for Kathleen Floryan (full color/process, half page or more, credit: Susan Griffin); Best Community Newspaper Cover Design for Riding the Wave (credit: Leigh Mitchell); and Best Special Section Cover Design – Glossy for the First Coast Register.

48th anniversary

We're also excited to be celebrating our 48th anniversary on Nov. 7.

As Ponte Vedra's paper of record since 1969, we firmly believe that the Recorder is the paper residents can turn to for credible, thoughtful, original and interesting reporting, and we're proud to be a fixture of the community.

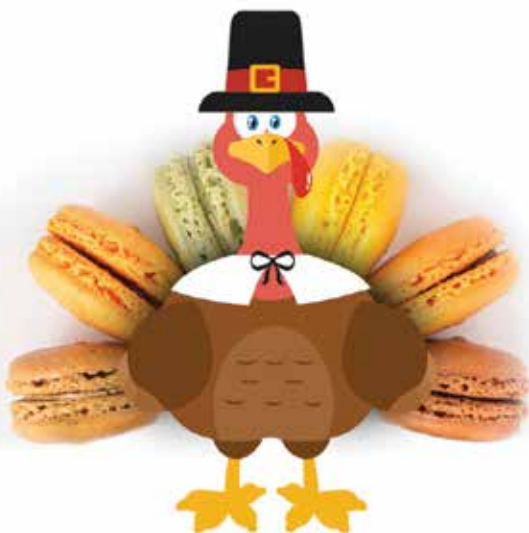
With that being said, we want to celebrate this milestone with you. Do you have any old Recorder articles or memories of the paper? If so, please bring them to our office or email them to me at JonB@opcfla.com. We'll plan to publish them in next week's paper to reflect on our long-standing commitment to the Ponte Vedra community.

Thank you for your continued support! We wouldn't have made it to 48 without you!

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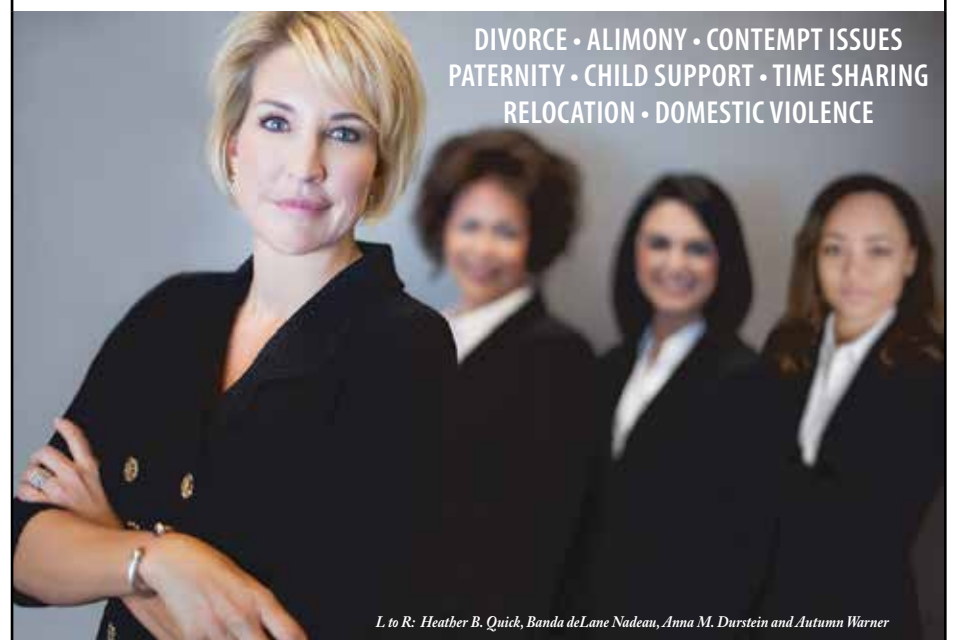
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St. Johns County property tax rolls open for collection

The St. Johns County 2017 property tax rolls are now open for collection.

Notices were sent to customers via email and mail Oct. 31. Payment can be made effective immediately.

Questions regarding homestead exemptions and property assessment should be addressed to the St. Johns County Property Appraiser, who is responsible for providing the St. Johns County Tax Collector with the tax roll. Any questions regarding the individual taxing authorities' millage rates, CDD rates, assessments and exemptions listed on your notice should be addressed to those individual authorities provided on the insert in your tax notice.

Total taxes to be collected by the St. Johns County Tax Collector are \$436,068,135. This is an increase of \$24,303,992, compared to the 2016 tax roll of \$411,764,143, and includes notices for real estate, tangible personal property, railroad and non-ad-valorem assessments.

"For the past 27 years, your Tax Collector's office has maintained a 99.3 percent or greater collection rate, with this year's collection rate standing at 99.82 percent," said St. Johns County Tax Collector Dennis W. Hollingsworth, CFC. "Ultimately, this assists all local taxing authorities to finance services for the citizens' needs."

Although all tax notices become due Nov. 1, 2017, they are payable through March 31, 2018, without incurring a penalty. The greatest savings will come to those who opt

to pay their taxes in November when they can get a 4 percent discount allowed by law, FS 197.162. The amount of the discount decreases by 1 percent every month until March 2018 when taxes must be paid and no discount is applied.

There are various methods of payment available to St. Johns County property owners. The easiest, most efficient and economical means is by e-check payment on the SJTC website, www.sjtax.us. Online payments can be made via e-check for just \$1.30, or by credit card for a 2.5 percent transaction fee paid to the financial institutions. Payment can also be made by mailing a check or visiting one of our four office locations.

In addition to the 71,083 tax notices sent to property owners, 44,193 tax notices were sent to mortgage companies with escrow accounts. Property owners with escrow accounts should receive an "information only" notice detailing your tax status and stating, "THIS IS NOT A BILL-DO NOT PAY- YOUR BILL HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO YOUR ESCROW AGENT."

Anyone unable to pay their homestead property taxes should contact the St. Johns County Tax Collector as early as possible to determine eligibility for the Homestead Tax Deferral.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions regarding payment of taxes or the operation of the St. Johns County Tax Collector's office, contact Hollingsworth at taxcollector@sjtax.us.

Registered sex offender moves to Ponte Vedra Beach on temporary basis

The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office (SJSO) has been given information that a person judged to be a sexual predator has temporarily moved to Ponte Vedra Beach.



Photo courtesy of SJSO
Randy P. Kenisky

According to SJSO, Randy P. Kenisky, 67, will be residing at 2881 S. Ponte Vedra Blvd. until Nov. 6. Kenisky was sentenced to 17 years in prison in 1999 in Palm Beach County for convictions on sexual battery on a victim under 12 and lewd and lascivious assault on a victim under 16. He was released in

November 2013 and has a permanent address in Alachua County.

Kenisky is a white male, 5 feet 6 inches tall and 165 pounds with gray hair and brown eyes. His current registered vehicle is a 2016 Chevrolet Equinox.

The public can access information about all sexual predators in the state at www.fdle.state.fl.us. Information is also available via a toll-free number: 1-888-FLPREDATOR.

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Pop singer-songwriter Caitlin Mahoney to perform at Blue Jay Listening Room Nov. 4

By Samantha Logue

This week, Florida-native singer-songwriter Caitlin Mahoney will return to the Sunshine State to promote her new album “Story Still Left to Be Told.” On the list of her upcoming shows is a live performance at the Blue Jay Listening Room in Jacksonville Beach Saturday, Nov. 4.

Mahoney, a pop musician who credits Bruce Springsteen and Sara Bareilles as her main sources of inspiration, said that her new album is all about self-discovery.

“‘Story Still Left to Be Told’ is an album of growth and learning to be enough for yourself, instead of feeling like you have to rely on other people,” she said. “It’s about identity and the journey it takes to get there.”

Dedicated to the cause of female empowerment, Mahoney said she felt it was

important that she incorporate that into promoting her new album.

“All of the merchandise and everything surrounding this album features female art – everything has been female-driven,” she explained. “It felt like an opportunity to collaborate specifically with women and prioritize them and highlight what women can do.”

Although she now resides in New York City, Mahoney said she was excited to be heading back to her roots.

“I grew up in Orlando and went to Florida State, so Florida has a big place in my heart,” Mahoney said. “I still have a pretty big community there, so it’s exciting to book new shows and bring a bigger band with me and do more of a production. And with this new record, I just wanted to bring that back to Florida.”

The Blue Jay Listening Room, which



Photo courtesy of Jeni Magana

Caitlin Mahoney will do a live performance Nov. 4 in Jacksonville Beach.

opened in August, is located at 2457B Third Street South in Jacksonville Beach. Mahoney’s Nov. 4 performance will begin

at 8 p.m., with the doors opening at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased via www.904tix.com.

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Sisters Shelby Lynne and Allison Moorer to perform at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Nov. 5

By Paris Moulden

Shelby Lynn and Allison Moorer are each successful singers/songwriters in their own right, but on Nov. 5, area residents will have the chance to see the sisters perform their first collaboration, along with some of their own originals.

“An Evening with Shelby Lynne and Allison Moorer” will be held at 8 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 5, at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. The sisters released their first joint album “Not Dark Yet” in August, and are touring together for the first time since 2010.

“We’re really having a great time touring,” Moorer said. “We waited a long time to do this, and that wasn’t for any reason other than we wanted to make sure the time was right. And we both felt like the time was right when we went in to make the record last year, and touring is just the icing on the cake.

“As soon as we got on the road, the record that we made started to evolve into something else, and so, as it always happens, your live show morphs and changes, which is really thrilling,” Moorer added. “We’re just having a blast.”

Moorer and Lynne have more than 20 albums between them, in addition to a Grammy win for Lynne and an Oscar nomination for Moorer. Fans at the Ponte Vedra show can not only expect to hear the sisters’ latest album, but be treated to



Photo by Jacob Blickenstaff

Shelby Lynne (left) and Allison Moorer will perform Nov. 5 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

plenty of extras.

“We do the record in sequence, and after we’re done with that, we get into each other’s back catalogue, and probably another 35, 45 minutes of things we’ve already recorded and switch verses and sing on each other’s songs,” Moorer said. “It’s really special because we’ve written a lot of things about where we come from and each other, so we share that with the audience and we let them in on the stories and what the songs are about and how they were inspired and really share those personal moments. So, it goes from the

record into something deeper and sort of an all-encompassing picture of the musical part of our relationship.”

“Is It Too Much,” the sole original song on the album, delves into the sisters’ unique bond, having dealt with personal tragedy while growing up in Alabama. The sisters’ father shot and killed their mother before killing himself when Shelby was 17 and Allison was 14.

“(The song) was an idea Shelby had,” Moorer said. “She had a couple of verses and she batted it to me and I did some work on it, and then we finished it up

together. It’s just about thinking about the burden that each other carries having to deal with our family history, where we’ve been and where we are now. And sometimes it does get heavy, but at the end of the day, we’re there for each other, and we want to express that.”

The new album also covers a wide range of songs from Nirvana’s “Lithium” to Merle Haggard’s “Silver Wings.”

“If we had made this record six months before or six months after, it would have probably been totally different,” Moorer said. “There are a million songs we could have covered. There’s no shortage of great songs in the world. It really just came down to what we felt like doing at the moment. We wanted to obviously bring in some things from our childhood and some present-day reflection of where we are. And for the record to have a beginning, a middle and an end, and I think we succeeded in that.”

“Not Dark Yet” may be the first compilation from the sisters, but Moorer said it won’t be the last.

“I think we’re both working on individual projects and we always will be, but we so have plans to make another album together, so we’ll start on that sometime next year,” she said.

For more information, visit www.shelbyandallison.com. For tickets to the show, go to www1.ticketmaster.com/event/22005336C5E5A456.

First Coast Opera presents ‘Opera’s Most Haunting Melodies’

By Jon Blauvelt

The First Coast Opera (FCO) presented “Opera’s Most Haunting Melodies” Oct. 27 at the Mark Lance Armory in St. Augustine and Oct. 29 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

Featuring gypsies, phantoms and other spooky characters, the entertaining, comical and impressive program included diverse excerpts from “Lucia di Lammermoor,” “Carmen,” “Sweeney Todd,” “The Phantom of the Opera,” “The Medium,” “Rigoletto,” “Faust,” “Lakme” and others.

The shows were headlined by soprano Kirsten Chambers, who made her Metropolitan Opera debut in the last year; Clearwater tenor Samuel Hall and New York-based baritone Ron Loyd. Joining them was soprano Brittany Fouché from Jacksonville, mezzo sopranos Janet Rabe-Meyer from Ormond Beach and Sarah Nordin from Tampa and



Photos courtesy of First Coast Opera

First Coast Opera Board of Directors member Andreea Vineyard, baritone Ron Loyd, music director and pianist Keith Chambers and First Coast Opera Artistic Director Curtis Tucker gather at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

baritone Dirk Gavin McCoy from St. Augustine. New York-based music director Keith Chambers, who conducted last season’s “Madama Butterfly,” played the piano.

Curtis Tucker, the FCO artistic director, served as the shows’ emcee and tenor.

The First Coast Opera is now in its 18th season of programs. The



ABOVE: Stephanie Willett Eagen Lancer and Joan Dickinson enjoy the show at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

RIGHT: Soprano Brittany Fouché performs at the Mark Lance Armory in St. Augustine.



EMMA Concert Association will present “Holiday Traditions with First Coast Opera” Dec. 13 at Flinger College’s Lewis Auditorium in St. Augustine.

Folk Singer Don McLean to perform at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall July 27, 2018

The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will present folk singer and American troubadour Don McLean live in concert on Friday, July 27, 2018. McLean will perform songs from his decades-long musical career, including “American Pie,” “Castles in the Air,” “Vincent” and more.

McLean is one of America’s most enduring singer-songwriters and forever associated with his classic hits “American Pie” and “Vincent (Starry, Starry Night).” Since first hitting the charts in 1971, McLean has amassed more than 40 gold and platinum records worldwide, and in 2004, was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame. His songs have been recorded by artists from every musical genre, most notably Madonna’s No. 1 recording of “American Pie” in 2000, and George Michael’s version of “The Grave” in 2003, sung in protest of the Iraq War.

In 2007, McLean shared his life story in Alan Howard’s biography, “The Don McLean Story: Killing Us Softly with his songs.” In 2009, his latest studio album, “Addicted to Black,” was released and in 2010, he returned to Europe for a seven-nation tour, including a performance at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

He did another tour of the United Kingdom and Ireland in 2011, including an appearance at Europe’s largest music festival, Glastonbury. And in 2012, McLean completed his longest European tour in 20 years. Also in 2012, McLean was awarded the BBC Folk Music Lifetime Achievement Award and released “American Troubadour” on CD and DVD, which included a worldwide broadcast of a documentary charting McLean’s life and career.

Tickets are available at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and St. Augustine Amphitheatre box offices, at



Photo courtesy of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

ticketmaster.com, at all Ticketmaster outlets and by phone at (800) 745-3000. Prices range from \$69-89.

For more information, go to www.don-mclean.com or www.pvconcerthall.com.

Country music’s Chris Young to perform at St. Augustine Amphitheatre Feb. 16, 2018

Officially kicking off the 2018 St. Augustine Amphitheatre concert season will be country music star Chris Young as his “Losing Sleep 2018 World Tour” rolls through St. Augustine Friday, Feb. 16, 2018.

Proclaimed a “headliner on his own, capable of stirring an audience in ways very few in country music can,” (Taste of



Photo courtesy of the St. Augustine Amphitheatre

Country) and “one of the more commanding voices in country music,” (Houston Chronicle) the Grammy-nominated singer has invited his Sony Music Nashville label mates Kane Brown and LANCO to join as special guests for the first leg of the tour.

“I’m excited about getting out on the road in the New Year with Kane and the guys from LANCO,” Young said. “It’s been really cool to write, record and tour with Kane over the last year. And then to have

LANCO bring their unique energy out on the road too—I can guarantee it’s going to be a great time.”

Tickets for Chris Young with special guests Kane Brown and LANCO start at \$32.50 and are available now at www.staugamphitheatre.com or 904-209-0367. The Feb. 16 show will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre, which is located at 1340C A1A South in St. Augustine.

Alhambra announces 2018 season, featuring five new shows

Capping off its “50 Years of Memories” celebration, the Alhambra Theatre & Dining will kick off its next 50 years with a nine-show slate, five of which are new to Alhambra audiences.

Starting Jan. 3, the dinner theatre’s 2018 season will open with “The Marvelous Wonderettes” and will wrap up with a new holiday presentation, “Elf the Musical,” on Nov. 21. The complete show lineup includes:

- “The Marvelous Wonderettes” (Jan. 3–Feb. 4)
- “Little Shop of Horrors” (Feb. 14–March 25)
- “Five Guys Named Moe” (April 4–May 6)
- “A Fox on the Fairway” (May 9–June 10)
- “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang” (June 13–July 29)
- “Kiss Me, Kate” (Aug. 1–Sept. 9)
- “Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up?” (Sept. 12–Oct. 7)
- “1776” (Oct. 17–Nov. 18)
- “Elf the Musical” (Nov. 21–Dec. 24)

“We spent 2017 looking back with joy at all the memories that have been created here over the past 50 years,” Managing Partner Craig Smith said. “We

are looking forward with great anticipation to all the Alhambra will be in the future. Our goal is always to provide fresh and exciting Broadway fare, and I think people will love this schedule. It really is

a season of spectacular.”

The Alhambra Theatre & Dining is located at 12000 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville. Season partnerships are currently available for \$267 per ticket per season, and single

show seats are now on sale starting at \$38. All tickets include a three-course meal that changes with each title, the show and parking. For tickets and further information, visit www.alhambrajax.com.

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Jacksonville Symphony schedules free community concerts

The Jacksonville Symphony is offering three free community concerts as part of the Mayo Clinic Community Concert Series this week, with a fifth scheduled in the spring.

Dates and locations for the community concerts are as follows:

■ Nov. 1: Artwalk at Hemming Park,

6:30 p.m.; The Bethel Church, 7 p.m.

■ Nov. 2: Seawalk Pavilion, 8 p.m.

■ Nov. 3: First Baptist Church in Fernandina Beach, 1600 S. 8th St., 12:30 p.m.

■ May 2: Artwalk at Hemming Park, 6:30 p.m. and 8:30p.m.

The community concert series is

sponsored by Mayo Clinic. The Nov. 4 community concert is also made possible through help from ARIAS, Amelia Residents in Action for the Symphony.

Jacksonville Symphony assistant conductor Deanna Tham will be conducting the concerts throughout the community.

Symphony to offer family fun with 'Lift Off!' Nov. 4

The Symphony will also present its first Family Series concert of the season at 3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 4, at the Times-Union Center for Performing Arts.

The Symphony's adventure through air and space, "Lift Off!" will be led by JSYO Principal Conductor and Jacksonville Symphony Assistant Conductor Deanna Tham. The Symphony's family concerts are designed for fun-filled, family engagement and for children from infancy to the age of 10.

The program will feature family-fun works from "Star Trek Through the Years" to Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries" to introduce younger symphony goers to classic symphonic music. Families will be able to hear bees buzzing throughout the hall with a rendition of "Flight of the Bumblebee," as well as an arrangement of the well-known theme from the movie "The Flintstones Meet the Jetsons."

The Jacksonville Symphony family concerts feature free pre-concert activities, starting at 2 p.m., which include an instrument zoo presented by the Jacksonville Symphony Guild, and crafts that are tied to the theme of each concert.

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St. Johns Cultural Council seeking nominations for ROWITA Awards

The St. Johns Cultural Council is seeking nominations for the 2018 Dr. Gail Pfister ROWITA (Recognizing Outstanding Women in the Arts) Awards. Community members are encouraged to submit nominations of women who have made significant contributions to the arts community in St. Johns County over the course of their lifetime.

The ROWITA Recognition Ceremony takes place during Women's History Month each March. To nominate an individual, fill out the application located at www.stjohnsculture.com. Nominations should be emailed to the St. Johns Cultural Council at sjcc@historicoast-culture.com as an attachment (PDF or Word document, with pictures in the JPG format).

For assistance with an online submission, call the St. Johns Cultural Council at 904-808-7330. Online applications are encouraged, but those unable to submit digitally may submit nominations to: St. Johns Cultural Council, 15 Old Mission Ave., St. Augustine, FL 32084.

The deadline for submissions is Dec. 1, and only fully completed nominations will be considered.

Artist Caitlin Flynn coming to Cultural Center

Professional artist Caitlin Flynn will lead an adult arts workshop on encaustic painting Nov. 3 at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach.

This workshop will be suitable for students of all experience and skill levels and will cover several useful skills such as color mixing, layering, fusing, collaging and image transferring. All supplies will be provided.

Encaustic painting is also known as hot wax painting: It incorporates heated and pigmented beeswax into works of art. Famous modern artists such as Diego Rivera and Jasper Johns have experimented

with this technique.

Flynn is an artist living and working in Jacksonville who received her master's degree from Pratt Institute. She works in collage, encaustic, impasto, mixed media and oil.

Additional Cultural Center classes

In other Cultural Center news, the nonprofit kicked off its new six-week session of art classes for adults and youths this week.

Classes cover mediums ranging from figure drawing and acrylic painting to soft pastels and ceramics with options offered

for beginning and experienced artists.

Scheduled classes include new classes such as "Ceramics II- The Next Step" with Sally Douglas and "Pastels- Exploring Texture" with Cynthia Pierson. The classes also include familiar favorites such as "Abstract Painting" with Anna Miller, "Pas de Trois" with Dawn Wolf (a ballet class for 3-year-olds) and "5 Steps to Oil Painting" with Eve Albrecht. Other instructors include Marisa Yow, Robert

Leedy, Sandy Leland and Aisling Millar McDonald.

Registration is available online, but the Cultural Center is encouraging artists to sign up soon in order to guarantee a space.

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach is a 501(c)3 nonprofit arts organization located at 50 Executive Way. Call (904) 280-0614 or visit www.ccpvb.org for more information.

first coast

ARTISTS

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For more information about these works, the artists, or other works, contact Bob Nickerson at First Coast Artists at 904.280.8187. PV2-LV4425



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Turkey Trot and Parade to return to Nocatee

Event to raise money for Youth Crisis Center

After a successful first year, the Psych Ed Connections Turkey Trot and Parade will be taking to Nocatee for a second helping this Thanksgiving.

The inaugural year boasted nearly 500 racers, several parade participants, even more spectators and generated \$2,000 for the local Youth Crisis Center. This year's event includes plans for improving the races courses, a bigger parade and even more entertainment.

The race portion of the event includes a 10K, 5K and kid's fun run. For the parade portion, local businesses decorate golf carts in holiday attire and ride through the parade route throwing candy, beads and more.

"The event is more than just a race," said Dr. Abigail Levrini, owner of Psych Ed Connections and creator of the event. "It is



about starting the day off right; gathering with friends and family; and being grateful for the amazing community that we live in."

Local businesses come together to organize this event, which

is held on Crosswater Parkway. Fun4firstcoastkids.com is sponsoring the kid's fun run, and CrosswaterConnect.com, which connects local businesses to the community, leads the parade por-

tion. Other local businesses are contributing as race sponsors and/or setting up vendor tables at the event.

The 2017 event will raise funds for St. Johns CARES, a nonprofit

organization committed to helping local charities in St. Johns County by providing assistance to those in need through donations and time. St. Johns CARES divides charity efforts into four different categories: animals and environment; senior and medical; children; and homeless and abused. Anyone who volunteers at the Turkey Trot can receive certified hours for their service.

To learn more about becoming a participant, business sponsor or volunteer, visit the Psych Ed Connections Turkey Trot website at www.psychedconnections.com and click the "PEC Events" section. Racers can register on active.com. All racers receive a T-shirt, finishers medal and more.

"I feel so fortunate to live and work in this beautiful community," Dr. Levrini said. "Nothing is better than being able to give back by raising charitable funds through an event that brings so many happy families together on a very important holiday."



ABOVE: A winner hold up a certificate after finishing last year's Turkey Trot race.

LEFT: Decorated golf carts take part in last year's Turkey Trot parade.

Photos courtesy of Psych Ed Connections



Marybeth Murray and Misty Phillips of Watson Realty Corp.



Photos courtesy of Misty Phillips
Parents and their children paint pumpkins at Twenty Mile.

Watson Realty Corp. agents host annual pumpkin painting event at Twenty Mile

Misty Phillips and Marybeth Murray of Watson Realty Corp. hosted their second annual pumpkin painting event Oct. 20 at Twenty Mile in Nocatee. The event was free and open to residents in and around the Twenty Mile area.

Ninety-six children and their parents participated in the event, which also included local high school student volunteers. Children painted pumpkins and decorated them with glitter, feathers, fabric, ribbon, sequins and more.

Starling at Nocatee and Coastal Wine Market partner for 'Give Back Night'

In early October, the Starling at Nocatee and Coastal Wine Market teamed up for "Give Back Night."

A portion of the event's sales benefitted the Starling at Nocatee Knockouts' quest to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Association, Central/North Florida chapter's annual Jacksonville Walk to end Alzheimer's on Nov. 4. Guests of the event also enjoyed wine and hors d'oeuvres.



Photos by Susan Griffin
Angela Young, Melissa Bartley and Melinda Ingles



Steve McManus, Pam Brunel, Megan Kennedy, Sherida Wedgewood and Rob Clarke



Kerri Dufour, Sherida Wedgewood and Teresa Graham



Kimberley Schafer and Lindsey Hall

Eight youth golfers qualify at TPC Sawgrass for Drive, Chip and Putt finals at Augusta National

After a regional qualifying competition at TPC Sawgrass last month, eight Florida and Georgia youth golfers – four boys and four girls – were crowned as national finalists and earned an invitation to compete in the fifth-annual Drive, Chip and Putt National Finals held on Sunday, April 1, 2018, prior to the start of the Masters Tournament at Augusta National Golf Club.

Conducted in partnership between the Masters Tournament, the PGA of America and the USGA, the Drive, Chip and Putt Championship is a free, nationwide youth golf development program open to boys and girls, ages 7-15, in four age categories.

The regional qualifying competition held at TPC Sawgrass on Oct. 14 is one of 10 regional qualifiers across the United States.

Overall, 80 young golfers will advance to compete at Augusta National Golf Club. Tens of thousands seized the opportunity to participate in the Drive, Chip and Putt Championship, which began with local qualifying events at more than 260 courses throughout the country. These qualifiers are open each year to young golfers of all skill and experience levels. The top finishers from each local qualifier advanced through sub-regionals and then regional competitions.

The four female national finalists from the TPC Sawgrass regional qualifier are:

- Jensi Krampel, Naples, Florida. (ages 7-9)

- Gloria Nip, Port St. Lucie, Florida. (ages 10-11)

- Alexandra Gazzoli, Palm Coast, Florida (ages 12-13)

- Loralie Cowart, Winston, Georgia (ages 14-15)

The four male National Finalists from the TPC Sawgrass regional qualifier are:

- Miles Russell, Jacksonville Beach, Florida (ages 7-9)

- Sahish Reddy, Duluth, Georgia (ages 10-11)

- Dazhou “David” Wu, Winter Garden, Florida (ages 12-13)

- Brendan Valdes, Orlando, Florida (ages 14-15)

For more information and full qualifying scores for each division, visit www.DriveChipandPutt.com.



Anglers Zander Wolff and Joe Tarabolett of Ponte Vedra Beach hold their prize-winning catch.

RiverLife Ministries holds second annual youth fishing tournament

RiverLife Ministries hosted its second annual youth fishing tournament at Palm Valley Outdoors Oct. 14, in which nine boats and 18 anglers (ages 14-16) took to the Intracoastal Waterway in search of redfish, trout, flounder, sheepshead, black drum and numerous prizes.

While some teams chose to fish during the midday low tide, others focused on the late afternoon flood tide. When the fishing had ended, the team led by Capt. Andrew Mizell nearly swept the board, as his anglers – Jack Heuschkel and Brett Houston of Ponte Vedra Beach – caught 10 reds and three trout, winning the Bait Division, the Artificial Division and the Combined Division. According to Mizell, the group pulled in around 40 fish in total. For prizes, each angler won \$150 in Strike Zone gift cards and multiple hats and buffs. Mizell won \$240 in gift cards to Pusser’s Bar and Grille.

The Fly Division was won by guide Gavin Glover, and anglers Zander Wolff and Joe Taraboletti of Ponte Vedra Beach. The anglers won a personalized and signed redfish print from artist Vaughn Cochran and hats, and Glover won an \$80 gift card to Pusser’s.

For the second year in a row, the largest fish of the day – a 24-inch redfish – was caught by John Whitley of Ponte Vedra Beach. Whitley was guided by Ryan Curley and fished alongside friend Topher Wolff. Whitley won a pair of Costa Del Mar sunglasses, and Ryan won a \$100 gift card to Oyster Creek Outfitters.

Captains who volunteered for the event included Capt. Bart Swab, Ryan Curley, Capt. Austin Bacon, Capt. James Ferguson, Capt. Andrew Mizell, Nate Clardy, John Mauriello, Gavin Glover and Capt.



Angler John Whitley displays his 24-inch redfish, which was the largest fish of the day.

Photos courtesy of RiverLife Ministries

Matt Chipperfield. Sponsors included Blackfly Outfitters, Strike Zone Fishing, Oyster Creek Outfitters, Pusser’s Bar and

Grille, Palm Valley Outdoors, Team Que Mas of Islamorada and the boat captains and guides.

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Fifth graders at Bolles PVB perform 'Alice in Wonderland'

In a colorful and informational twist on "Alice in Wonderland," fifth grade students on the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus took to the stage in Ponte Vedra Hall Oct. 26 to showcase their knowledge of idioms, similes and alliteration among other fun word twists.

Director Stacey Posick led students in songs like "Say What You Mean, Mean What You Say" and other fun pieces while Michael Bachman ensured lighting and sound went off without a hitch.



Photos courtesy of The Bolles School

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Christ Episcopal Church Preschool participates in annual Halloween parade

Christ Episcopal Church preschoolers dressed up in their Halloween costumes and marched in the annual parade through the school playground Monday, Oct. 30.

The event included the 2½-year-olds, 3-year-olds, 4-year-olds and kindergarteners.

Located at 400 San Juan Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach, Christ Episcopal Church Preschool is dedicated to providing a warm, loving and Christian environment carefully designed to nurture the child's growth as an independent individual with respect not only for self, but for others.



Photos courtesy of Jamie Sarnowski
Ruby Boughter and EJ Bagni



Harper Sarnowski and Case McHale



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Ryan Stanton, Landon Landry and Luke Wainer

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VANGUARD REALTY



Photos courtesy of Aqua East and Salty Tides Photography

Attendees and participants of the Grom Fest gather for a group photo.

Aqua East GROM Fest hosts surfers, skateboarders and wakeboarders

Aqua East GROM Fest took place Oct. 13-15 in Jacksonville Beach, hosting surfers, skateboarders and wakeboarders under the age of 17 to compete for cash and prizes from Aqua East Surf Shop.

The event started with a “Skate Jam” Oct. 13 at the new South Beach Skate Park. The skate community came from all parts of Jacksonville to show off tricks, win prizes and enjoy free pizza from Mellow Mushroom. The Aqua East Skate Team and several sponsors judged a “best trick” contest; the winner was Adam Gonzalez, known as “Butterball.” Gonzalez walked away with a new skateboard and a bag full of prizes.

South of the Jacksonville Beach Pier on Oct. 14, the Aqua East Surf Contest hosted 60 competitors competing for \$2,150 in cash and prizes. The riders enjoyed a free lunch from Burrito Gallery, and each first-place winner went home with cash money and the second-, third- and fourth-place participants walked away with other prizes.

The largest division was 8 and under and of the 15 athletes, Damien Antinson was the winner of the \$250 check and first-place banner. Out of the elite surfers, Sean O’Neal hit a variety of maneuvers that resulted in him being named the Junior Open Winner and earning a check for \$500.

The Aqua East GROM Fest wake event took place Oct. 15. The event featured professional wakeboarder Jeff Langley along with fellow pros Bec Gange and Jim Campbell, who took riders out on a 2018 Malibu boat from Tommy’s Florida in Orlando. The event’s skills ranged from butter slides, wake to wakes and the event-winning crowmove tantrum to blind from big trick winner, Christopher Shuff.

Visit @aquaeastsurfshop on Facebook and Instagram for additional photos, drone footage and a wrap-up video.



Junior Open winners Tom Burger, Sean O’Neal and Kia Delorenzo



A skater attempts a trick at the “Skate Jam.”



ABOVE: Colton Moore celebrates his first-place finish in wakeboarding (ages 9-11).

LEFT: Sean O’Neal turns at the top of a wave.

Aqua Grill announces relationship with Kate Amato Foundation

Aqua Grill owner Cary Hart recently announced that his restaurant has established a relationship with the Kate Amato Foundation.

The organization is a public charity founded earlier this year by the parents and friends of Kate Amato, who passed away at age 11 from rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare and aggressive form of pediatric cancer.

“I have really enjoyed getting to know Lisa and Jeff Amato, and it’s an honor to have the opportunity to help them, however we can, to bring awareness and funding to the Kate Amato Foundation,” Hart said. “I have been moved not only by Lisa and Jeff’s dignity in the face of such a tragic loss, but also to their commitment to publicize the need for research funding for all forms of pediatric cancer. Federal funding in the U.S. for childhood cancer research is just 4 percent of the National Cancer Institute’s annual budget, so grassroots efforts like this are critical.”

The relationship will have three components. First, throughout Thanksgiving weekend, a fundraising effort will take place at the restaurant.

“We’re working out details now, but it’s something we hope other local restaurants and businesses will ultimately join,” Hart said.

Second, the restaurant will host a \$200 per plate wine dinner Nov. 26, with all proceeds going to the Kate Amato Foundation.

“We have an incredible menu and wine selection for the evening,” Hart added. “It will be an amazing value as well as an amazing cause.”

Finally, the Aqua Grill will participate in the Kate Klassic, a fundraising golf tournament set for Nov. 27 at Marsh Landing Country Club.

“We’ve learned throughout Kate’s illness how shamefully underfunded pediatric cancer research is,” Kate Amato’s mother Lisa said. “With the help of community leaders like Cary Hart and others, we hope to inspire our community into action, fund innovative research and contribute to the strategic advancement of pediatric cancer treatments—because every child deserves to live a full life.”

For more information on the dinner, contact the Kate Amato Foundation at (904) 629-8300. Visit www.kateklassic.com for more information on the golf tournament. To learn more about Kate and her foundation, please visit www.kateamatofoundation.org or visit TeamKate on Facebook.

Old Barn Island holds fall gathering

Residents of the Old Barn Island neighborhood in Sawgrass Country Club came together for a fall gathering at the home of Hugh and Debbie Williams Sunday, Oct. 29. Guests of the gathering enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, beverages and each other's company on a crisp autumn day.

Photos provided by David Miron



Parita Patel, Tushar Patel and Hugh Williams



David Lunghino, Bill Murdock, Terri Glaze and Dale Westling



Shannon Pham and Ellen Paladino



Marc and Jeryl Kortlander and Carol Zoeller and Steve Glaze



Riley and Victor Polisetty



Photo courtesy of Monique Burr Foundation

MBF Founder and Chairman Ed Burr, Tournament Chairman MG Orender and Honorary Chair Mark McCumber

MBF Champions for Child Safety Pro-Am golf event raises \$178,000 for Monique Burr Foundation

The recent MBF Champions for Child Safety Pro-Am Golf Tournament, presented by Lennar at the Palencia Club, raised more than \$178,000.

The annual tournament benefitting the Monique Burr Foundation for Children, Inc. offered corporate teams and individuals the opportunity to golf for a good cause with professional golfers. An additional 25 professionals participated in the tournament, which was held in early October. They were paired with amateur teams at the PGA Tour and the Kearney Companies Pairings Party the night before the tournament. This year's event also included a \$1 million shootout, six hole-in-one contests and a pre-event putting contest.

"We appreciate the support of our sponsors, participants and honorary chairs, and we are thrilled so many could join us to celebrate our 20th year of keeping children safe," said MBF

Executive Director Lynn Layton. "With this support, children have access to MBF Prevention Education Programs, a series of comprehensive, research-based prevention programs educating and empowering students to prevent, recognize and respond appropriately to bullying, cyberbullying, all types of child abuse and other digital dangers."

Since the golf tournament began in 1997, it has raised more than \$3 million for the Monique Burr Foundation for Children, Inc.

Presented by Lennar, sponsors of this year's tournament included AT&T; Kent and Christie Stermon Foundation; The PGA TOUR; The Kearney Companies; and Michael J. Ward and Jennifer Glock, among others. For more information about the Monique Burr Foundation for Children, Inc., visit www.mbfchildsafetymatters.org or call (904) 642-0210.



Photo courtesy of Ron Whittington

Orthopaedic Associates of St. Augustine doctors present the donation check to Joyce Mahr, Betty Griffin Center CEO. From left to right: Dr. John Stark, Dr. Sina Kasraeian, Dr. Brian Haycock, Joyce Mahr, Dr. James Grimes, Dr. Kurtis Hort, Dr. Albert Volk, Dr. Joshua Henry and Dr. Casey McClone.

Orthopaedic Associates of St. Augustine Golf Tournament raises over \$25,000 for Betty Griffin Center

Doctors and their guests who took part in the Ninth Annual Orthopaedic Associates of St. Augustine Golf Tournament raised \$25,700 for the Betty Griffin Center.

"Our group selects a local nonprofit agency based in St. Johns County each year as a beneficiary, and we felt designating Betty Griffin Center as our recipient for this year's event was timely since October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month," said Orthopaedic Associates of St. Augustine Marketing Director Francine Quesada, who coordinated the tournament.

The tournament, which involved 28 teams of Orthopaedic doctors and their guests, took place Oct. 11 at the St. Johns Golf & Country Club. Betty Griffin Center CEO Joyce Mahr was on hand to accept the check donation at a ceremony held in the clubhouse after the event, which was emceed by Action News Jax Sports Director Brent Martineau.

"We're grateful for all the teams who

took part in this event and to the physicians of Orthopaedic Associates of St. Augustine for selecting Betty Griffin Center as their recipient this year," Mahr said. "We're grateful for groups like OASA and others in our community who give each year to help us support those victims of sexual and domestic assault in St. Johns County."

Top event sponsors included Florida Elite Soccer Academy, Rez Legal, Flagler Hospital, Kasraeian Urology and WW Gay. Hole-in-one sponsors included Bozard Ford, which donated a car and Underwood's Jewelers, which donated a Rolex watch.

For more information on holding a special event to benefit Betty Griffin Center, visit <http://www.bettygriffincenter.org/host-a-special-event/>. To make a donation, visit www.bettygriffincenter.org. To report if you or someone you know is being abused, call the Betty Griffin Center 24-hour helpline at (904) 824-1555.



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Ocean Palms Elementary second-grade students Sophia Koppenhafer (front row, from left), Tallula Schiavo, Eamon Rocha and Graham Butler gather with Brette Reiman, director of Hugs Across the County (back row, from left), Jan Caban of the St. Johns County School District ASSIST program and Sandy Calvin, vice president of Hugs Across the County. The OPE second-grade students spent the first two weeks in October working to collect full size toiletries and new children's underwear to benefit Hugs Across the County (stjohnshugs.org). The students, teachers and families created nearly 200 emergency care packages, each filled with new underwear, toothpaste, a toothbrush, shampoo and soap. The emergency care packages will be distributed to K-12th grade St. Johns County students in crisis situations.

Photo courtesy of Ocean Palms Elementary School

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SJSO to undergo autism training and certification

Deputy sheriffs and first responders with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office (SJSO) will complete autism training conducted by the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES) beginning in January 2018.

Over 400 St. Johns County law enforcement officers will take part in the training, which will address autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and how to recognize and communicate with an individual who may have ASD.

"With 1 in 68 children diagnosed with autism per year, it is vital that first responders and law enforcement are trained how to recognize and react to situations before they escalate when encountering an individual with special needs," said Myron Pincomb, IBCCES board chairman.

All attendees undergoing the training will receive their certification in autism following completion, making St. Johns County the first sheriff's office in Florida with autism certification through IBCCES, a worldwide provider of autism and mental health training and certification.

"St. Johns County Sheriff's Office has committed to autism training in order to assist the special needs community in a safe and effective manner when situations arise," said Sheriff David Shoar. "We are excited to be the first law enforcement agency in Florida to undergo autism training and certification through

IBCCES so that we have the tools and resources to benefit our entire community, including these special individuals."

As of Oct. 1, 2017, Florida law enforcement is required to undergo training on how to identify characteristics of autism, as well as how to appropriately respond to individuals who display such

behaviors. The push for legislation came after a police shooting in Miami left an unarmed black therapist shot and injured while he was protecting his client on the autism spectrum.

The new law is designed to increase education and awareness and reduce potential risk.

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Business Weekly

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Glenmoor sold for
\$27.5 million

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Sandy sells sea designs all over the world

By Samantha Logue

A realtor-turned-entrepreneur, appropriately-named Ponte Vedra business owner Sandy Powell has always loved the beach. In 2011, on a mere whim, she launched Sandy by the Sea Designs to help spread that love, but she had no idea that she would soon be shipping her products around the world.

“I’ve sold pillows in Washington state, California, the Bahamas ... I sell in every state that has coastline,” Powell said. “I ship to Ibiza, Spain. I’ve sold to stores in Acapulco, and I also had an order from Peru.”

According to Powell, her entrepreneurial journey began with the market collapse of the Great Recession.

“I sold real estate in Atlanta for 20-some years, and then the market just tanked up there,” she said. “When I got out of real estate and moved down here, I moved over to the beach.”

Powell soon after began working at Thomasville Furniture in Jacksonville, but with the housing market down for the count, there wasn’t much demand for furniture either.

“I would sit there for hours looking at Coastal Living Magazine, and finally decided, ‘I’ve got to figure out another way,’” she said.



Photo courtesy of Sandy by the Sea Designs

Sandy Powell left real estate to create her own design business, Sandy by the Sea Designs.

Inspired by her love of the beach, Powell began making her own coastal furnishings, including bedding, pillows, jewelry,

bags and other decorative items.

“I made six pillows and took them to Dale and Joy, who own Cottage by the

Sea in Jacksonville Beach, and they told me ‘You need to take these to Atlanta.’”

Atlanta is home to AmericasMart Atlanta, a wholesale marketplace for merchants of various kinds, and it was there that Powell’s products really began to garner attention—including from some big-name companies.

“Three years ago, I got an email from Amazon.com, and they said, ‘We saw you at market, and we want your product,’” she said. “At first, I was kind of freaked out. I thought, ‘I’m a single woman – the single owner of a minority company – and the largest retailer in the world has found me and wants me.’”

Since then, Powell’s business has continued to grow, with her products now available on numerous e-commerce websites, including Amazon.com, Houzz.com and, as of this week, Wayfair.com. Business has been going so well, in fact, that Powell recently launched another business—Staging by the Sea.

“The philosophy is this,” she said. “You have these people who come down from up north, and they might be looking at a house or a condo, and they fall in love with the beach. They’re out here looking at these houses at the beach

SANDY continues on Page 28

New Freedom Boat Club location set to open in Ponte Vedra

By Benjamin Naim

A new Freedom Boat Club location is set to open in Ponte Vedra this month after holding a ribbon cutting ceremony with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division in mid-October.

Founded in 1989 in Sarasota, Freedom Boat Club is the oldest and largest boat club in America with locations across the country. Its stated goal is to provide an affordable option for boat ownership and offer a recreational boating experience for its members at an affordable price.

According to Lisa Almeida, the owner of the Ponte Vedra location



Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Representatives from Freedom Boat Club and the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division participate in ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Ponte Vedra business in mid-October.

and two other clubs in the Northeast Florida region, Freedom Boat Club makes it easier for people to partake in the hobby of boating.

“It’s a combination of people who really want a boat but can’t afford their own, but it’s also for lapsed boaters who may have sold

their boat and want to get back into boating,” said Almeida.

Freedom Boat Club’s Ponte Vedra location will be open the sec-

ond week of November at Palm Valley Outdoors, located at 377 S. Roscoe Road. Almeida said she chose to open a new club in Ponte Vedra because many people from the area have contacted her about opening a location in the community. Additionally, Almeida revealed that Palm Valley Outdoors approached her first and offered her a deal she couldn’t refuse.

“Palm Valley Outdoors approached us and said that they would build a floating dock and dry stack marina for us if we would be interested,” Almeida said. “Of course, we jumped at that chance.”

FREEDOM continues on Page 28

Handling hurricanes and other storms in life



By Ric Schilling
Special to the Recorder

Ric Schilling
Guest Columnist

Born and raised in Florida, I have lived through many hurricanes over the years. I think dealing with a hurricane is similar in many respects to dealing with unplanned issues in life. Of course,

those of us that live along the coastal areas are aware of hurricane season and try to prepare in advance as much as possible, but you can never be truly ready for a hurricane or its aftermath in my opinion.

We know that weather events can be disruptive and dangerous. Whether it's a blizzard, forest fire, mudslide, earthquake, tornado, flood or hurricane, each is frightening and stressful and must be taken seriously. Yet, we often believe that these events will never affect us until they do. Then, the time

to have planned for them has passed, and often panic sets in. Many people tell us to prepare so we are protected; yet frequently so many ignore their warnings until the wolf is knocking at the door.

Now think of this in terms of life planning. People die prematurely every day without having their affairs in order and having adequate life insurance so that their spouse and children can carry on in a financially secure manner. People also recognize the likelihood of needing long-term care services at some point in the future; yet few acknowledge the reality of this need being one of their own and acquire long-term care insurance for themselves.

Most people acknowledge that inflation erodes savings over time but rarely take this into account in saving for their future retirement. It is just easier to ignore these things and hope they never happen. There are now products available that will provide four life/financial planning solutions: life insurance, long-term care (which

includes in-home care and assisted living), asset protection and wealth accumulation.

My advice as a hurricane survivor (many, many times over throughout my life as a native Floridian) is to prepare for the storms in life and expect them to happen. If they do, you will be ready for the challenge and will likely come through alright. If one of life's storms never comes your way, you'll just be that much better off financially and otherwise. Either way you win when you take the time to plan and prepare. Remember that planning for the worst is the best way to avoid the worst happening to you.

There are many things in life that one just cannot plan for. It doesn't make sense to me to not plan for those events that we CAN plan for. Our thoughts and prayers remain with all affected by Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria, as well as all those who are suffering from the aftermath of the recent earthquakes in Mexico.

Frederic "Ric" Schilling is a Florida native, born in Jacksonville, Fl. Ric is President of Senior Guardians of America, a local North Florida firm specializing in tax reduction, long term illness planning, asset protection, probate avoidance and life income planning. Ric is a National Speaker and Advocate on Senior Issues and has been featured by the Florida Times Union and WJXT, TV-4 in Jacksonville as an authority on Estate Planning and Retirement Issues. Senior Guardians has an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau and is a member in excellent standing with the National Ethics Association. Contact Frederic: 904-371-3302 or 888-891-3381 Please visit: www.seniorguardian.com

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Photo courtesy of Meyer Media

Glenmoor sold for \$27.5 million to Westminster Communities of Florida

Glenmoor – a 223-unit senior living community in St. Augustine's World Golf Village – was sold last week to Orlando-based Westminster Communities of Florida for \$27.5 million. The property will be renamed Westminster St. Augustine.

Westminster Communities bought the property from Life Care St. John's Inc.—an affiliate of Ponte Vedra Beach-based Life Care Pastoral Services, Inc. Cushman & Wakefield negotiated the sale. Based in Cushman & Wakefield's Tampa office, Executive Director Allen McMurtry, Senior Director Paul Carr, Senior Director David Kliewer and Senior Director Megan

Fetter represented the seller in the disposition.

The community was developed in 2001 on a more than 40-acre campus at 235 Towerview Drive in St. Augustine. The property's 223 total units comprise 87 cottage homes, 70 independent living apartments, 36 assisted living units and 30 skilled nursing units.

Community amenities include a clubhouse, heated outdoor lap pool, putting green, bocce court, pub and fitness center. Residents enjoy special benefits at World Golf Village, including access to two world-class golf courses, a swimming pool, a fitness center and social areas.

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa appoints new director of group sales

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa has promoted Lynnette Parkhill to director of group sales.



Photo courtesy of Marriott Golf Resort & Spa
Lynnette Parkhill

Parkhill's 22 years of hospitality experience began representing independent resort and boutique hotels in sales and marketing segments. She joined Marriott in 2010 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center and then joined Marriott International, launching the Northern Mid America market as a midmarket account executive to lead strategy and accounts in Michigan and Northern Ohio.

Parkhill relocated to Ponte Vedra in 2011 for the launch of Marriott's Florida Area Sales organization as an account executive, representing accounts in the North Central Florida area. She transitioned into a senior account executive role in 2013, dedicated to 53 hotels and resorts in Florida.

In 2015, she joined the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa as a senior sales executive.

Parkhill is a graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts in advertising. She has worked with customers around the globe and has a tremendous passion for hospitality, meetings and events.

Sandy

Continued from 26

because they love the beach, and that's the environment they want to live in, so I decided to start staging homes coastal."

Even now, with an ocean of business possibilities in front of her, Powell still occasionally finds time to reflect on her road to success.

"When I first went to market ... I thought to myself, 'If I'm going to do this, I'm going to do it big, and I'm going to do it all the way,'" she said. "So that's what I did, and I'm so glad that I did, because it made all the difference in the world. It's been a very short seven years, and at times, it seems like it's been a very long seven years, but I absolutely love what I do, and I know I'm very blessed to have had things turn around the way that they have."

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MAINSTREAM BOUTIQUE HOLDS 'PINK OUT' EVENT



Photo by Susan Griffin

Mainstream Boutique owner Carla Miles and Mary Kay independent beauty consultant Trudy Toche pose for a picture at Mainstream Boutique's "Pink Out" event Oct. 26. 10 percent of the event's proceeds benefited a local breast cancer organization.

Freedom

Continued from 26

Almeida's other two clubs are located at Julington Creek Marina in Jacksonville and Camachee Cove in St. Augustine.

Members of Almeida's Freedom Boat Club locations can use boats from each of her clubs as many times as they want.

Anyone interested in joining Almeida's club in Ponte Vedra should visit www.jaxfreedom.com, where prospective members can fill out a contact card.

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Rep. Rutherford calls for procedural changes at Chamber luncheon to promote bipartisanship in Congress

By Jon Blauvelt

U.S. Rep. John Rutherford told a group of local business leaders at a recent luncheon in Ponte Vedra that two procedural changes must be made to mitigate the partisanship that currently characterizes Congress: Bring back earmarks and kill the rule in the Senate that requires 60 votes to end a filibuster and ultimately pass a bill.

Rutherford, R-Fla., delivered these remarks Oct. 19 at the Sawgrass Beach Club to members of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Beaches Division and the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Regarding earmarks, Rutherford thinks allowing members of Congress to include district-specific funding in legislation would enable more bipartisan deals. He also told the Chamber members that earmarks would require members of Congress to be held accountable because their names would be attached.

The Florida congressman explained that the primary argument for throwing out earmarks was to manage the increasing national debt. Since earmarks have been removed, however, he said the national debt has doubled.

Rutherford identified what he referred to as “air drops” as the problem, not earmarks. These are appropriation bills from the House or Senate, he said, that include items that were determined behind closed doors. Often times, he said no one knows where the bills come from, no one’s names are attached to them and they haven’t been vetted or amended in committees.

At the end of the day, Rutherford said both chambers of Congress have one option, regardless of the ambiguity: Vote up or down. Then, he said the appropriation bills are delivered to the executive branch, which determines how to spend the money.



ABOVE: Bill Constain (front row, from left), Kathy Sutton, Rep. John Rutherford, Dustin Vaughn, Sandy Ford (middle), Steven Beyer (back row, from left) Toni Boudreaux and Suzan Lupton



LEFT: Rep. Rutherford addresses the Chamber luncheon.

Photos by Jon Blauvelt

“When bureaucrats are making those decisions, no one is holding them accountable,” said Rutherford. “That needs to change. We need to force the ideologues out of their corners and back to the table to negotiate on not just appropriation bills but all bills.”

The former Jacksonville sheriff also told the Chamber members that the current 60-vote cloture rule to end a filibuster in the Senate is impeding the progress of the House.

“Unless you have 60 votes, you can’t pass a bill,” said Rutherford. “They have taken the majority that the American public has given them and handed it over to the minority.”

The representative noted that 250 of the 300 bills sent by the House are still sitting in the Senate and waiting for action. Speaking specifically in regard to his committees, he said 24 VA (Veterans Affairs) bills, 33 homeland security bills and 44 judiciary bills are sitting in the Senate.

Rutherford thinks the Senate should vote the 60-vote cloture rule down at least for health care, tax reform, transportation and infrastructure, which he said are areas the American public is expecting progress.

The congressman additionally addressed tax reform at the luncheon, expressing his wishes that it moves along with bipartisan support. He said dropping the flat rate for corporations to 20 percent would result in the U.S. being near the top two or three lowest tax rates for corporations in the world, which he said is needed for American industries and companies to be competitive globally.

Regarding the individual tax rate, Rutherford said the tax reform plan in progress would bring people in the 10 percent bracket to 0. The folks who are living paycheck to paycheck, he said, will take home a bigger portion. Rutherford added that it looks like around 50 percent of those in the 15 percent bracket will go to zero, with the other half going to 12 percent. Overall, he said these changes will help the economy grow.

Also at the luncheon, Rutherford commented on hurricane recovery. He acknowledged that the sea level is rising and that a long-term plan must be implemented for the First Coast.

“I’m tired of seeing the same places over and over flooded again,” he said. “Instead of going in and offering mitigation, why don’t we see if there’s more we can do to build resilience in? Instead of our beaches coming back with renourishment every 10 years and rebuilding dunes, how about maybe a sea wall?”

“I believe the sea level is rising because the Navy believes that,” Rutherford added. “I don’t care to get involved in the conversation if it’s caused by man or if it’s a natural cycle of the earth. Forget that. We have to deal with it, because that water is coming up.”

Mary O’Brien to chair St. Johns County Chamber board of directors

The Board of Directors of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce will be led by Chair Mary O’Brien of Keen, LLC, during the 2017-18 fiscal year.

Joining the executive team on the board of directors will be Dirk Schroeder of Century 21 St. Augustine Properties as vice-chair; Dr. Erika Hamer of Ponte Vedra Wellness Center as treasurer; and Mark Nighbor of Advanced Disposal as secretary. Cathy Johnston of Haven Hospice is the immediate past chair. Rob Matthews of Matthews Design Group will serve as an ex-officio member of the executive board because of his role as the chair of the Economic Development Council, as will the president and CEO of



Mary O’Brien

the Chamber, Isabelle Rodriguez. Elected directors of the board include: Todd Batenhorst, Flagler Family Medicine; Tony Bernados, St. Augustine Record; Dave Chatterton, Old Town Trolley Tours; Micah Clukey, Kresage, Platt & Abare; Arleen Dennison, First Coast Technical College; John Dickinson, Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete, LLP; Pat Kane, Pop-A-Lock of St. Augustine; Skip Marsh, Flagler Hospital; Barry McDonald, Sawgrass Country

Club; Beth Sweeny, St. Johns County School District; and Scott Thomas, Rogers Towers, P.A.

Joining the board due to their positions as council chairs are: Marge Cirillo, Small Business Council, Small Business Development Center; Kathy Fleming, Tourism & Hospitality Council, St. Augustine Lighthouse; Scott Graddy, Agriculture and Environmental Council, Ag-Tastic Solutions LLC; Stephen Hudson, North Business Council, Digital Mark Company, LLC; Marty Lewis, Ambassadors, Money Pages, Inc.; Cecile Nusbaum, Historic Downtown St. Augustine Council, Old City Web Services, Inc; and Berta Odom, South Beaches Council, RE/MAX 100

Realty. Also joining the board because of her capacity as the chair of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division Board is Susan Griffin of the Ponte Vedra Recorder.

“I am thrilled to be surrounded by this energetic, enthusiastic and - most of all - talented group of civic leaders,” Rodriguez said. “Their expertise is extremely valuable to our organization. Each board member brings knowledge that will help propel the Chamber to set and achieve new goals.”

Each of the elected board members’ terms are three years, and the Chamber’s fiscal year begins on the first day of each October and ends on the last day of every September.

OPE STUDENTS AID MILITARY FAMILIES WITH SERVICE PROJECT

Fourth-grade students at Ocean Palms Elementary display some of the coupons they've collected for Coupons for Troops, a project that raises approximately \$200,000 in coupons annually for military families stationed overseas who can use expired manufacturer coupons (store specific coupons cannot be utilized) up to six months past the expiration date. Since 2009, Coupons to Troops has been matching overseas families with generous families and groups in the U.S. who are willing to mail their expired and unwanted coupons. Collection bins for current and expired coupons are located at the front entrance to OPE.

Photo courtesy of Pamela Riley



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Nov. 7, 2017 at 9 a.m.
Bartram Campus
Nov. 9, 2017 at 6 p.m.

**Lower School (PreK-5)
Open House for Parents**
Whitehurst Campus
Nov. 14, 2017 at 6 p.m.

**Upper School (9-12)
Open House for Parents**
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San Jose Campus
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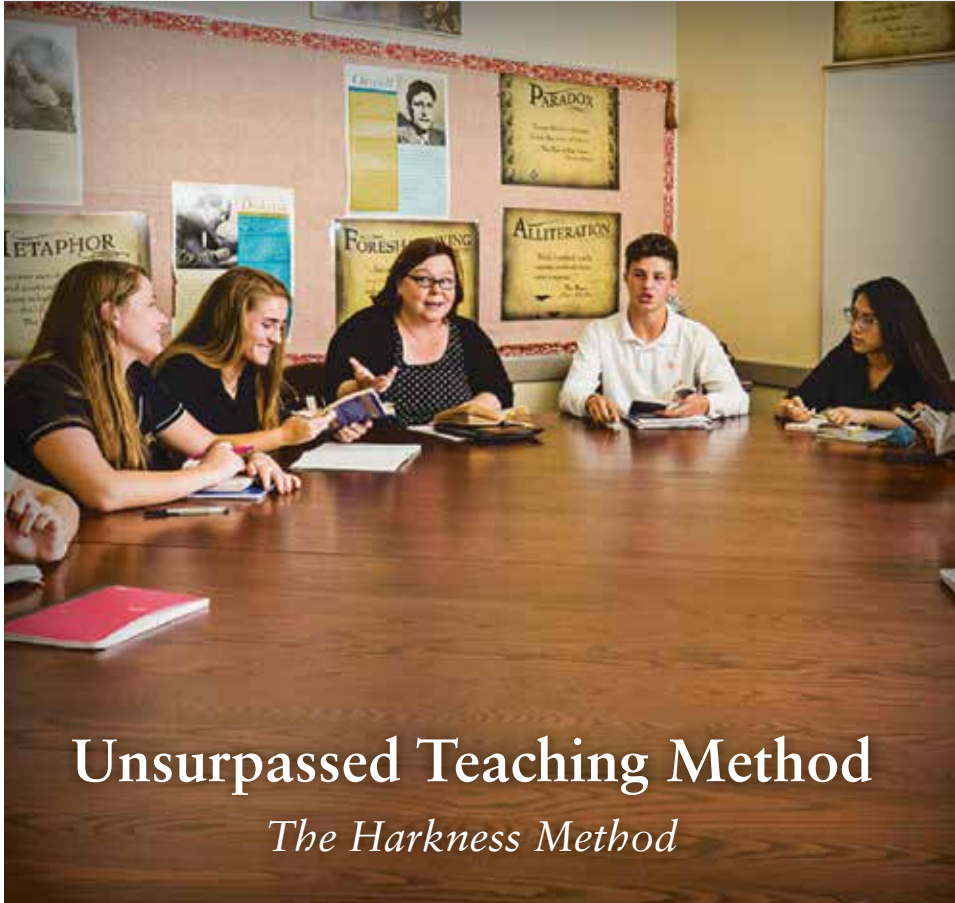
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Episcopal head of school identifies entitlement, emptiness as biggest problems for students

By Jon Blauvelt

Rev. Adam Greene, the head of school for Episcopal School of Jacksonville (ESJ), was sipping scotch on a duck hunting trip with parents when one father asked him to identify the biggest problem the school faces with its students.

Pondering how to respond, Greene ultimately said two words starting with the letter “E” that the fathers in the room were not expecting to hear: entitlement and emptiness.

“This is not a popular thing to say, but I think it’s truthful,” said Greene, who addressed the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach about the issue Thursday, Oct. 26. “All the negative issues we see with our youth come from entitlement.”

Greene told the room of local business and community leaders at Marsh Landing Country Club that America’s new at-risk kids come from affluent families who don’t allow their children to pave their own way. He referred to these parents as “lawnmower parents,” meaning they go out in front of their children and “cut down tall weeds” to ultimately ensure they don’t experience failure. This situation, Greene explained, causes kids to become entitled, which he then said often



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Rev. Adam Greene, the head of school for Episcopal School of Jacksonville (ESJ), addresses the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Thursday, Oct. 26 about entitlement and emptiness, which Greene said represent the biggest problems facing his school and the area in general.

leads to a disturbing result: emptiness, depression and anxiety.

Citing statistics from a 2015 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) survey, the ESJ head of school said 31 percent of students in Duval and St. Johns county report they have felt sad or hopeless (29 percent nationally). Nineteen percent, he said, have seriously considered attempting suicide (17 percent

nationally), and 18.9 percent of respondents of the CDC’s survey in the area have attempted suicide one or more times in the last 12 months (8.6 percent nationally). The disturbing statistics continued, with high percentages of students in the area not participating in physical activity and using tobacco, drugs and alcohol.

Greene expanded upon the numbers and referenced Dr.

Madeline Levine’s book, “The Price of Privilege,” which ultimately explains that “bright, charming and seemingly confident and socially skilled teenagers from affluent, loving families are experiencing epidemic rates of depression, substance abuse and anxiety disorders at rates higher than in any other socio-economic group of American adolescents.”

The reverend also pointed to the iPhone as a factor contributing to this problem, referring to today’s kids as the “iGen” generation.

“This generation is connected but disconnected to the larger community,” said Greene, who noted that the pull to social media has proven to be stronger than the pull to addictive drugs.

To the relief of those in the room, he said this is not a hopeless situation, however. The answer? Greene said it starts with parents allowing their children to live their own lives.

“It’s not our game on Thursday,” he said. “It’s their game.”

The ESJ head of school also advises parents to model being generous and loving, instilling in children that it’s a privilege to give back and that there is something greater in this world than themselves. In addition, he said repetition of positive behavior is important for parents to display to their kids. Lastly, he noted that it’s crucial that parents instill grit in their children, enabling them to persevere in life and work toward long-term goals.

“We want to let them fail and encourage them to attack those things,” he said. “Every one of you learned the most about yourselves through failure. What if we don’t let our kids fail?”

First Coast graduation rates improve while Florida still lags behind



By Dane Gilbert
Special to the Recorder

As we conclude this year’s Dropout Prevention Awareness Month (October), it’s important to consider both the progress our area and state have made in improving graduation rates, as

well as the disturbing position Florida still maintains regarding this important statistic.

Graduation rates among First Coast public high schools have risen each of the last four years, with Nassau and St. Johns counties enjoying among the highest rates in Florida.

Nationwide, Florida still doesn’t stack up. Although our graduation rate has increased more than 5 percent since 2012, Florida retains one of America’s worst records for preventing dropouts, ranking

2015-16 Florida Department of Education (FDOE) cohort graduation data by percentage					
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Nassau	89	90.9	89.9	90.9	91.4
St. Johns	86	86.7	87.8	90.5	91.2
Clay	74.2	77.7	80.1	83.7	84.7
Duval	67.7	72.1	74	76.6	78.8
Florida	74.5	75.6	76.1	77.9	80.7

Source: 2015-16 FDOE cohort graduation data as of Dec. 12, 2016

41st in the nation.

Communities In Schools of Jacksonville (CIS) is a local nonprofit that has spent three decades working with at-risk students in our area and studying what causes students to drop out. We know that students living in poverty in areas of income inequality are the most at risk for dropping out of school. These students often believe that going to college is unrealistic.

They often don’t recognize the point of staying in school when they could be working.

We also know what that flawed logic costs not only students, but also our community at large. We know that people without high school diplomas earn an average of \$10,000 less than graduates. We know the unemployment rate for dropouts is 50 percent higher. And, we know the

incarceration rate for dropouts is 63 times higher.

Fortunately, we also know what works in helping at-risk students stay on track for graduation. Positive relationships with adults who care, strong after-school programs, tutoring and mentoring: These are the tools we use to change a course that some kids feel is inevitable. We know these strategies work because almost every at-risk senior CIS Jacksonville worked with last year graduated.

We applaud all those education professionals and volunteers who have helped make our progress possible, and we encourage everyone to remember how far we need to go before we can truly be proud of where we are as a state.

Dane Gilbert is the director of case management at Communities In Schools of Jacksonville (CIS). He previously worked in public schools as a teacher and principal. For more information on Gilbert and his work, visit CISjax.org.



Photos by Jerry and Chris Norton

Ponte Vedra's Cole McCormick recovers a fumble by Bolles during last Friday's District 4-5A showdown.

Panthers eye possible playoff spot

Nease faces Bartram Trail in regular-season finale

By Paris Moulden

Nease rebounded from its tough loss to St. Augustine with a resounding 41-14 win against Englewood last Friday.

The Panthers (5-4) close out the regular season at 7 p.m. Friday at Bartram Trail, and still have a shot at making the postseason.

"We are excited about the opportunity to earn our way into the playoffs," Nease coach Tim Krause said. "There are a ton of scenarios of things that could or could not happen, but we are just focused on earning our way in by winning this week."

The Bears are 6-3 this season and averaging 40 points per game, led by standout quarterback Joey Gatewood.

"Bartram is a really talented and well-coached team, and it will be a great atmosphere," Krause said. "Every time we play an in-county rival, there is a lot on the line, but for us it doesn't change how hard we work or how we prepare. Our kids have worked extremely hard for 10 months, and are excited to play Bartram."

The Panthers celebrated Senior Night in last week's game against Englewood, and will be losing several standouts after graduation, including tight end Zach Sheffer and running back Jareem Westcott.

Sharks shock powerhouse Bolles

By Jerry Norton

Special to the Recorder

With their playoff hopes on the line, the Ponte Vedra Sharks put together perhaps their finest game of the season on Friday evening at The Bolles School field, defeating the Bulldogs 33-23. The win put the Sharks in a three-way tie for the District 4-5A lead with the Bulldogs and the Conquerors of Trinity Christian, each with 4-1 records.

In rebounding from last week's 21-3 loss to TC, the Sharks were bolstered by the return to full time action of several key players, most notably linebacker Duncan Van Kouteren, wide receiver Kyle Barker and running back/linebacker Zack King.

The Sharks wasted no time demonstrating they were up for the test against Bolles. They took the opening kickoff and drove 85 yards for a touchdown. The big play was a 42-yard run up the middle by quarterback Jack Murrah that gave the Sharks a first down inside the Bolles red zone. From there, Murrah connected with Rafe Stenwall for 10 yards, handed off to King for five and capped the drive off with a toss to tight end Kit Connelly for the score.

On the ensuing kickoff, Ponte Vedra's Cole McCormick pounced on a loose football to give the Sharks another shot. They settled for Riley Robbins' 24-yard field goal and a 9-0 lead.

It didn't take long for the Sharks to get the ball back. Jarrett Stepp's interception and 40-yard return gave the Sharks a first down at the Bolles 35-yard line. Murrah then went to Reese Russi for another



Ponte Vedra's Jarrett Stepp pulls in a pass against a Bolles defender.

first down before finding Stepp for the touchdown. The game was barely twelve minutes in, and the Sharks led 16-0.

Ponte Vedra's defense kept the pressure on the Bulldogs. The unit forced a second turnover—this one recovered by Daniel Lichlyter at the Shark 25-yard line. Despite another strong run by Murrah for 25 yards, Ponte Vedra had to punt the ball away.

The Dogs weren't able to capitalize on a pass interference penalty when Stepp—playing on both sides of the ball—broke up a third down pass.

Murrah had one more possession before the half ended, and he made the most of it. The senior QB ran for 10 yards, found Barker for 10 more and then threw deep to Stepp for 36 yards. With the ball at the Bolles 21-yard line and with four seconds on the clock, Murrah dropped back to pass. He avoided a sack and rolled to his left before finding Barker open in the left corner of the end zone. The touchdown put the Sharks in front 23-0 at the break.

Ponte Vedra's defense stopped the Bulldogs on their first possession of the

SHARKS continues on Page 36

PANTHERS continues on Page 36

Danny Wuerffel, other former Gators, Bulldogs compete in Desire Cup at TPC Sawgrass

By Jon Blauvelt

Legendary University of Florida quarterback Danny Wuerffel hosted a group of former Gators and University of Georgia Bulldogs players at TPC Sawgrass last week for the 7th Annual Desire Cup, presented by Just BARE Chicken.

The Desire Cup was established around the storied rivalry between Florida and Georgia, offering fans and former players the opportunity to connect and compete on the golf course during the weekend of the rivalry. The Gators players won 32-30 in this year's Oct. 27 tournament, providing UF fans with perhaps a pinch of positivity from the weekend after Georgia beat Florida 42-7 at EverBank Field the following day.

Proceeds from the golf tournament benefitted Desire Street Ministries, a nonprofit organization in which Wuerffel serves as executive director and that works to revitalize impoverished neighborhoods through spiritual and community development.

This year's group of tournament celebrities/participants included Kevin Butler, Judd Davis, Billy Horschel, Gary Koch, Matt LaPorta, John Lastinger, Terry LeCount, Shane Matthews, Wilber Marshall, David Nelson, Lindsay Scott, Tom Shannon, Musa Smith, Steve Spurrier, Jon Stinchcomb and Eric Zeier.

The evening before the tournament, participants and guests also enjoyed a dinner at the TPC Clubhouse that featured a live auction.

To hear from Wuerffel and other tournament participants, including Steve Spurrier, visit Pontevedrarecorder.com and search for Desire Cup to watch a video from the event.



Photo by K White Photography

Danny Wuerffel and Demetrius Summerville, executive director of Kaley Square in Orlando (Desire Street Ministry partner), award the Desire Cup to the Florida Gators golfers, who won the tournament 32-30.

More photos, Page 35

THE CARE, THE PEOPLE,

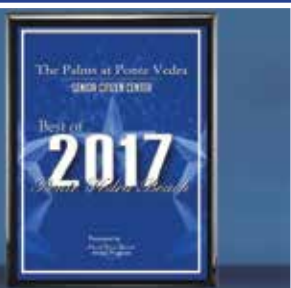
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Photo by K White Photography
Danny Wuerffel prepares to hit a shot during the Desire Cup.

ABOVE: Former University of Florida football head coach Steve Spurrier signs a Gators helmet for Charisse Smith.
Photo by Jon Blauvelt

LEFT: Desire Street Ministries Chief Operating Officer James Gadsby and his wife Elizabeth show their support for the Gators during the dinner Thursday evening.
Photo by K White Photography

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Sharks

Continued from 33

second half. First, Christian Herring made a remarkable play coming out of nowhere to break up a potential touchdown pass. Then, Van Kouteren's interception ended the threat.

When Ponte Vedra had to punt, the Bulldogs put up their first points of the game on a long pass play. To no one's surprise, the Bulldogs then attempted an onside kick, recovering the ball despite what appeared to be an illegal block. The highly disputed play was the first of three controversial calls that the Sharks would overcome on the night. Bolles would score eight seconds later to close the gap to 23-13 after the Bulldogs missed the two-point conversion. The two teams each connected on field goals as the third quarter ended with Ponte Vedra on top 26-16.

Bolles was able to capitalize on an unsuccessful fake punt by the Sharks, moving to a first down at the Ponte Vedra 4-yard line. On third-and-inches, the Bulldogs fumbled the ball, and Ponte Vedra recovered; however, the play was ruled dead with Bolles retaining possession—the second disputed call of the evening. Given one more chance the Dogs scored to make the score 26-23.



Photo by Jerry and Chris Norton

Ponte Vedra's Collin Magill runs for a 10-yard gain against Bolles in last Friday's game.

Ponte Vedra still had a few offensive cards to play. With possession at midfield, Murrah teamed up with Stenwall again on a pass covering 70 yards. King finished the drive on a 3-yard plunge to put Ponte Vedra ahead 33-23.

All that remained was the third and final disputed call of the game. It came on a Bolles possession near midfield. Facing a third-and-15, a group of Shark defenders led by King and Kyle Brady converged on the Bulldog quarterback looking for a receiver. On the sack, the defenders caused a fumble that Gibson Pardue recovered. However, the ruling on the field was inten-

tional grounding by the quarterback, not a fumble recovered by Ponte Vedra. It turned out to be of little consequence because Bolles was forced to punt, and the Sharks' offense ate up the remaining four minutes.

Van Kouteren led the inspired Shark defense with five tackles, eight assists and one interception. Offensively, Murrah rushed for 87 yards while completing 15 of 25 pass attempts for 258 yards.

The Sharks finish the regular season with a 7 p.m. game at Creekside Nov. 3.

The playoff schedule remains uncertain due to the three-way tie for the top spot in the conference.

Panthers

Continued from 33

Sheffer, who had 58 yards receiving and a touchdown last Friday, is committed to LSU, and plans to enroll early and possibly play for the Tigers as a true freshman, according to Gridiron Now.

Westcott rushed for 106 yards and four TDs against Englewood and is ranked fifth in the state in Class 6A with 1,318 rushing yards.

"Jareem has had a great season and has attracted attention from a number of FBS, FCS and Division II programs," Krause said. "He will definitely get a chance at the next level and is evaluating his options to find the best fit academically and athletically."

Nease has shown improvement from last season, when it finished 2-7 and 1-4 in District 4-6A, and Krause credits the cohesiveness and resiliency of the players.

"The highlight has been how great our locker room has been and how tight our team has been this year through the ups and downs of the season," Krause said. "We have a special group of kids that have made it fun to come to work every day."

CROSSWORD

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THEME: VETERANS DAY

ACROSS

- Model material
- Bro, e.g.
- Babysitter's nightmare
- In the company of
- ____ out a living
- Man's best friend?
- Russian author, master of grotesque
- Lilliputian
- Diary note
- *1950-1953 war
- *Where Armistice was signed
- On a keyboard
- Greenish blue
- Stable diet
- Table in Mexico
- Adjust piano pitches
- Hidden up a sleeve? pl.
- "Through" in text message
- Allegro or lento
- I, to a Greek
- Pico de gallo
- Bit of smoke
- Whale's lunch
- Orr's score
- Big first for a baby
- Open
- Way, way off
- Infection of the eye
- Proof of home ownership
- They're from Mars?
- *He wrote "God Bless America"
- *Gulf War General
- Fear-inspiring
- How many if by sea?
- Like a Harvard building?
- Like three nursery rhyme mice
- Mama sheep
- Impulse transmitter
- Hemorrhaged
- Shiny wheel part
- Sink hole

DOWN

- *WWI's: "Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit-____"
- Every which way
- Apple's apple, e.g.
- Sound like Wilbur
- Radiant
- In stitches
- *He replaced "Armistice" with "Veterans"
- Heavily built
- Capital of West Germany
- *College program
- 4,840 square yards
- Your, to Shakespeare
- Planters' treat
- Drives a getaway car, e.g.
- First off sinking ship?
- Auto contents
- Japanese verse
- It falls in the fall
- Bigfoot's cousins
- 1970s carpet
- Current events program
- Gives off
- Cinderella's win
- *Veterans Day flower
- *Retail "celebration"
- *"Aim High... Fly-Fight-Win" org.
- *"Remember the ____!"
- Served soup
- Oahu greeting gift
- VHS player button
- Keyboard key
- James Bond, don't say this!
- "For Whom the ____ Tolls"
- Cleveland, OH Lake
- Orange peel
- "The Charge of the Light Brigade," e.g.
- Italy's obsolete money
- Denim innovator
- Flow alternative
- *"The War to End All Wars"
- Bear cave

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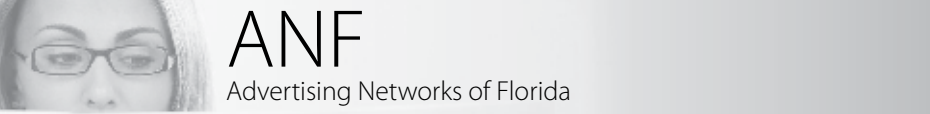
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