

Ponte Vedra Recorder

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

August 9, 2018
Volume 47, No. 83
75 cents

PonteVedraRecorder.com



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Pages 27-28

BACK TO SCHOOL



Students across St. Johns County report back to school Friday, Aug. 10. Students in Duval County start Monday, Aug. 13. Flip to pages 18-19 for more back to school content.

Photos courtesy St. Johns County School District

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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. Email submissions to **pvrecorder@opcfla.com** or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach**. Submissions may be published in the paper, on our website or on our social media platforms.

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Also, check out the **Ponte Vedra Recorder** channel on YouTube.

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.

Five readers correctly identified last week's photo as the AAA Ponte Vedra sign. The winner of the random drawing was **Pete Hannigan**. Congratulations, Pete — you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



ADOPT A PET

CAT(S) OF THE WEEK

Several stray kittens are now at the St. Johns County Pet Center looking for new homes. As they are strays, some traits are unknown at this time. Come visit them today!



DOG OF THE WEEK

My name is Articus, and I am a 2-year-old dog who was brought to the pet center as a stray. There may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #43496

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

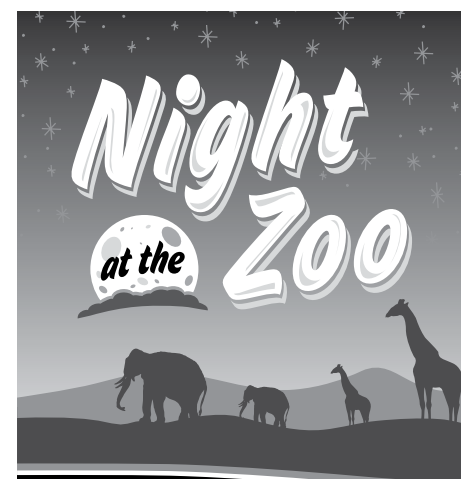
Cat adoptions at the St. Johns County Pet Center are \$30 for males and \$40 for females. Dog adoptions are \$45 for males and \$60 for females. Adoption fees include microchipping, neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The pet center is located at 130 N. Stratton Road off U.S. 1 between 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.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

F	A	U	N	A		T	H	E			T	B	A	R			
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1	2	9	6	7	3	5	8	4
7	5	3	2	4	8	6	9	1
4	8	6	5	9	1	2	7	3
2	3	4	1	8	5	7	6	9
5	9	8	3	6	7	4	1	2
6	1	7	4	2	9	8	3	5
8	7	2	9	3	4	1	5	6
9	4	5	7	1	6	3	2	8
3	6	1	8	5	2	9	4	7

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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Something Great!

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AUGUST 10
6:30 PM - 10:00 PM

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Luxurious Beach Residence on Ponte Vedra Blvd
Ponte Vedra Beach / Private Beach Access
Enjoy the best of beach living in this recently updated interior, expansive 125' x 600' wooded lot with a spectacular natural environment and private beach access. Impeccably maintained home by award winning Benchmark luxury home builder with bright open plan perfect for entertaining large or intimate socials. **4 bedrooms and 5.5 bathrooms \$1,995,000.**



A Sophisticated and Luxurious Retreat on Ponte Vedra Blvd
Ponte Vedra Beach / Oceanfront
This impressive oceanfront home reflects that magical merging of beach living and architecture. Situated on 220ft of Oceanfront and designed by Residential Designs by Kevin Gray, Inc and built by Elwood Collier, this estate is a masterpiece of design and craftsmanship. It's location atop one of the highest natural sand dunes along the Florida coast (with the finished floor elevation is approximately 33.5' above sea level) allows owners the ultimate beach living experience. **4 bedrooms, 5 and 3 1/2 bathrooms \$8,750,000**



Sophisticated Coastal Living at its Best!
Ponte Vedra beach / Oceanfront
This 5-bedroom, 4+ bath, home is the epitome of southern charm with over 8,400 sq. ft. that showcase spectacular ocean views. The open living areas, including large formal dining room with grand fireplace, lend themselves to entertaining everything from large celebrations or simply enjoying intimate moments near a roaring fireplace. **5 bedrooms and 5.5 bathrooms \$6,100,000**



Exemplary Oceanfront Living on Ponte Vedra Blvd
Ponte Vedra beach / Oceanfront
This oceanfront estate is built like a fortress with 2-story masonry construction. Set on 1.45 acres this home is designed with to capture expansive ocean views from almost every room. This is an exceptional opportunity for your most discerning buyer. **7 bedrooms and 8.5 bathrooms \$6,150,000**



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Ponte Vedra Beach teen arrested for grand theft, damage to Sawgrass Players Club field

By Samantha Logue

A 15-year-old Ponte Vedra Beach resident was arrested July 23 after allegedly vandalizing a soccer field in the Sawgrass Players Club with a vehicle stolen from a nearby construction site.

According to a report from the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office (SJSO), the incident occurred July 22 at around 7:12 p.m., when the teen and a friend allegedly stole a 2015 Bobcat brand utility vehicle from a TPC Sawgrass parking

lot located off ATP Tour Boulevard. Driving the vehicle from the construction site to the security gate of the Sawgrass Players Club — of which the teen is a resident — the pair then proceeded to drive the vehicle on a nearby soccer field, tearing up the grass and causing more than \$1,000 of damage. After receiving complaints from multiple residents, a Sawgrass security guard attempted to approach the two teens at the scene, at which point they fled in the stolen vehicle and the security guard

contacted SJSO.

When eventually stopped at the Sawgrass security gate, the teen was alone in the vehicle. When questioned by the responding SJSO officer, he was uncooperative, claiming the vehicle belonged to a friend but refusing to give more information. When asked for the name of the friend that accompanied him, he remained obstinate, stating that he would not “snitch.”



Photo courtesy of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office

A soccer field in the Sawgrass Players Club community is left damaged after two teens allegedly drove a stolen utility vehicle on it July 22, tearing up the grass.

DAMAGE continues on Page 9



Photo courtesy of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office

St. Johns County Sheriff's Office deputies scour a retention pond for Arthur Charles Wagner III.

Body recovered from pond confirmed to be missing man

By Samantha Logue

According to the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, a body that was recovered from a retention pond Tuesday, Aug. 7 near Wildwood Drive in St. Augustine has been confirmed to be that of 20-year-old Arthur Charles Wagner III, who went missing this past Saturday.

The body's discovery came a day after the Sheriff's Office announced that Wagner was “missing and endangered,” stating that he had recently made threats of self-harm to family members and was last seen on a yellow dirt bike in the area of Wildwood Drive.

POND continues on Page 9

Teen found dead in Ponte Vedra Beach parking lot

By Benjamin Naim

According to the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office (SJSO), a 17-year-old boy was found dead on Thursday, Aug. 2 outside the parking garage near Pusser's Bar and Grille and Ruth's Chris Steak House in Ponte Vedra Beach.

“It appears he entered onto the top floor



Photo by Benjamin Naim

A 17-year-old boy was found dead on Aug. 2 outside the parking garage near Pusser's Bar and Grille and Ruth's Chris Steak House in Ponte Vedra Beach.

of the parking garage and went off the edge of the building,” said Chuck Muligan, SJSO's community affairs bureau commander. “There's no evidence that exists at the site that indicates that there was any foul play.”

TEEN continues on Page 9

Preventing suicide, depression and/or self-harm

By Pam Mullarkey Robbins, Ph.D.
Special to the Recorder

In order to help prevent suicide, we need to understand the reasons why people, especially teens, choose to commit suicide. Some reasons given include, but are not limited to, lack of hope for the future, low self-worth, a crisis in their lives, thinking others would be better off without them, not valuing life, etc.

How can families help prevent suicide? I have just trained youth lead-

ers from around the state of Florida through FHCC (FL Healthy Choices Coalition) on how to use this activity sheet to give people hope. Participants are to post their completed sheets at home where they can see them every day.

Pam Mullarkey Robbins is the founder of Project SOS, which is now part of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida and focuses on equipping teens with the critical life skills needed to make positive choices and protect themselves from unhealthy situations and relationships.

WHO I AM

MY NAME IS _____

I AM STRONG: (Find five people you know who will write down or tell you a strength they see in you.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

I AM UNIQUE: (List five things that make you “one-of-a-kind” and prove that NO ONE can ever take your place. You are valuable and irreplaceable. Example: DNA)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

I HAVE A FUTURE: (Think of at least five milestones/major things you want to see happen in the timeline of your life within the next 20 years.)

NOW _____

20 YEARS FROM NOW _____
(Examples: buy a car, graduate, job, marriage, family)

I AM AN OVERCOMER: (I am mentally and emotionally healthy. List three challenges you have overcome.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Outpost dispute drags on

By Benjamin Naim

After Judge Michael Traynor of the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court ordered that the Outpost case involving St. Johns County and Ponte Vedra Corporation (PVC) be lifted out of abeyance in January 2018, the county has since filed a motion to dismiss an amended complaint from PVC, and the Gate subsidiary has filed a motion for a partial summary judgement.

PVC is seeking to build a 66-home residential community called Vista Tranquila on the 99-acre conservation property known as the Outpost, which is located at the end of Neck Road and adjacent to the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve. PVC believes St. Johns County has stonewalled the company by refusing to offer an administrative interpretation on the Outpost's conservation designation.

In its most recent motion, the county argued that PVC's amended complaint asked the court to rule on local land use matters that are not final, and that an administrative interpretation will not provide a mechanism for PVC's property to be amended from conservation to residential.

The county stated that each count of the complaint should be dismissed entirely by the court, which has yet to make a ruling.

Count I of PVC's amended complaint has been re-titled to "Declaratory and Injunctive Relief PVC's Right to Processing Under Existing Comp Plan," which is an effort by PVC to submit its proposal for land development under the county's existing comprehensive plan. Count II, described as "essentially new" by St. Johns County, states that PVC has a right to a formal and appealable response to its request for an administrative interpretation.

Count III has been updated to state that PVC's proposed development requires an adjustment to the Future Land Use Map of the county's Comprehensive Plan. Finally, Count IV asks the county to address PVC's administrative interpretation requests, and alleges that the county has deprived PVC of "substantive due process" by stripping it of "final agency action from which PVC could appeal."

PVC is seeking a partial summary judgement from the court. PVC attorney Amy Boulris explained that a partial judgement requests the judge to rule on something



Photo courtesy of Lucas Peters: Aerial Photography Jacksonville

The Outpost property is located at the end of Neck Road and adjacent to the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve.

that's legally clear enough to be decided without a trial.

"In making this motion for partial summary judgement, what we're saying is our right to have a response to our request for administrative interpretation ... is clear enough under the county regulations for the judge to rule on," Boulris said. "That piece — whether or not we're entitled to a response — that's clear enough without having to do a trial. We're asking the judge to rule just on that piece."

Nicole Crosby, co-founder of nonprofit organization Save Guana Now, said the

partial summary motion was "another regurgitation of their original allegations" and another attempt to circumvent public hearings. Additionally, Crosby contended that PVC's attorneys are writing their own rules and avoiding the public process.

"Their lawsuit is based on the county's denial of an administrative interpretation of the comprehensive plan," Crosby said. "According to our attorney, requesting a land use change for property designated conservation is not the purpose of an

OUTPOST continues on **Page 10**

ROTARY CLUB OF PONTE VEDRA WELCOMES NEW MEMBER



Photo provided by Karen Everett

Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra President Kelly Altosino-Sastre (left) welcomes new member Mark Hulsey (center) to the club alongside Jeremiah Blocker, Hulsey's sponsor. Chartered in April 2018, the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra meets Tuesday mornings at the Coastal Oaks at Nocatee Clubhouse in Nocatee.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Municipal Service District of Ponte Vedra Beach (MSD) will be holding its regularly scheduled monthly meeting this Monday, Aug. 13 at 6 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

This will be our 429th meeting, and we will have yet another full agenda. As many of our MSD residents already know, your Board of Trustees meets every month to maintain the safety and beauty of the MSD. With so many new and beautiful houses being built, however, I figured I would send a letter to encourage all to attend a meeting. It is your MSD and the trustees who work hard for the benefit of everyone.

This month, we will have a presentation from St. Johns County engineers discussing drainage improvements on Ponte Vedra Boulevard. We will hear discussion from a director with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office regarding Amendment 10 and its possible effect on our county, and we will have a presentation from MSD residents regarding our lovely trees. We will also be discussing the MSD budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2018-2019 and be holding a forum for candidates running for MSD Seat 1 with the upcoming elections on Aug. 28. We will be discussing beach preservation, parking on Ponte Vedra Boulevard and the usual monthly reports from each of your seven MSD Trustees.

This is just an example of what goes on each month at the MSD meeting, which is always held on the second Monday of every month at 6 p.m. at the library. I want to invite all MSD residents to attend and get to know your trustees so that we can also get to know you. Together we will continue to keep the MSD a special place to call home. See you Monday night!

Gary S. Jurenovich

Chairman, Municipal Service District of Ponte Vedra Beach

Toni Boudreaux is the director of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and a resident of Ponte Vedra Beach.

Toni Boudreaux

Can you please briefly tell us about your background?

Born in Austin, Texas, I grew up a military brat. I graduated from high school and moved to Montana to work at Glacier National Park and ended up living in Bozeman. Always a southern girl, I moved back to Florida and attended University of North Florida. I graduated with honors, earning my undergraduate degree in communications/public relations. I loved it so much I went back and got my master's degree in public administration.

What are your primary roles and responsibilities as director of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division?

As the director, it is my responsibility to implement membership growth strategy in the Ponte Vedra area and to promote the branding of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, I work with the director of public policy regarding business issues coming from Ponte Vedra business members by supporting efforts to advocate for members' concerns. Our office is also the official Visitor Information Center certified by VISIT FLORIDA.

The Ponte Vedra Auto Show is coming up Sunday, Sept. 9. What should residents be looking forward to this year?

We are thrilled for Nocatee to host us again this year in a new event field. They are currently building the new permanent stage where Roscolusa will be held, which will provide another great venue for music in our area. Every year we carefully pick anniversaries that our visitors and car enthusiasts get excited about. This year we will be featuring special awards for Best in Show 70th Anniversary of the Porsche 356, Best in Show 50th Anniversary of the Subaru, Best in Show 40th Anniversary of the Mazda RX-7 and Best in Show 60th Anniversary of the Austin-Healey.

New this year will be racing legend and Brumos Porsche icon Hurley Haywood, who will be on-site to sign his recently released book, "Hurley: From the Beginning," and hero cards, as well take pictures with show attendees. Having Hurley Haywood join us this year is so exciting. He is the iconic representative of American endurance, racing with five victories at the Rolex 24 at Daytona; three victories at the 24 Hours of Le Mans; and two victories at the 12 Hours of Sebring. It's truly our honor to have Hurley at the show and for auto enthusiasts to meet him.

What is your favorite part about the Auto Show?

Considering it's the fifth largest auto show in the state, it brings a lot of visitors to the area. I love showing off our beautiful county and all it has to offer. People come for a weekend to attend the show but also to enjoy our laid-back, comfortable lifestyle. We are so fortunate to live in paradise and seeing others enjoy it makes me proud of the work I do.

What do you like to do in your free time?

My fiancé and I live close to the ocean so it's easy to hop on bikes and head to the beach. We also enjoy cooking and spending time with our animals. I sit on various boards, one being my Rotary club, which keeps me pretty busy.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

What do you enjoy most about living and working in Ponte Vedra Beach?

We live in paradise; beauty is everywhere. I have to remind myself to take a minute and breathe it all in. To be able to say I love where I live, work and play is pretty special, and being able to share my passion for the area as the director of the division is something I am grateful for every day.

Edited by Jon Blauvelt

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

Gateway Council announces St. Johns County Women of Distinction honorees

Girl Scouts of Gateway Council recently announced the Women of Distinction 2018 honorees for St. Johns County.

The Women of Distinction award recognizes local women for their professional accomplishments, service to others and community impact. Northeast and North Central Florida's Girl Scout council will honor the local female leaders at the upcoming 2018 Women of Distinction fundraising luncheon Sept. 27.

This year, six female leaders will be honored. The women nominated exemplify the Girl Scouts' core values of honesty, fairness, caring, responsibility, service to others and community, inclusivity, respect and sisterhood. The 2018 honorees are:

- Kelly Barrera, St. Johns County School Board
- Joann Johnson, social worker, retired
- Michelle Lewis, research scholar
- Martha Mickler, educator, retired
- Lura Readle-Scarpitti, media professional
- Kelly Youngs, She is Fierce!

The St. Johns County 2018 Women of Distinction fundraising luncheon will be held Thursday, Sept. 27, at 11 a.m. at the Casa Monica Hotel located at 95 Cordova St. in St. Augustine. Sponsorship opportunities are available. To become a Women of Distinction sponsor, to purchase a ticket or to donate, visit www.girlscouts-gateway.org/wod-sjc or contact TriciaRae Stancato at tstancato@girlscouts-gateway.org or (904) 421-3484.



Kelly Barrera



Joann Johnson



Michelle Lewis



Martha Mickler



Lura Readle-Scarpitti



Kelly Youngs

Retired 4-star general and former Joint Chiefs of Staff member addresses local Rotary Club

By Jon Blauvelt

When Craig McKinley was a member of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach in the late 1980s and early 1990s, he was a captain in the military. Now some 30 years later, he's a retired four-star general and former member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who served as his old club's keynote speaker last Thursday, Aug. 2.

A former Ponte Vedra Beach resident, McKinley currently is the president of the Air Force Association and lives in Arlington, Virginia. At the meeting, which was held at Marsh Landing Country Club, he reflected on his career and told stories about his experiences with famous figures in the U.S. military and government, such as former Secretaries of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Robert Gates.

One such story focused on an interview McKinley had with Rumsfeld for a promotion. During the interview, McKinley said Rumsfeld questioned him about Ponte Vedra, which prompted McKinley to explain the town's Mineral City history as a mining town. That conversation, McKinley said, ultimately helped him get the job.

The retired four-star general also discussed when he was in the Pentagon on 9/11.

"That was the day you never forget," McKinley said, "as American Flight 77 plowed into the southwest corner of that building and it shook. We had lights, and those lights were swaying. We knew after watching TV in New York that something bad was going on."

McKinley noted that he followed Rumsfeld out of the building during the evacuation, which he said was a unique experience because such an evacuation had never taken place there.

"Why would we?" he said. "It's the



Photo courtesy of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach

Retired four-star general and former Joint Chiefs of Staff member Craig McKinley addresses the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Aug. 2 at Marsh Landing Country Club.

safest building in the world."

McKinley concluded his address by discussing the U.S.' current national defense strategy devised by Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, which he encouraged club members to view online. McKinley said the strategy indicates that the central challenge to the country's national security is the "reemergence of long-term, strategic competition," identifying Russia and China as the most significant competitors.

He said the next big war, similar to the impacts of World War II, will be conducted in days, weeks or a month,

compared to the months and years that the country previously had to prepare. He also said it will take place in non-traditional arenas such as cyber, banking and space. As a result, McKinley said the armed forces must modernize their capabilities.

"If we don't get ahead in the technological arenas that China and Russia are pursuing," he said, "we're going to be behind the power curve, and we won't have time to turn the table. ... But you have the greatest men and women in the world serving, and you should be very, very proud of them."

Animal Care of Ponte Vedra partners with Pets of the Homeless

Animal Care of Ponte Vedra was recently welcomed by national nonprofit Pets of the Homeless as a new donation site.

Donations of pet food and supplies can be taken to 880 N. A1A Suite 21 in Ponte Vedra, to ultimately be delivered to a local food bank, homeless shelter or homeless encampment. The donation program is an ongoing national effort to regularly supply pet food to local populations who cannot afford to properly provide for their pets.

According to Pets of the Homeless, approximately 80 percent of people who experience homelessness are homeless for a short period of time and typically need help finding housing or a rent subsidy. Homeless people with pets, the organization said, are often forced to choose between their pet or a home. As a result, most choose to stay on the streets with their pets for longer periods of time.

The organization also stated that it is estimated that one in four homeless and disadvantaged people have a pet. More than 18,311 pets have been medically treated through the assistance of Pets of the Homeless, with 577 tons of pet food collected and distributed at 400 donation sites nationwide. Pets of the Homeless has provided over \$796,746 in emergency veterinary care to pets of the homeless.

Animal Care of Ponte Vedra accepts pet food donations all year. For more information, call (904) 280-4544, or call Pets of the Homeless at (775) 841-7463.

Local Rotary clubs join forces for Beaches Health Jam

The third annual Beaches Health Jam event took place last Friday, Aug. 3 at the Carver Center in Jacksonville Beach.

Founded in 2016 by the Rotary Club of Jacksonville-Oceanside, the event brings together area health and healthy lifestyle organizations for an afternoon of fun. Other Rotary clubs involved in leading the event included the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset, the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra and the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach. The University of North Florida and Town Center Rotaract clubs, as well as the Interact Club from Fletcher High School, were also involved. One of the main goals behind creating Beaches Health Jam was to bring the St. Vincent's Mobile Health Unit to the beach.

Other participating organizations included BEAM Mobile Food Distribution, St. Andrews AME Church, Beaches Resource Center, Baptist Medical Center Beaches, Will-Line Dancers for Health, Ponte Vedra YMCA, Tai Chi for Health & Wellness, Shakin' It Up With Shay, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Keiser University PTA Program, Keiser University, The Salvation Army, Cardio Sumo, Pilates for Buff Bones, Bailey's Health & Fitness, Wahby Financial Group, LLC, Sulzbacher Beaches Clinic, Hope Adult Daycare and Nova Southeastern University.



Beaches Health Jam, which took place Aug. 3 at the Carver Center, brings together area health and healthy lifestyle organizations for an afternoon of fun.



ABOVE: Ponte Vedra YMCA Executive Director Jennifer Ryan teaches kids how to do jumping jacks.



Mayo Clinic representatives discuss nutrition with attendees of the event.



LEFT: The event's winning kickball team gathers for a photo.

Photos courtesy of Christine Hoffman

DICK WILLIAMS
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Pond

Continued from 4

The body was discovered at 5 a.m. Tuesday morning by a deputy who had been stationed in the area overnight, the Sheriff's Office reported that day via Twitter. While searching for Wagner Monday evening, the SJSO Aviation Unit reportedly noticed a petroleum-based film on the surface of the pond, and further investigation led to the discovery of motorcycle tracks at the pond's edge.

Following the recovery of the body, divers were also able to locate and recover a yellow motorcycle from the pond.



Arthur Charles Wagner III

On Wednesday, the Medical Examiner's Office confirmed that the body was in fact Wagner's. The cause of death has been ruled a drowning.



Photos courtesy of the SJSO
Divers search a retention pond for Wagner's motorcycle.

Teen

Continued from 4

Mulligan said the Sheriff's Office has researched the boy's history, background and personal life and "all indications at this point are pointing to a suicide."

Anyone struggling with severe depression or suicidal thoughts should contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at (800) 273-8255 to seek immediate counsel. The hotline is available 24 hours per day. Those seeking an online peer support-group community can visit [Reddit.com/r/SuicideWatch](https://www.reddit.com/r/SuicideWatch).

In addition, Mental Health First Aid offers free training in the First Coast community, teaching people how to see signs and symptoms to help prevent suicide. For more information, visit jaxmentalhealth.org.

Damage

Continued from 4

According to the incident report, the individual was identified by Sawgrass security as the driver of the utility vehicle when it first entered the gate. Further, upon searching the teen, the responding SJSO officer discovered that he was in possession of about 2.3 grams of marijuana. Issuing him a citation for driving without a license, the officer released him into his father's custody.

The next day, however, it was determined that the stolen vehicle — valued at \$10,000 — belonged to J.B. Coxwell Contracting, which had reported two utility vehicles stolen from the TPC Sawgrass parking lot. After the second vehicle was located at 820 A1A N., the teen was transported to SJSO's north-east field office for further questioning.

Although still evasive in his answers, the teen eventually admitted that he and his friend had been under the influence of marijuana at the construction site in question when they decided to get into a "four-wheeler." Deciding there was probable cause to believe the teen had stolen the Bobcat, detectives arrested him on charges of property damage totaling \$1,000 or more and grand theft of a motor vehicle, as well as a first-degree misdemeanor charge that was redacted from the report. The teen was then transported to the St. Johns County Jail for booking.

The Sheriff's Office has confirmed that the investigation for this incident has been completed. Representatives for Marsh Landing Management Company, which manages the Sawgrass Players Club, declined to comment.

Editor's Note: SJSO identified the teen who was arrested, but it is the general practice of the Recorder to not name juveniles charged with crimes.

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Aqua East to host second annual GROM Fest Oct. 12-14

Aqua East GROM Fest, a surf, skate and wake competition, rides into the Beaches communities Oct. 12-14.

The second annual event is for surfers, skateboarders and wakeboarders to compete for over \$2,100 in cash and prizes from Aqua East Surf Shop and sponsors such as Hurley, Quiksilver, Volcom, O'Neill, Sector 9, Billabong and more.

Aqua East GROM Fest was created to provide the surfing, skateboarding and wakeboarding community in Northeast Florida the opportunity to compete and highlight the skills of the area's local talent. Each event has divisions for all ages and skill levels so everyone can compete, have fun, meet friends and cheer for all the surfers, skaters and wakeboarders. The schedule for the event is as follows:

■ **Skate Jam** – Friday, Oct. 12 at 4 p.m. at South Beach Skate Park

■ **Surf Contest** – Saturday, Oct. 13 at 8 a.m. at the South Jacksonville Beach Pier



Photo courtesy of Aqua East

Aqua East is holding its second annual surf, skate and wake competition Oct. 12-14 in the

■ **Wake Contest** – Sunday, Oct. 14 at 10 a.m. at Palm Valley Outdoor Bar and Grill in Ponte Vedra Beach

■ **Awards** – following each event

■ **VANS Clean-up** – following each event with hats, bags and more swag for volunteers

The competition will feature a variety of

divisions including: Junior Open Division (17 and under); Junior Women 15-17; Boys 12-14; Girls 12-14; Junior Boys 9-11; Junior Girls 9-11; 8 and Under Co-ed; Sandy Forsyth Longboard Contest (all ages); Wakesurf/Outlaw (all ages); Free Fun Skate Jam; and Photo Contest (all ages). New for 2018, the Trifecta is for anyone that competes in all three events, including surf, skate and wake.

Entry forms are available at Aqua East Surf Shop locations or online at www.eventbrite.com/e/aqua-east-grom-fest-tickets-46151044015. The cost is \$35 for the surf, skate and wake events. The cost is \$65 for the Trifecta (includes all entry fees). On-site sign-ups are available for an additional \$10. The photo contest is free.

Surf, wake and Trifecta participants need to register by Oct. 2 to receive an event t-shirt, swag bag and lunch for free. For more information, email stuart@aquaeast.com or call (904) 246-2550.

Outpost

Continued from 5

administrative interpretation. That's what a public hearing is for."

Boulris, however, said PVC is trying to conform its proposed development with

the current comprehensive plan.

"Ponte Vedra Corporation has not ever sought a change to the existing comp plan," she said. "But rather, has been trying to get a reliably formal answer from the county concerning the consistency of its proposed development with existing comprehensive plan policies."

A hearing on PVC's motion for partial summary judgment is set for October.

Guana Lake water quality

In related news, the GTM Research Reserve recently released preliminary findings on the water quality of Guana Lake, located near the Outpost property.

The study, according to Crosby, revealed "concerning water quality conditions" and high levels of bacteria and nitrogen in both the lake and river. The study suggested that fertilizer run-off from the 66 homes proposed for the proposed community would adversely impact the water quality of Guana Lake.

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Nocatee hosts third annual Community Resource Day

Nocatee families and residents had the chance to connect with representatives from local law enforcement, education and nonprofit organizations on Tuesday, Aug. 7 when the master planned community hosted its third annual Community Resource Day at Crosswater Hall.

Representatives from the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, EPIC Behavioral Healthcare, PACT Prevention Coalition, RSVP of St. Johns County and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice were among those in attendance for Nocatee residents to meet. The event featured a presentation on cyber and social media safety, drug and alcohol awareness and prevention and school climate and resources. A dropbox was also available for residents to drop off old prescription medicines.

In addition, kids were welcome at the event, participating in supervised games and activities at the Splash Waterpark Cabana. The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office also brought in a helicopter for kids to see.

Visit www.nocatee.com for more information on Nocatee.



LEFT: Don Tuten, Mark Newman, Carl Oder and Louis Ferreira of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office gather in front of a helicopter at Nocatee's Community Resource Day on Aug. 7.

BELOW: Officers Karen McNeal and Devon Whitten of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Photos by
Jon Blauvelt



Rick Lombardo and Susan Solms of RSVP of St. Johns County



ABOVE: Nocatee kids enjoy snacks near the Splash Waterpark Cabana.

RIGHT: Nocatee residents learn more about the community at Community Resource Day.



Nocatee to host grand opening event for The Settlement at Twenty Mile

Nocatee will celebrate the opening of The Settlement at Twenty Mile on Saturday, Aug. 25.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., builders from ICI Homes and Toll Brothers will be on-site to assist and share updates on newly available home designs.

Event activities and attractions will include builder-guided tours of designer-decorated model homes, food trucks and builder giveaways. The event is free and open to all interested in the new neighborhood.

The Settlement at Twenty Mile features one- and two-story single-family homes ranging from 2,100 to 2,900 square feet of living space. ICI Homes and Toll Brothers will offer new homes starting in the mid \$300s. For more information, visit www.nocatee.com.

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Thursday, Aug. 9	Friday, Aug. 10	Saturday, Aug. 11	Sunday, Aug. 12
<p>Nazi U-boat attack presentation</p> <p>Local historian Scott Grant will deliver a presentation Aug. 9 at 11 a.m. on the 1942 Nazi U-boat sinking of the SS Gulf America oil tanker less than 10 miles off the coast of Jacksonville Beach. Grant will recant the story of Captain Reinhard Hardegen, a German submarine commander responsible for sinking 24 merchant ships in World War II. For more information, contact Danielle Johnson at (904) 280-3233 or email djohnson@sjohnscoa.com. The event will be held at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center, which is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Yoga for Survivors</p> <p>The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a Yoga for Survivors class Aug. 9 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>Computer class</p> <p>Enjoy one-on-one assistance with downloadable media, email, the internet, online applications and basic technology instruction at this Hastings Branch Library computer class. This event will take place Aug. 9 from 11 a.m. to noon at the Hastings Branch Library, located at 6195 S. Main St. in Hastings.</p> <p>Farm Swap & Music Jam</p> <p>Enjoy music from local musicians while shopping for produce at the Florida Agricultural Museum Aug. 9 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will feature musicians, singers and songwriters along with vendors offering fruits, veggies, honeys, jellies, nuts, arts and more. The Farm Swap & Music Jam will take place at 7900 Old Kings Road N. in Palm Coast. Visit www.floridaagmuseum.org for more information.</p>	<p>‘Dream Big: Engineering Our World’ at IMAX Theater at World Golf Hall of Fame</p> <p>From the Great Wall of China and the world’s tallest buildings to underwater robots, solar cars and smart, sustainable cities, “Dream Big” celebrates the human ingenuity behind engineering marvels big and small, and shows how engineers push the limits of innovation in unexpected ways. This film is showing Aug. 10 at 11 a.m. at the World Golf Hall of Fame. Visit www.worldgolfimax.com to purchase tickets. The World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX Theater is located at 1 World Golf Place in St. Augustine.</p> <p>‘Quilt Extravaganza’ exhibition</p> <p>Open through Aug. 11, this exhibition, entitled “Quilt Extravaganza,” is located at The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. It features work by Jacque Huber. The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach is located at 50 Executive Way. Admission to the museum is free and the center is open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.ccpvb.org.</p> <p>Music in the Courtyard</p> <p>Music in the Courtyard will take place weekly through Aug. 31 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Visitors can enjoy local music with a cup of coffee or a glass of wine and a bite to eat under palm trees rustling in the ocean breezes. This event will take place at 200 1st St. in Neptune Beach.</p> <p>Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp baseball game</p> <p>The Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp will take on the Mississippi Braves Aug. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville, located at 301 A. Philip Randolph Blvd. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.milb.com/jacksonville.</p> <p>Improv comedy show</p> <p>Mad Cowford Improv will present an unscripted, entirely improvised comedy show Aug. 10 at 7:30 p.m. The event will take place at Dahlia’s Pour House, located at 2695 Post St. in Jacksonville. For more information, visit www.dahliaspourhouse.com.</p>	<p>St. Augustine Amphitheatre Farmers Market</p> <p>The St. Augustine Amphitheatre Farmers Market will take place every Saturday morning from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The market features more than 100 tents with local produce, flowers, baked goods, handmade arts and crafts and more. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre Farmers Market is located at 1340 A1A S. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Free showing of ‘Andy Irons: Kissed by God’</p> <p>Presented by The St. Augustine Film Festival with the Friends of the St. Augustine Amphitheatre, a free showing of the recently-released film, “Andy Irons: Kissed by God,” will take place Saturday, Aug. 11 at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre. Performances by two bands, Kelp and Oh Great Sea, will begin at 7:30 p.m., to be followed by the film at 8:30 p.m. The Amphitheatre is located at 1340C A1A S.</p> <p>‘Look Back at the Boardwalk’</p> <p>The Beaches Museum will host a Storytellers event entitled “Look Back at the Boardwalk” Aug. 11. The event will feature long-time residents as they describe and retell their first-hand accounts of life and their experience growing up at the Boardwalk. Storyteller events are free to Museum members with a suggested \$5 donation for non-members. Visit www.beachmuseum.org or call (904) 241-5657 for more information on event time.</p> <p>Virginia College Back to School event</p> <p>Virginia College in Jacksonville will host a Back to School event for the community Aug. 11 from 10 a.m. to noon at its campus located at 5640 Beach Blvd. The event is free and open to the public and will feature refreshments and candy for kids, campus tours, bingo, free back-to-school haircuts, a spelling bee, crafts, face painting, backpack and school supply giveaways and more. Additionally, attendees 18 and older can enter to win gift cards.</p>	<p>Sandals, Shorts and Steel Drum Service</p> <p>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>‘Urban Spaces, Open Skies’ exhibition</p> <p>The newest exhibition at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, entitled “Urban Spaces, Open Skies: 20th-Century American Landscape,” will be on display through Feb. 3, 2019. Drawn from the Cummer Museum’s extensive collection of works on paper, this presentation will feature more than 30 prints celebrating modern cities and the timeless charms of the country. Visitors can admire how artists have captured the changing landscape of cities like Chicago and New York. For more information, contact Amber Sesnick at (904) 899-6034 or asesnick@cummuseum.org.</p> <p>First Coast Newcomers Club of Northeast Florida event</p> <p>The First Coast Newcomers Club of Northeast Florida will host an annual Sawgrass Clubhouse guided tour Aug. 12 at 4 p.m. This event is limited to 10 attendees. RSVP by calling (904) 829-0643.</p> <p>Second Sunday at Stetson’s</p> <p>American music star Woody Guthrie will perform at Beluthahatchee Park, the home grounds of the late Stetson Kennedy, Aug. 12 at 2 p.m. A donation of \$10 per attendee is suggested. Call (904) 206-8304 to make a reservation. Beluthahatchee Park is located at 1523 State Road 13 N. in Fruit Cove.</p> <p>‘Bus Stop The Play’ at The Island Theater</p> <p>A rendition of “Bus Stop The Play” will be performed Aug. 12 at 2 p.m. at The Island Theater, located at 1860 Town Hall Circle in Fleming Island. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.theislandtheater.com.</p>

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Monday, Aug. 13	Tuesday, Aug. 14	Wednesday, Aug. 15	Thursday, Aug. 16
<p>Gypsy Skirt Dancing class</p> <p>Join the Council on Aging for its signature Gypsy Skirt Dancing class at the River House on Mondays from 10 to 11 a.m. The class features props such as fans, umbrellas and more. Loaner skirts will be available. Each session costs \$4 for River House members and \$5 for non-members. Call (904) 209-3655 to make a reservation. The River house is located at 179 Marine St. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Volunteers needed at St. Johns County Council on Aging</p> <p>A volunteer manicurist is needed for the Coastal Community Senior Center, for administrative duties at Council on Aging Transportation from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, for Meals on Wheels, for the Integrative Memory Enhancement Program and for upcoming events in Hastings. Call (904) 209-3686 or email aleach@stjohnscoa.com for more information.</p> <p>Guided meditation</p> <p>Join the Bartram Trail Branch Library Aug. 13 at 10 a.m. for a 45-minute guided imagery meditation session to quiet the mind and learn mindfulness techniques. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and bring a mat and pillow. This class is free and open to the public and offered by a certified yoga instructor, Deborah Montana. The Bartram Trail Branch is located at 60 Davis Pond Blvd. in Fruit Cove.</p> <p>Florida Master Naturalist Program: Coastal Shoreline Restoration</p> <p>This Florida master Naturalist Program class, scheduled for Aug. 13 at 8:30 a.m., will cover ecosystems (swamps, marshes and permanent wetlands), key plants and wildlife and the role of humans in shaping the environment. Each module includes classroom presentations, videos, field trips and practical interpretation. Registration is required. This event will take place at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center, located at 175 Landrum Ave. in Ponte Vedra. For registration and program information visit www.masternaturalist.org or call (904) 220-0232.</p>	<p>Tapas Tuesday</p> <p>The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Cafe every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. View the sunset on the Cummer Cafe patio while listening to local musicians and enjoying beer, wine or artfully-inspired tapas for sale at the Cafe. Reserve your table by calling (904) 899-6022. For more information, visit www.cummermuseum.org. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave.</p> <p>Life Enrichment Day retreat program</p> <p>This program, which is offered Monday through Friday at Arbor Terrace, is designed for those with memory changes who want to remain mentally, physically and socially active, while giving caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. For more information, call (904) 417-7354 or email life_enrichment-group@yahoo.com. Arbor Terrace is located at 5125 Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra.</p> <p>New York Times bestselling author Delia Owens at The BookMark</p> <p>Delia Owens, co-author of three internationally bestselling nonfiction books, will be appearing at The BookMark Aug. 14 at 7 p.m. to present her debut novel, "Where the Crowds Sing." Primarily known for writing of her life as a scientist in Africa, Owens has won the John Burroughs Award for Nature Writing. The Book-Mark is located at 220 1st St. in Neptune Beach. For more information, visit www.bookmark-beach.com or call (904) 241-9026.</p> <p>Bill Warner to speak at Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset</p> <p>Bill Warner, the chair and founder of the Amelia Island Concours, will serve as the guest speaker for the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset Tuesday, Aug. 14 at the Hilton Garden Inn. The cost to attend is \$25 per person. A cash bar will be available. RSVP to Cyndi King at cyndiking@gmail.com</p>	<p>Toastmasters Club</p> <p>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>Wednesday Market at St. Augustine Beach</p> <p>The St. Augustine Beach Wednesday Market offers oceanfront shopping at the St. Johns County Pier Park every Wednesday starting at 8 a.m. Approximately 60 to 80 vendors can be found at the market selling locally grown produce, baked goods, prepared foods, arts, crafts and more. Visit www.sabca.org for more information.</p> <p>Music by the Sea concert</p> <p>This free weekly concert series at the St. Johns County Pier features a wide variety of musical genres. On Aug. 15, Soulfire will perform from 7 to 9 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to bring a beach chair or blanket along with a favorite beverage. This event will take place at 350 A1A Beach Blvd. in St. Augustine Beach.</p> <p>Chapel Concert: Noel Freidline</p> <p>As a kick-off to the Fall Chapel Concert Series, the Beaches Museum and Lazzara Family Foundation will host the Noel Freidline Quartet at the Beaches Museum Chapel Aug. 15 at 7 p.m. Individual tickets cost \$25 in advance, \$30 on the day of the show. For more information and to purchase tickets, call (904) 241-5657 or visit www.BeachesMuseum.org. Check-in and refreshments begin at 6 p.m.</p> <p>Ponte Vedra Democratic Club meeting</p> <p>Join the Ponte Vedra Democratic Club for a meeting Aug. 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. The group will be collecting school supplies for children in need at this month's meeting, especially pens, pencils, earbuds and spiral notebooks. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/pontevedrademocrats.</p>	<p>Art for Tots: We Are All Aflutter</p> <p>This Art for Tots class for children 24 to 36 months, scheduled for Aug. 16 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., will explore the creatures living in the gardens and discuss how these creatures move, what they eat and why the garden is their home. In the studio, children will make their own works of art inspired by these creatures. Art for Tots is funded by the Chartrand Family Foundation. Class sizes are limited, email education@cummermuseum.org or call (904) 355-0630 for more information. This event will take place at the Cummer Museum, located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>St. Paul's Catholic Church</p> <p>A Grief Support Group will meet on the third Thursday of each month at the St. Paul's Catholic Church in Room 102 of the Family Life Center, located at 578 1st Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach. The group is for men and women who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. The next meeting will take place Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. For more information, call Kathy at (904) 553-8933 or Catherine at (904) 247-0665.</p> <p>Dinner and a Movie</p> <p>Join moviegoers Aug. 16 at 4 p.m. for a "Dinner and a Movie" event at the River House, located at 179 Marine St. in St. Augustine. Admission costs \$14 for River House members and \$20 for non-members. In addition to dinner, guests will receive a soft drink and popcorn. Beer and wine will be available at an additional cost. Call (904) 209-3655 to reserve a seat.</p> <p>First Coast Card Club meeting</p> <p>The First Coast Card Club will host a meeting at the Anastasia Island Library, located at 124 Sea Grove Main St., Aug. 16 at noon. Guests are welcome. Attendees are encouraged to bring snacks to share.</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 ben@opcfla.com or call (904) 686-3939.</p>

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ABOVE: John Stavely sits next to the new Henry Flagler bronze sculpture outside Potter's Wax Museum in downtown St. Augustine.

RIGHT: Flagler College President Dr. Joseph Joyner addresses the crowd at the event.

Photos by
Susan Griffin



Henry Flagler bronze sculpture installed at Potter's Wax Museum in St. Augustine

On Thursday, Aug. 2, Potter's Wax Museum in downtown St. Augustine hosted esteemed guests for a formal ribbon-cutting and unveiling of a bronze sculpture of Henry Flagler outside the museum.

Public officials, educators, and speakers discussed Flagler's history and the significance of the installment at the event. The bronze figure in period clothing and accoutrements is seated on a wood and steel decorative bench at 31 Orange Street. The historic site is located next to The Authentic Old Drug store built by Antonio Gomaas in 1739 as a place of revelry, dating back to the early days when St. Augustine was a Spanish hamlet.

The sculpture was created by Cody Wicker, who was born and raised in St. Augustine and graduated from St. Augustine High School and Florida School for the Arts in Palatka. He serves as a

national artist and sculpturer for Historic Tours of America and its seven locations throughout the United States.

Wicker created the Flagler piece from initial drawings, while closely studying the "look and feel" of the man, to hot wax forms, clay and foam castings, many additional production steps, and finally to the bronze cast produced at a Northeast Florida foundry. The sculpture depicts Flagler during his 50s and at the height of his work in St. Augustine, with a pensive look in his eyes to the future.

Flagler is known as the father of modern-day St. Augustine, and early Miami and Palm Beach. Flagler's credits include aggressive urban development of the City of St. Augustine, fine hotels, tourist attractions and entertainment, the local

FLAGLER continues on **Page 15**



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Photos by Susan Griffin

Community leaders celebrate the installment of a bronze sculpture of Henry Flagler outside Potter's Wax Museum in downtown St. Augustine with a ribbon-cutting on Aug. 2.

Flagler

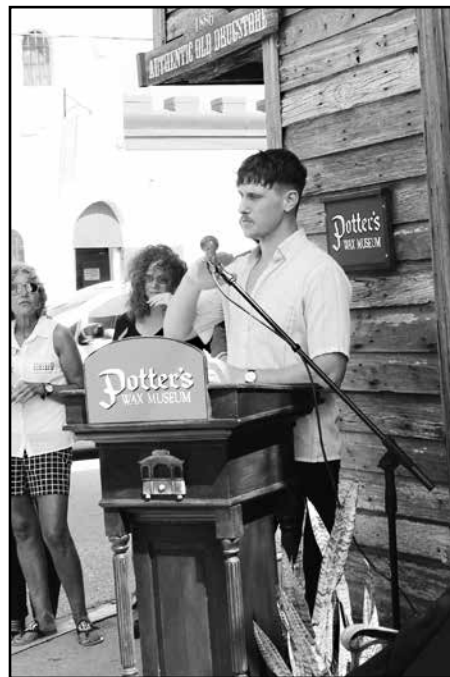
Continued from 14

jail, churches and hospitals and abundant philanthropy, to name a few. He was an American industrialist and a founder of Standard Oil and a key figure in the development of the Atlantic coast of Florida and founder of what became Florida East Coast Railway.

Potter's Wax Museum is owned and operated by Historic Tours of America, Inc., parent company of Old Town Trolley Tours of St. Augustine. The museum houses more than 160 wax sculptures covering a wide range of real and fictitious figures, including famous politicians, entertainers, horror characters, historical personalities, sports stars and other celebrities. George L. Potter established the collection in 1948, and the attraction is the first wax museum in the United States. Historic Tours of America purchased the Museum in 2014.

According to David Chatterton, Old Town Trolley Tours of St. Augustine general manager, the opportunity to share the excitement of the Flagler bronze is to further display St. Augustine's rich heritage and colorful personalities, which he said is an important role for the company as a 16-year community entertainment partner.

Old Town Trolley Tours brings trolley



Sculpture creator Cody Wickler discusses his work on the Flagler sculpture.

and shuttle transportation and entertainment to St. Augustine by taking visitors and residents throughout the historic city, offering 23 stops with more than 100 points of interest. The trolleys are eco-friendly and noise sensitive to the surroundings and neighborhoods around the City. For more information, visit www.trolleytours.com/st-augustine or call (904) 829-3800.

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Women's Food Alliance hosts cookie contest for children

The Women's Food Alliance recently held its "Why I Like to Bake for My Family" cookie contest at Jax Kitchen in Jacksonville.

The grand prize winner was chosen out of 11 finalists at the July 16 event. Ashley Majesky, 9, from St. Johns, won the grand prize with her "Sprinkle of Sunshine" cookies and beach-themed presentation. Her winning essay states, "I love to bake for my family. When I bake, it makes me feel special and happy. They enjoy my cookies. My dad says he could eat a whole batch of them and I love to design the cookies too."

The children came to Jax Kitchen with 12 cookies and at least one adult. Most attended with their parents and siblings watching from the sidelines. The "Why I Like to Bake for My Family" cookie competition inspired them to dream up a tasty and unique cookies and presentations.

First runner-up Kate Foster, of Ponte Vedra, made "Terrific Toffee Cookies" and stated in her essay, "I like baking for my family because I like to make all kinds of delicious desserts for my family to make them happy and because it's really fun. I can make things with different

ingredients and they taste a different way. Mostly I bake because I think it makes my family smile a lot when I do it."

Third runner-up Cole Carter, of Middleburg, made "Salted Chocolate Bombs" and wrote, "It's my mom who got me into cooking. One day I volunteered to help her, and she made it so fun that I wanted to keep doing it with her. We get to make a mess while cooking DELICIOUS sweets. It's a win/win, getting food and having fun!"

Each finalist received a swag bag from Sugar Snob Chocolates filled with culinary treasures, admission for their family to the Colonial Quarter & Pirate Museum in St. Augustine, an invitation to take a private tour of Flippin' Good Cookies in Jacksonville and a kids meal at Your Pie in Tapestry Park.

The top three finishers also won Sunday brunch for four at the Casa Marina Hotel in Jacksonville Beach.

As the grand prize winner, Majeskey received a two-night family vacation at one of the St. Francis Inn's Lodgings in St. Augustine Beach, a party for 10 people at Your Pie-Southside in Tapestry Park and "The Everything Pizza" cookbook by Belinda Hulin.



ABOVE: The 11 finalists who competed in the "Why I Like to Bake for My Family" cookie contest presented home-baked cookies and an essay.



LEFT: Kate Foster, of Ponte Vedra, finished as first runner-up with her "Terrific Toffee Cookies."

Photos courtesy of the Women's Food Alliance

LEFT: Grand prize winner Ashley Majesky, 9, won with her "Sprinkle of Sunshine" cookies.

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BABY TALK



Flagler Hospital named recipient of Healthgrades 2018 Labor and Delivery Excellence Award

Flagler Hospital recently announced it has received Healthgrades' 2018 Labor and Delivery Excellence Award.

According to Healthgrades, an online resource for comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals, this distinction places Flagler Hospital within the top 10 percent of all hospitals evaluated for the exceptional care of mothers during labor and delivery. More than 1,600 babies were born at Flagler Hospital last year.

"Providing high quality, personalized women's care within labor and delivery is an important part of our role in St. Johns County and we take it very seriously," stated Jason Barrett, president and CEO of Flagler Hospital. "This recognition by Healthgrades reflects our commitment to achieving the best possible outcomes for mom and baby, while providing a family-focused experience during this special time. We are proud of our highly experienced care team and the community physicians, midwives and anesthesiologists who serve the families in our area."

To help consumers evaluate and compare hospital performance in labor and delivery, Healthgrades analyzed patient outcome data for almost every hospital in the 15 states and the



Photo courtesy of Flagler Hospital

Flagler Hospital's team displays its Healthgrades 2018 Labor and Delivery Excellence Award.

District of Columbia that provide all-payer state data for years 2014 through 2016. Healthgrades found that the variation in hospital performance makes a significant difference in terms of clinical outcomes.

FLAGLER continues on **Page 26**

Before baby: What now after reading the book?



Jenny Malig
Guest Columnist

By Jenny Malig, MSN, RN, RNC-OB
Special to the Recorder

"What to Expect When You're Expecting" was most likely the No. 1 selling book for pregnant moms when I had my daughter 23 years ago. Once you're done reading a book like that, you might wonder what you should do next.

Well, for me, the only other way to obtain information about what was changing and happening to my body was by taking a childbirth class. I received information from my OB provider in a large packet during my first prenatal visit and thought, "This is mandatory, right?" The class was held over a few weeks, teaching the

MALIG continues on **Page 26**



Award-Winning Maternity Care

As an expectant mother, one of your most important decisions is choosing where to have your baby. Flagler Hospital has received the Healthgrades 2018 Labor and Delivery Excellence Award™. According to Healthgrades, this distinction places Flagler Hospital within the top 10 percent of all hospitals evaluated for the exceptional care of mothers during labor and delivery. The team at Flagler Hospital is dedicated to making every labor and delivery experience the best it can possibly be. This begins with childbirth preparation classes, free prenatal yoga, infant CPR, as well as sibling and grandparent courses. The hospital also features low intervention suites, neonatal intensive care, private post-partum suites, lactation specialists and breast feeding support groups.



www.FlaglerHospital.org

Back To School



Photos by Benjamin Naim

Back to School with BEAM features school supplies for underprivileged youth inside the sanctuary at Beach Church, located at 325 7th Ave N. in Jacksonville Beach.

BEAM hosts 25th annual Back to School event at Beach Church

By Benjamin Naim

The Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM), a Jacksonville Beach-based organization serving low income residents, held its 25th annual Back to School with BEAM event on Saturday, Aug. 4 at Beach Church.

The event offered Beaches families in need a chance to take home school supplies, clothes, footwear and other items in preparation for the upcoming school year. Attendees also enjoyed free snacks, hot dogs, fruits, drinks and more.

“We do this every year,” said John Mullins, a volunteer at the event and the secretary/scribe of the Beaches Exchange Club. “We buy, prepare, distribute probably about 1,000 hot dogs to the kids and parents.”

Mullins noted that the event makes a significant impact on underprivileged members of the community.

“There’s a means test on the front end,” he revealed. “So, people who are in here need to be here. BEAM has done an excellent job.”

Mullins said the ministry purchased backpacks and school supplies in bulk with donations of gently used clothing, underwear and shoes.

According to BEAM’s website, the 1994 Back to School with BEAM event featured 30 volunteers and 250 children in the old fellowship hall at Beach Church (formerly Beach United Methodist Church). In 2018, Mullins said those numbers have risen tremendously.



Back to School with BEAM offers Beaches families in need a chance to take home school supplies, clothes, footwear and other items in preparation for the upcoming school year.

“Over the last few years, the number (of event goers) has been fairly constant,” he noted. “Somewhere around 950 to 1,100 every year.”

Event sponsors included Mary Carter Financial Services, the Deerwood and Ponte Vedra Rotary Clubs, Beach Church, individuals and other civic and faith community groups.

Visit www.jaxbeam.org for more information on BEAM.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Our school district has achieved many academic successes over the past four years, and it has been rewarding to be a part of the forward-thinking leadership of St. Johns County! I want to applaud the hard work of our teachers, students, staff and supportive parents.

While we are never satisfied until we provide educational excellence for all children, there is a lot of great news to share!

All of our schools in District 4 received an “A” rating from the Florida Department of Education (FDOE). Unlike some ranking systems that select only certain pieces of data and apply their own methodologies, the Florida school grading system focuses the school grading formula on student success measurements that include: achievement, learning gains, graduation, acceleration success and maintaining a focus on students who need the most support.

This year, Ponte Vedra High School and Allen D. Nease High School saw improved performance as evidenced by the increase in total number of points earned on Florida State Standards assessment, the number of Advanced Placement tests given and the passage rate. According to FDOE data, our graduation rates, college readiness, SAT and ACT Test Scores are all above state and national averages.

Our high school students also have the opportunity to earn college credit through a variety of dual enrollment courses. Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, we have added Collegiate High School through a partnership with St. Johns River State College at all our high schools. This structured program will offer our students the ability to earn their AA degree while in high school.

Our Career and Technical programs, including 20 academies (The Communication Academy, Stellar Academy of Engineering, Academy of Biotechnology and Medical Research and Academy of Information Technology, just to name a few) continue to provide our students with the knowledge, skills and abilities to thrive, whether continuing their education or moving directly into the workforce. With school choice options, including 30 different tracks and the ability to earn industry certifications, our students have many options to explore. Last school year, our middle school students earned 5,424 digital tool certificates that included Database, Gaming Software, Multimedia, Web design, Programming and Logic. Our high school students earned over 1,620 industry certifications and took part in over 140 summer internships.

Our classroom instruction is supported by professional development and technology, emphasizing reading, writing and critical thinking in all content areas. Outside of the classroom, students have additional educational opportunities through the many programs provided through the St. Johns Virtual School and First Coast Technical College.

We have met many challenges over the past four years, including explosive growth, increased rigor and accountability and changes in leadership. In spite of the challenges, our students continue to grow in their academics; our teachers continue to focus on differentiated learning, improving instruction and learning; our staff, administration and leadership continue to ensure that we are making data-based decisions, evaluating best practices and outcomes, keeping our focus on all students and aligning everything we do with our strategic plan to move us forward.

Kelly Barrera

St Johns County School Board Representative, District 4

First Coast Y Before and Afterschool program ranked No. 1 in country for impact

Registration now open for 2018-2019 school year

Offering programs to school-aged children throughout Northeast Florida to keep youth active, busy and engaged during out-of-school time, the First Coast YMCA's Before and Afterschool program was recently ranked No. 1 in the country for impact.

This distinction was based on SEER Analytics surveys from parents at YMCA Before and Afterschool programs nationwide. SEER Analytics is an independent, third-party company that assists YMCAs and other organizations across the United States to set benchmarks, quantify their impact and ultimately improve their programs and services.

"At the Y, we know all kids have potential," said Eric K. Mann, president and CEO of the First Coast YMCA. "That's why we support their academic, physical and social-emotional development with programs that don't just ensure success

in school — they help kids realize who they are and all they can achieve. We are honored by the SEER ranking, which showcases the commitment of our Before and Afterschool leaders, as well as the quality of our programming."

Before and Afterschool child care is available for children ages 5 through 12 at more than 40 sites across the First Coast. Some of these sites also offer Before and Afterschool care for middle school students. Through a well-rounded approach to youth development, the Y offers activities in a caring and safe environment during the critical hours after school. Whether through physical fitness, proper nutrition, academic support or character development, the Y nurtures the potential of youth throughout the school year.

Registration is now open for the First Coast YMCA's Before and Afterschool program for the 2018-2019 school year. For more information, visit firstcoastymca.org/programs/child-care/before-and-afterschool.

ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE STUDENTS ARRIVE IN THE U.S.



Members of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach welcome Youth Exchange Students Zed Laszlo and Birgit Braut at the Jacksonville International Airport last week. Laszlo, who is from Hungary, and Braut, who is from Norway, will be spending the next academic year in the U.S. as participants of the Rotary Youth Exchange Scholarship Program.



Photos courtesy of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Ponte Vedra High School students and twins Maggie and Katie Frantz are spending the next academic year in Vienna, Austria and Joinville, Brazil as members of the Rotary Youth Exchange program.

Local twin sisters leave for Rotary Youth Exchange journeys in different countries

By Jon Blauvelt

Twin sisters from Ponte Vedra Beach are spending the next academic year in different countries as participants of the Rotary Youth Exchange program.

Katie and Maggie Frantz, both students at Ponte Vedra High School, left for their respective adventures last week. Katie will be in Joinville, Brazil, while Maggie will be in Vienna, Austria. Both are sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach.

"Every year, we've heard this assembly," Katie said. "I think this year, it just clicked with us both. I came home, and I was like, 'Maggie, I want to go on Exchange.' And she said, 'Really? Me too!'"

Maggie added, "Definitely like a twin telepathy moment."

Katie explained that participants of the program submit a list of five countries of interest that is taken into consideration by Rotary. Her sister, Maggie, was ultimately sent to her No. 1 choice. Although Katie was surprised to be sent to Brazil, she has become more and

more excited about the location.

"You sign up knowing that you can get whatever country," Katie said. "You don't choose the country. The country chooses you. I'm really excited."

Katie and Maggie will each be staying with three different host families over the course of the academic year. They plan to stay in touch via FaceTime, texting and social media. The twins also plan to partner on a blog on YouTube.

Katie is most looking forward to a special adventure at the end of her trip.

"I'm looking forward to a trip down the Amazon river for 10 days in a boat," she said. "Not everybody gets to say they've done that."

Maggie, on the other hand, is generally excited to learn about her new country.

"I'm just so excited to learn the culture of Vienna and learn what it means to be an Austrian and to experience real snow and a real winter, not like the winters here," she joked.

For more information on Rotary Youth Exchange, visit www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/youth-exchanges.

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Business Weekly

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Freedom Boat Club names
new membership director for
Beach Marine location

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Power Tee announces European Ryder Cup Captain Thomas Bjorn as brand ambassador

Ponte Vedra Beach-based Power Tee recently announced the signing of Thomas Bjorn — Europe's 2018 Ryder Cup captain — as the company's new brand ambassador.

Bjorn has won 21 tournaments worldwide, making him the most successful Danish golfer to have played the game.

"For anyone who is serious about growing the game of golf," Bjorn said, "Power Tee is the ultimate tool for engaging new players and helping existing golfers improve."

Power Tee now has both the United States and European Ryder Cup captains — Jim Furyk and Bjorn — endorsing the brand.

"We are very excited to have both Ryder Cup captains endorsing Power Tee, especially this year when long-term Power Tee customer Le Golf National is hosting the event," said Martin Wyeth, Power Tee's inventor and CEO. "We are a people company and the fact that both of these endorsers are excellent people as well as great golfers fits very well with what we do."

Power Tees are available for golf courses, golf ranges, country clubs and home use.

For more information, visit www.powertee.com.

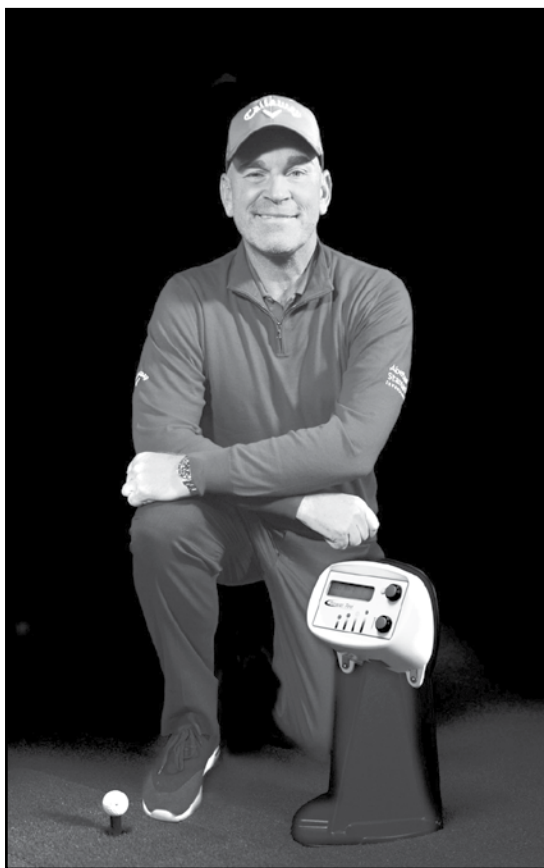


Photo courtesy of Power Tee

Thomas Bjorn has joined Jim Furyk as the latest brand ambassador for Power Tee, an internationally patented automatic practice system that makes practicing golf more efficient, effective and fun.

Life Transitions Counseling relocating to Ponte Vedra Beach

Life Transitions Counseling, a psychotherapy practice based in Fleming Island for nine years, recently announced it is relocating its office to Ponte Vedra Beach.

The practice's new office is located at 6000-A Sawgrass Village Circle, Suite 14. The complete transition to that location is expected to be completed by Oct. 1.

"When I founded Life Transitions Counseling nine years ago, my goal was to help people find healing and freedom from the bondage in their lives," said Dr. Jason Hosch, owner and executive director of Life Transitions Counseling. "At Life Transitions, I am committed to helping the people and the communities I serve be the healthiest they can be."

Life Transitions Counseling offers individual, couple, family and faith-based counseling with a holistic wellness approach. The practice helps people deal with overcom-

LIFE TRANSITIONS continues on **Page 23**

Encore Capital Management taps Colliers International Northeast Florida as exclusive retail leasing representative for Beachwalk

Encore Capital Management and Twin Creeks Development Associates, the developer of Beachwalk, have named Colliers International Northeast Florida the exclusive retail leasing brokers for the project.

Colliers will be responsible for leasing 450,000 square feet of retail space surrounding the Crystal Lagoon in Beachwalk as part of the first phase of commercial development. The total project will be home to up to 1 million square feet of commercial space. Beachwalk's retail component, which is designed to look like a seaside village in the Caribbean, will sit on the south shore of the project's 14-acre Crystal Lagoon. This man-made lagoon is the size of ten football fields and will offer residents access to custom-built waterslides, swimming, kayaking, paddle boarding and more.

"Stretched out across more than 3,000 acres, Beachwalk is really a city within a city," said Art Falcone, CEO and managing principal of Encore Capital Management. "Right now, St. Johns County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state, and the timing is right to bring this type of project to the forefront of development in the area."

The Colliers International Northeast Florida team will be led by Nancy Sumner and Katy Figg, vice presidents of retail services. With their combined 20 years of experience in lease negotiations and landlord representation, Sumner and Figg will tap into both their national and local contacts to bring retail and restaurant concepts to this community.



Renderings courtesy of Beachwalk

As the exclusive retail leasing brokers for the Beachwalk project, Colliers International Northeast Florida will be responsible for leasing 450,000 square feet of retail space surrounding the community's Crystal Lagoon.

BEACHWALK continues on **Page 26**

Chamber accepting nominations for 2018-2019 Leadership St. Johns class

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2018-2019 class of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Leadership St. Johns (LSJ) program.

This year-long program selects participants from all sectors of industry, commerce and public service. The leadership development program, which was started in 2001, has over 300 alumni, including the former superintendent of schools and current Flagler College President Dr. Joseph Joyner, the current Superintendent of Schools Tim Forson, Flagler Hospital CEO Jason Barrett, local entrepreneur and St. Augustine Distillery founding partner Philip McDaniel, District 1 School Board Representative Beverly Slough, Sheriff David Shoar and St. Augustine City Manager John Regan. Many LSJ graduates have been accepted into the statewide Leadership Florida program.

The Leadership St. Johns Program was established to educate, connect and encourage elite and emerging professionals as they strive to make a positive impact on the local economy and community. According to Bob Porter, the Chamber's LSJ program director, LSJ graduates continue to be mentored by program alumni who maintain and promote a positive difference in the region.

"The program provides a way to recognize talented individuals who will benefit from the experience and who can utilize the opportunity to advance their organizational and personal professional goals," Porter said. "Additionally, strong connections established among class members are invaluable throughout one's career and beyond."



Photo courtesy of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The members of the recent Leadership St. Johns Class gather during First Responders Day. Nominations for the next class are now being accepted.

The deadline to apply is Tuesday, Sept. 4 by 5 p.m. The application and additional information can be found at sjchamber.com/LSJ. The applicants will be notified of their status by the end of September. The program runs from October through the following June. Class members need to be committed to meeting one day each month to experience a full day of policy

briefings and on-site tours providing an in-depth overview of the challenges and opportunities faced by St. Johns County's many industries, government agencies and nonprofits.

Isabelle Renault, the Chamber's president/CEO and a graduate of Leadership St. Johns and Leadership Florida, suggested that involvement in LSJ can be a

stepping stone to participating in non-profit and volunteer government advisory boards as well as involvement in future elected office.

"We also want our class members to consider using the skills honed through the LSJ experience to engage actively in the governing of St. Johns County," Renault said.

Paying off the mortgage versus money in the stock market



Ric Schilling
Columnist

By Ric Schilling

I'm often asked for my opinion on whether or not it's best to pay off one's mortgage versus investing the money and carrying a mortgage. Let me share my perspective on this given the many years of experience

I've had with people facing this decision.

Let's understand the premise first. The theory is that you are better off carrying mortgage debt and investing the funds, which could be used to retire the debt in other ways, therefore earning a much greater rate of return than the interest rate on the loan. It's a pretty straightforward argument and hard to counter on its face. Let's, however, consider the following:

1) In my experience, few people have the self-discipline to actually save the funds they would otherwise use to pay off their mortgage debt. Those funds end up being spent on things and experiences

rather than being saved, defeating the rationale behind the action taken.

2) While home mortgage rates have been low over the last decade (since the Great Recession of 2008-2009), they have been steadily rising in recent months and are expected to continue to do so as the Fed continues to increase short-term rates.

3) Conversely, the returns in the stock market are coming down (year-to-date, the market is basically flat at this writing) and are projected to be generally lower — averaging 5 to 6 percent per year — over the next decade. So, the difference between market returns and loan interest rates may be quite small or non-existent. And, most investors only earn about half the market's return, so the difference is really much smaller than normally advertised.

4) When we have the next recession (notice I didn't say IF, but when), paying that mortgage could be difficult if you experience a job loss or other economic hardship. In the last recession, millions of people lost their homes to foreclosure and that can certainly happen again. Be-

ing debt-free is a great comfort in tough economic times.

5) Also, the next recession will undoubtedly result in a major correction in stock prices. Having to liquidate investments at a time when they are down 30 to 40 to 50 percent to meet monthly expenses could put your retirement plans back a decade or more.

6) If you have sufficient financial resources to pay off the mortgage any time you desire, then carrying the debt creates far less risk than for someone whose retirement would be jeopardized if they had to liquidate savings to pay off debt.

These are just a few of the many factors you should consider before deciding to forego paying down/off the mortgage to invest more money in the stock market. As always, circumstances vary from person to person, so it is wise to look at your individual situation rather than doing something because a friend or family member tells you this is what they are doing. Each situation is very different.

It's best, in my opinion, to look at the whole picture and weigh the pros and cons. Meeting with an independent

financial fiduciary who must put your best interest first, to go over your actual concerns and individual situations, can help you put your choices in perspective.

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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Freedom Boat Club hires membership director for new Beach Marine location

Bill Edinger, 43, doesn't plan to retire anytime soon. Then again, he doesn't plan on working anymore either. Edinger is now the membership director of the new Freedom Boat Club (FBC) location at Beach Marine in Jacksonville.

"This doesn't even feel like a job," Edinger said. "It certainly doesn't seem like work."

Edinger should know. After spending years as a pharmaceutical technician, working from the confines of a small cubi-

cal, Edinger's new office is inside a spacious 73-foot houseboat, which features numerous large windows. Of course, he always spends a significant amount of his "work" day out on a boat, giving test rides to prospective new members. It seems like second nature to him.

Edinger first became acquainted with Freedom Boat Club in 2009, when he traded in his fishing boat and became a member. In 2010, he became a part-time membership representative for FBC, work-

ing weekends at the St. Augustine location, but he left the position shortly afterward.

"I was working every weekend and it was taking too much time away from my family," Edinger said.

He continued in his regular career as a pharmaceutical tech. Then, in May of this year, Freedom Boat Club opened its newest location at Beach Marine and owner Lisa Almeida knew immediately who she wanted to hire.

"Bill was my first choice," Almeida said. "The only question was how long it would take me to talk him into it."

Edinger now works closely with existing members and cultivates relationships with new members and prospective members at the Jacksonville Beach location. He develops and implements membership plans, creates member events and serves as the liaison between members and other Freedom Boat Club locations around the country.

Since Edinger came on board, Freedom Boat Club's Beach Marine location con-



Photo credit

Bill Edinger is the new membership director for the Freedom Boat Club at Beach Marine.

tinues to add new members and boats. And for Edinger, that is part of his long-term plan.

"I expect to be doing this for a very long time," Edinger said. "I have always loved boating and fishing, so this does not seem like work to me. I was enthusiastic about Freedom Boat Club from the moment I joined. Now, I get to share that with others."



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Warren Equity-backed Meridian Waste expands reach with 3 new acquisitions

Meridian Waste, backed by Jacksonville Beach-based equity firm Warren Equity Partners, has acquired three companies located in the greater Blacksburg and Christiansburg, Virginia marketplace: Bob's Refuse Service, New River Container and Resource Management Group. The acquisitions will be operating under the Meridian Waste/CFS Group Blue Ridge company banner.

An integrated, non-hazardous solid waste services company headquartered in Greensboro, Georgia, Meridian Waste will now provide environmental waste services to approximately 1,650 new commercial customers and 550 new residential customers from the company's existing Christiansburg, Virginia location. In addition, the asset purchases include a fully permitted and operating construction and demolition debris material recycling facility located in Radford, Virginia.

"This acquisition presented a strong hauling company tuck-in opportunity as well as a new construction and demolition (material recycling facility) operat-

ing asset to strengthen our collections and processing footprint in Southwestern Virginia," Meridian Waste CEO Wally Hall said. "As a company, we are focused on growth in both existing and new markets while staying committed to servicing our customers, caring for our employees, all while delivering a clean and healthy community to those whom we serve. We look forward to servicing our newest Virginia customers with quality service and care, and we welcome our new 17 employees onto the Meridian Waste/CFS Group Blue Ridge team of waste professionals."

Steven Wacaster, managing partner at Warren Equity Partners, added: "We are excited to have completed four add-on acquisitions to the Meridian Waste platform in our first three months of ownership. We believe that the Blacksburg-Christiansburg market offers tremendous growth potential and that these assets are a great fit for our vertically-integrated Virginia operations. We look forward to continuing to expand Meridian's geographic reach through add-on acquisitions and greenfield expansions."

Dream Finders Homes receives top growth award for second consecutive year

Dream Finders Homes was recently honored by Jacksonville Business Journal as the No. 1 fastest growing company in Northeast Florida for revenue growth by volume, marking the second consecutive year the company has received the ranking.

In addition, Dream Finders Homes was recognized as No. 20 on the publication's Fast 50 Top Companies in the revenue growth by percentage category. The company has made the Fast 50 list for three consecutive years and five total times.

To be considered as a Fast 50 honoree, a company must meet several eligibility requirements, including being privately-held, locally-owned and for profit. Companies must also have experienced overall growth from 2015 to 2017, as well as a revenue gain from 2016 to 2017 and have had annual revenue of at least \$1 million in 2017. Lastly, eligible companies must have been in business since 2014, and must be headquartered in Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam or St. Johns counties.

Life Transitions

Continued from 20

ing various life issues, such as anxiety, addiction, depression, grief, trauma, relationship issues and sexual issues. During the relocation, the practice will be taking appointments at both locations.

"I am delighted to be able to extend my caring and committed services to everyone from age 11 to seniors in the Ponte Vedra Beach and surrounding community," Hosch added.

For more information about Life Transitions Counseling, visit www.lifetransitions.cc or call (904) 386-9518.

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Mattamy Homes opens two new models at Beacon Lake

Mattamy Homes recently announced the opening of two designer-decorated and furnished model homes at Beacon Lake, a new lakefront lifestyle community in northern St. Johns County east of I-95 on County Road 2010.

“Our model homes at Beacon Lake exemplify Mattamy’s thoughtful attention to detail and signature design style, which makes every square foot completely functional and aesthetically brilliant,” said Cliff Nelson, Jacksonville Division president for Mattamy Homes. “With its wonderful environment for families to create lasting memories together, we are experiencing significant demand for our homes at Beacon Lake.”

Mattamy Homes reported more than 25 total sales at Beacon Lake prior to the models’ opening. In phase one, the company will build on 53- and 73-foot-wide homesites at Beacon Lake. Homebuyers can choose from more than 14 home designs ranging in size from 1,760 square feet to more than 3,500 square feet and priced from the high \$200,000s. Mattamy Homes has five Quick Move-in Homes available at Beacon Lake, and buyer incentives are available for a limited time.

The designer-decorated models feature Mattamy’s Tradewind and Cannon II de-

signs. The Tradewind has 2,710 square feet of living space with three bedrooms plus a formal dining room, a flex space, loft and den. The Cannon II plan showcases 2,730 square feet of living space with four bedrooms and a study, three-and-a-half baths and a three-car garage.

Beacon Lake is anchored by a 43-acre, paddle-friendly lake and nestled within 358 acres of nature preserve. The 8,200-square-foot Lake House Amenity and Fitness Center, which is under construction and anticipated to open in early 2019, will be the heart of Beacon Lake and home to fun and fitness. The Lake House will include a fitness center with cardio, strength training, aerobics, spinning, free weights and yoga studio; a culinary studio and demonstration kitchen; spacious entertainment and dining areas; and covered porches and a fire pit for relaxing and socializing. Outdoor amenities will include a splash park, junior Olympic lap pool, a dog park, sand beach, playing fields and tennis courts. The dockside Crew House will provide kayak, canoe and paddleboard storage, as well as a launch area, making it easy for residents to enjoy Beacon Lake.

For more information, visit www.MattamyHomes.com/jacksonville.



Photo courtesy of Mattamy Homes

The Cannon II model at Beacon Lake



The Tradewind model at Beacon Lake

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Mayo Clinic holds reception to dedicate Mangurian Building

Mayo Clinic Jacksonville CEO Gianrico Farrugia, M.D., and staff of the medical center hosted a special reception July 26 to celebrate the completion of the Dorothy J. and Harry T. Mangurian, Jr. Building.

The new building will house Mayo Clinic's cancer, neurological and neurosurgical care programs in Florida and is a milestone in the organization's expansion to serve more patients and mission to be the destination medical center for the Southeast United States. Attendees of the event enjoyed a dedication of the building, tours and music provided by A Noble Sound.

The building came to fruition after Mayo Clinic's Florida campus received a \$20 million gift from The Harry T. Mangurian Jr. Foundation in Fort Lauderdale. It's named in honor of Harry T. Mangurian and his wife, Dorothy Mangurian. Harry Mangurian died of leukemia in 2008. Dorothy Mangurian was diagnosed with Lewy body dementia, a neurological condition that can have features of Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases. She passed away in 2015.

Features of the new building include two floors devoted to hematology and oncology care; an Oncology Infusion Center; one floor devoted to neurology and neurosurgery; patient care enhancements, such as an outdoor garden and meeting space for support groups and dietary options tailored to specific diseases; and space for education and research enhancements.

For more information, visit www.mayoclinic.org.



ABOVE: Jimmy Johns, Layne Smith and Isabelle Renault enjoy the dedication of the Mangurian Building at Mayo Clinic Jacksonville on July 26.



EFT: Vance Berry Jr., Vance Berry, Clare Berry and Liz Berry gather at the reception.

Photos by Susan Griffin

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Janet Johnson is committed to aggressively defending people accused in all criminal matters in state and federal court. In practice since 1994, she is a member of the Florida Bar, The Federal Bar, Colorado Bar, as well as the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. She has been on the faculty of FACDL "Blood, Breath & Tears" annual DUI seminar. Ms. Johnson appears as a legal commentator on CNN, HLN, GMA, and Fox News. She has been awarded the very highest possible rating, the AV preeminent rating™, from Martindale- Hubbell® and was named a fellow to the prestigious Litigation Counsel of America™, as well as one of the ten best criminal defense attorneys nationally for client satisfaction by the American Institute of Criminal Law Attorneys.

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Beachwalk

Continued from 20

“Beachwalk is unlike any other project in the U.S. right now,” said Sumner. “It feels like you’re in the middle of the Caribbean. We’re excited to create a unique retail lineup that reflects the needs of residents as well as the visitors who will frequent the project’s signature restaurants, shops and Crystal Lagoon.”

Figg added: “We’re looking for a mix of local flavor and national brands that provide the community with unique, creative and compelling options that have long been void in this area.”

Sumner and Figg are focused on bringing in a specialty grocer, movie theater, chef-driven, destination restaurants, health and wellness and home improvement options and more.

Located on County Road 210, Beachwalk’s retail component will be available to both residents living in the community’s 3,000+ homes and luxury apartments, as well as those who live nearby or are visiting the area. The retail village will also serve those working within the 2 million+ square feet of office and light industrial space in the community.

For more information, visit encoreretailcenters.com/beachwalk or contact Nancy or Katy at (904) 358-1206.



Rendering courtesy of Beachwalk

Flagler

Continued from 17

■ From 2014 to 2016, if all hospitals included in the analysis performed similarly to those that received the Healthgrades Labor and Delivery Excellence Award, complications could have potentially been avoided for 101,543 patients.

■ From 2014 through 2016, patients treated in hospitals receiving the Labor and Delivery Excellence Award had, on average, a 36.8 percent lower risk of experiencing a complication while in the hospital than if they were treated in hospitals that did not receive the Labor and Delivery Excellence Award.

“Consumers value high-quality outcomes when selecting hospitals, especially with delivery of a child,” said Brad Bowman, MD, chief medical officer at Healthgrades. “Parents have many options when looking for the right providers, and the Healthgrades 2018 Labor and Delivery Excellence Award gives them important insight to find the top hospitals in their areas.”

Flagler Hospital offers childbirth preparation classes, prenatal yoga, infant CPR and sibling and grandparent courses. The hospital also features low intervention suites, neonatal intensive care, private post-partum suites, lactation specialists and breastfeeding support groups.

Visit www.FlaglerHospital.org for more information on Flagler Hospital.

Malig

Continued from 17

different topics related to pregnancy, birth, pain control and breastfeeding. Thank goodness my 18-year-old self made the decision to attend those classes (I did think they were mandatory, like reading a manual to a new car). I was in for some real surprises, even being the oldest of six children.

Many years later, I became a labor and delivery nurse and upon admission I asked arriving patients if they attended any childbirth classes per the hospital policy. I was surprised at the answers I received. “No, should I have?” was a common response. I thought, “Sure, I did, and the hospital must think you should. They have us ask everyone.”

Classes seemed to become less attended since I went during my pregnancy, especially

after the internet and Dr. Google seemed to have the right answer for everything. There are a few aspects, however, the internet cannot replace, such as human interaction with caring trained professionals, the ability to ask questions and obtain an immediate answer (even hearing some answers to questions you were too afraid to ask) and the potential for relationships with others in your same scared, soon-to-be-parents’ shoes. There are strong and supportive relationships that form from the bonding between new parents.

This brings me to today and how classes are making a well-deserved comeback. I am thankful for the move back to the class for learning about this life-changing event, back to human interaction, familiarity and support. There is comfort with this, and could there be any better time for comfort than the birth of a child or the growing of a family? Currently, at Baptist Beaches, we offer eight different types of classes related to growing families. We offer Childbirth Prep (different formats/timing available), Sibling Classes, Baby Care Basics (two sessions), Family and Friends CPR, Becoming Grandparents, Breastfeeding 101, Dad To Be Class and a monthly Breastfeeding Support Group. The class atmosphere helps calm fears and answer questions you did not even realize you had.

Becoming a parent is a big deal the first time or the tenth. There is always something to learn for this milestone, and it is just as important as putting together the crib. Our classes are open to anyone even if they are not delivering with us (some have a small fee). I look forward to meeting you during your journey to parenthood and witnessing the new relationships you form.

You can find information about our classes at hwww.baptistjax.com/services/pregnancy-and-childbirth.

Jenny Malig, MSN, RN, RNC-OB, is manager of the Labor, Delivery, Recovery & Postpartum unit at Baptist Medical Center Beaches.

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REVIEW

Alhambra brushes up its Shakespeare for 'Kiss Me, Kate'

By Samantha Logue

“The show must go on.” That’s the first rule of any theater production, and in the classic musical “Kiss Me, Kate,” it’s also the plot. Opening last week at the Alhambra Theatre & Dining in Jacksonville, Cole Porter’s Broadway hit gives the audience a taste of what it’s like to be on the other side of the curtain. Set in the late 1940s, the show centers on a theater company’s musical production of William Shakespeare’s “The Taming of the Shrew” and how the actors’ off-stage lives mimic those of their onstage characters. When leading lady and movie



starlet Lilli Vanessi finds herself starring opposite arrogant director and producer Fred Graham, who also happens to be her ex-husband, as one might expect, drama ensues. But, as the two passionately bicker their way through an opening night full of twists and turns, they eventually come to find a true appreciation for not only their Shakespearean counterparts, but also each other.

ALHAMBRA continues on Page 28

ABOVE: Lilli Vanessi, played by Traci Blair, is convinced to continue acting the part of Katherine in the show.

LEFT: The classic Broadway musical “Kiss Me, Kate” opened last week at the Alhambra Theatre & Dining and will continue its run through Sept. 9.

Photos courtesy of the Alhambra Theatre & Dining

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Alhambra

Continued from 27

With book by Bella and Sam Spewack and music and lyrics by Cole Porter, “Kiss Me, Kate” was the first show to ever be presented with a Tony Award for Best Musical in 1949. Adapted to film in 1953, the stage show boasts more than 1,000 Broadway performances and is set to be revived by the Roundabout Theatre Company for yet another run in March of 2019.

The Alhambra production of “Kiss Me, Kate” features catchy tunes, mesmerizing choreography and a highly talented cast. Joshua McKinney and Joey Swift, for instance, were hilarious as the two gangsters with an affinity for Shakespeare, and the entire ensemble did a fantastic job with the complex choreography of the iconic number, “Too Darn Hot.”

“Christopher Sanders, who starred in the dinner theater’s 2016 production of “Annie Get Your Gun,” simply wows in his return to the Alhambra stage. Perfectly cast in the lead role of Fred Graham, his commanding stage presence and jaw-



Photo courtesy of the Alhambra Theatre & Dining
Christopher Sanders (center), plays the male lead of Fred Graham, and the two gangsters are portrayed by (from left) Joey Swift and Joshua McKinney.

dropping vocals are truly spectacular, and when paired with Traci Blair’s Lilli Vanessi, the chemistry between the two is clear.

One other performance of note was that of Lauren Robinson in the role of the young and beautiful Lois Lane. Another vocal powerhouse, Robinson’s rendition of “Always True to You in My Fashion” left the audience whooping for more.

“Brush up Your Shakespeare” and go see “Kiss Me, Kate” at the Alhambra Theatre & Dining before the show closes its run Sept. 9.

Jacksonville Symphony Chorus opens auditions for 2018-2019 season

The Jacksonville Symphony Chorus will hold auditions for the 2018-2019 season Saturday, Aug. 18 in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts at 300 Water St.

Auditions will consist of a 90-second sight-reading activity, establishment of range and singing an excerpt of “How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place” (measures 85-123) from “Ein deutsches Requiem” by Johannes Brahms.

The Jacksonville Symphony Chorus rehearses weekly from September to May. This season, the chorus will join the symphony for:

■ Debussy’s “Nocturnes” in “A French Fantasy,” Nov. 30 through Dec. 2

■ “Holiday Pops,” Dec. 6-9

■ Handel’s “Messiah,” Dec. 15-16

■ “Amadeus Live,” film with orchestra, Jan. 18

■ “Don Giovanni” (rehearsals begin in fall), Jan. 25-27

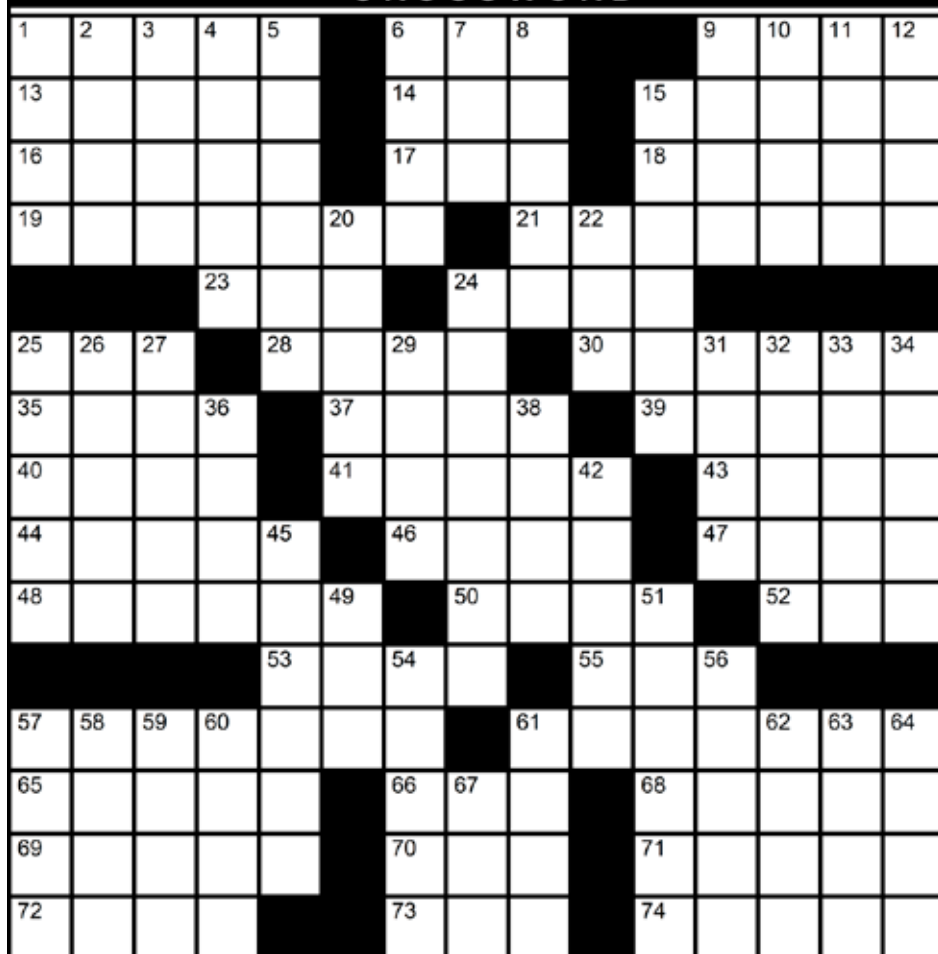
■ Ravel’s “Daphnis et Chloé” in “Daphnis and Chloe” (rehearsals begin in fall), Feb. 15-16

■ Verdi’s “Requiem,” March 15-16

The all-volunteer Jacksonville Symphony Chorus, under the direction of Donald McCullough, has been accompanying performances by the Jacksonville Symphony for more than three decades and includes many professional musicians, skilled amateur performers and college students on its roster. Some of the most recent performances by the chorus have included distinguished works such as “The Dream of Gerontius” and Handel’s “Messiah.”

Auditions are by appointment from 9 a.m. to noon, but walk-in auditions will be available beginning at 10:30 a.m. For additional information, or to secure an audition time, email Chorus Manager Jill Weisblatt at jweisblatt@jaxsymphony.org.

CROSSWORD



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ACROSS

1. Téa Leoni as _____ Secretary
6. Lending letters
9. Cat-headed Egyptian goddess
13. Round openings in architecture
14. Pilot’s estimate
15. Short tale
16. Deprived of a limb, e.g.
17. Popular pickup
18. Revolving mechanism
19. *L in LMC
21. Peninsula with Portugal
23. Not a win nor a loss
24. Lou of The Velvet Underground
25. The _____ Four
28. Unpleasant road display
30. Authoritative declaration
35. The 15th of March
37. Rubik’s puzzle
39. *Sorority letter
40. Pinocchio’s lie detector
41. Do-re-do-re-do-re-do-re, e.g.
43. Same as alighted
44. Perpendicular to the keel
46. Major in the sky
47. Condoleezza _____
48. *Varsity award
50. *Multiple choice challenge
52. *Where Driver’s Ed occurs
53. Richie _____
55. *Standard aptitude assessment
57. * “Sideways Stories from _____ School”
61. *Hall order keeper
65. George Clooney’s recurring character
66. Shakespearean “fuss”
68. Heating outlet cover
69. Muse of love poetry
70. Confession subject
71. All the words in a language
72. Withered
73. Id’s partner
74. Same as #30 Across

DOWN

1. Gangster’s gal
2. Berry high in antioxidants
3. Avoid these mistakes
4. Red or orange announcement
5. Somewhere above ground
6. Bald eagle’s nest
7. Parents+teachers, acr.
8. China Grass
9. Uncouth one
10. Not in favor
11. Roofed colonnade
12. Seaside bird
15. *Extra of it can help students
20. Act against
22. Made in the morning?
24. Spring event
25. *Type of assessment
26. Acrobat maker
27. Continually annoy
29. Buddhist teacher
31. Burn to a crisp
32. Denoting the final end or purpose
33. Carthage’s ancient rival
34. *Alma _____
36. *Assigned spot
38. More
42. Rodeo rope
45. Breed of sheep prized for wool
49. Free
51. Hair knot
54. This and desist
56. Clichéd
57. Things to lament
58. Homesteader’s measure
59. *180 days, in most states
60. Fill to satisfaction
61. Kissing disease?
62. De Niro’s ride, 1976
63. Like an ear infection
64. None of this for the weary
67. Like a lot

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Sports

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2018 • PAGE 30

Send your sports news to
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First Coast families watch Jaguars scrimmage at Florida Blue Family Night

The Jacksonville Jaguars hosted Florida Blue Family Night last Friday, Aug. 3 at TIAA Bank Field.

Fans had the opportunity to watch the team scrimmage under the lights, grab some autographs from players and enjoy a fireworks show at the end of the evening. The event marked the team's final open practice of training camp.

The Jaguars kick off preseason play Thursday, Aug. 9 against the New Orleans Saints at 7 p.m. at TIAA Bank Field. Jacksonville will then play the Minnesota Vikings away on Aug. 18; the Atlanta Falcons at home on Aug. 25; and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers away on Aug. 30. The Jaguars' first game of the season is on the road Sept. 9 against the New York Giants. The team's first home game will take place the following week on Sept. 16, when Jacksonville hosts the New England Patriots in a rematch of the 2018 AFC Championship.

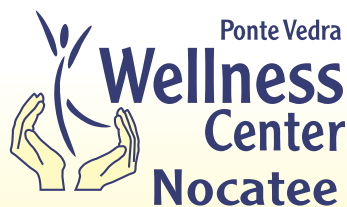


Photos by Jon Blauvelt

Jaguars quarterback Blake Bortles prepares to snap the ball in the team's scrimmage on Family Night Aug. 3.

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A group of younger Jaguars fans enjoys the scrimmage.



Jaguars wide receiver Keelan Cole signs autographs for fans.

Miscellaneous

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