

Ponte Vedra Recorder

Ponte Vedra 

happy
NEW YEAR!

December 27, 2018
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75 cents

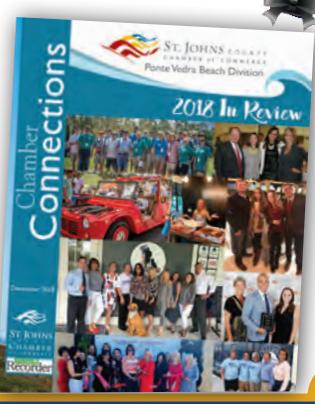
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**2018
YEAR IN
REVIEW**

Also featuring
Connections:
St. Johns County
Chamber of Commerce
PVB Division
Pages 15-34



CAR OF THE WEEK

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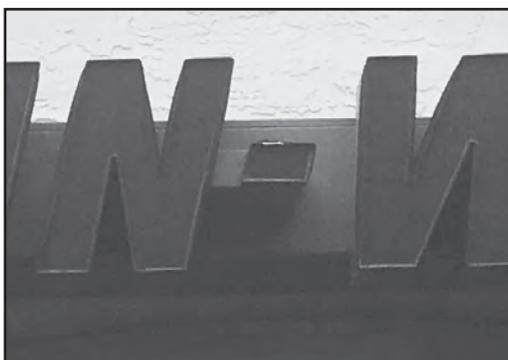


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Also, check out the **Ponte Vedra Recorder** channel on YouTube.

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.

Eight readers correctly identified last week's photo as the Peterbrooke Chocolatier sign. The winner of the random drawing was **Carl Schuck**. Congratulations, Carl — you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

Miska is a 7-year-old male declawed cat who was brought to the Pet Center by his owners. Miska is looking for a new home and is good with other household pets. Please be aware that a declawed cat may take additional time to adjust to a new home. Come spend some time with this furry friend today. #48049



DOG OF THE WEEK



Cletus is a 3-year-old male hound mix who was brought to the Pet Center by his owners. He is sweet and friendly and enjoys going outside to walk and stretch his legs. Come visit him today! #47941

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 are currently \$15 and are being sponsored by the Friends of the Pet Center! They are usually \$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 in St. Augustine, 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

S	H	E	A	F	H	A	S	L	O	F	T		
P	E	D	R	O	A	L	A	S	E	P	I	A	
A	M	E	E	R	I	L	L	P	E	A	R	T	
S	E	N	A	T	O	R	M	A	R	K	L	E	
		L	E	A	S	I	R	E					
M	O	P	S	T	O	A	E	A	G	L	E	S	
A	V	O	W	H	O	L	E	D	A	I	L	Y	
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	J	O	N	G	U	N	M	I	C	H	A	E	L
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A	T	O	L	L	R	A	T	L	I	N	E	N	
H	E	R	E		M	P	H	E	R	A	S	E	

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

ZOO LIGHTS

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A ton of holiday fun.

Dec. 7-9
Dec. 14 - Jan. 5
Closed Christmas Day



jacksonvillezoo.org



Turnkey Beach Condo

Oceanfront turnkey property features a 2 bedroom/2 bath Condo, which comes completely furnished. This gated community features amenities such as pool/spa, clubhouse, basketball/tennis courts, and beach walkovers.

2 bedrooms, 2 baths \$999,000



Move-in Ready on Exceptional Lot

Located on one of the most extraordinary lots in all of The Plantation, this property recently underwent a makeover and is move-in ready. The beauty outside of the home is reflected throughout with stunning views of the pool, lake, and golf course creating the ideal space for indoor-outdoor living.

4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths \$950,000



Renovated Coastal Home

Move-in ready home beautifully renovated in 2017 in established neighborhood with no HOA. Open floor plan features pristine kitchen with granite countertops and new stainless steel appliances.

3 bedrooms, 2 baths \$340,000



Rare Waterfront Opportunity on Roscoe

3 purchasing options: Combine lots to create One of the last opportunities to have 150' frontage on the Intracoastal! **\$1,399,000.** Or this beautiful 150 x 400 lot can be divided into 2 -75' lots. **\$699,000 each.**



Elizabeth Hudgins, REALTOR®

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2018 YEAR IN REVIEW

The Ponte Vedra Recorder's annual "Year in Review" takes a look back at the people, stories and events that made the biggest impact in 2018 around Ponte Vedra and The Beaches.

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COLLECTION



EDGEWATER AT SUNBEAM
\$269,700

Highly desirable ranch-style condo overlooking the preserve & lake. This 1-owner end unit offers a 2-car garage, tile & laminate wood flooring, vaulted ceilings, kitchen with upgraded Corian counters, marble baths, glassed veranda, & gas fireplace. MLS 967655

Patti Mohr | 904.813.4430
PattiMohr@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



FIDDLERS MARSH
\$358,000

Beautifully maintained home in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach! This lovely 3-bedroom home offers an open floor plan, cathedral ceilings, updated kitchen with Corian counters & SS appliances, master suite with updated bath, a covered porch, & private backyard. MLS 969795

Barbara Maple | 904.571.1764
BarbaraMaple@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



BLACKWOOD COVE
\$415,000

Stunning custom 2-story home with 3-car garage, open floor plan, tons of upgrades, formal dining room, large owners suite, & huge fenced backyard. Kitchen features large island, granite counters, & SS appliances. No HOA or CDD fees! MLS 971085

Carol Manning | 904.803.7729
CLight@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



HAMMOCK COVE
\$499,000

Located in the heart of Sawgrass Players Club, this is the perfect house for yearly living or a vacation home. Features hardwood floors, plantation shutters, new carpet in bedrooms, new roof & A/C, double-sided fireplace, large Florida room with A/C, & kitchen with SS appliances, new refrigerator, & granite countertops. MLS 969604

Linda Ostoski | 904.473.1515
LindaOstoski@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



Interested in your home's value? **Contact Mary Ann:**
MBongiorno@WatsonRealtyCorp.com | 904.280.2801
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happy new year!
from Watson Ponte Vedra



**YEAR
IN REVIEW**
One of Us 2018

JANUARY



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CRAIG SCHONINGER



AMANDA WEBSTER



MANNY REY

FEBRUARY



KATRIN CASEY



WIAM 'WILLIAM' BATTAH



ISABELLE RENAULT



LUCIA MILLER

MARCH



DR. ROBERTO GARCIA



BRIAN MOORMAN



DIANE SCHERFF



DR. ESRA WEISHEIT



TODD HICKEY

APRIL



LAURA MOREY



BILL MCCLURE



JIM MCCARTHY



DAMON OLINTO

MAY



MURRAY BEARD



DEREK SPRAGUE



CHRIS CONDON



MIKE TAYLOR



ROBIN TOMKUNAS

JUNE



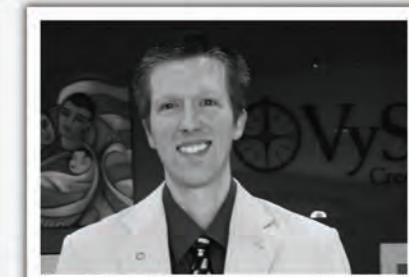
BRIAN HARRINGTON



PABLO ALFARO



SHARON PRINCE



JOSHUA HULL

**YEAR
IN REVIEW**
One of Us 2018



JEFF ADAMS



JACK PETER



BRIAN ANDERSON



ELIZABETH HUDGINS

JULY



RYAN NIX



TONI BOUDREAUX-GODWIN



KELLY ALTOSINO-SASTRE



MARK REFOSCO



MARK LAMPING

AUGUST



ALLEN HORNE



SHERRY MAHONEY



BRETTE REIMAN



MIKE LINNINGTON

SEPTEMBER



NANCY MORRISON



CHUCK JANTZ



TAMMY BARR



DR. TOM TOMLIN

OCTOBER



TIM FORSON



MARK FARRELL



CHRISTY WALDENMAIER



TIM CROSBY



PIXIE LARIZZA

NOVEMBER

To watch video portions of some of these interviews, and to read more, visit pontevedrarecorder.com and click One of Us.



BECKY YANNI



MARIA POOLE



TIM WILLIFORD

DECEMBER

PGA Tour unveils plan for new global home with Gov. Scott, Commissioner Monahan and other officials

By Benjamin Naim

Originally published Jan. 25

The PGA TOUR unveiled plans for its new 187,000 square-foot global home in Ponte Vedra Beach on Jan. 19 at a special presentation attended by Florida Gov. Rick Scott, Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry, PGA TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan, PGA TOUR Senior Vice President of Communications Laura Neal, St. Johns County Director of Economic Development Melissa Glasgow and others.

The new state-of-the-art building designed by Foster + Partners, which is expected to be completed in 2020, will be located on a portion of the TOUR's existing property on County Road 210 and surrounded by a large freshwater lake resembling the "Island Green" 17th hole at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass. The building will house the more than 750 employees who currently occupy 17 buildings throughout the area, with the capacity to accommodate several hundred more.

The global home will feature a pair of parallel three-story bays flanking a collaborative atrium and connected by 20-foot-wide bridges,



Rendering courtesy of the PGA Tour

PGA TOUR continues on Page 7

A rendering displays the vision for the inside of the PGA Tour's new global home.

WHERE
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Photo by Benjamin Naim

Gov. Rick Scott delivers a speech at the ceremony celebrating the PGA Tour's plans for its new global home on Jan. 19.

PGA Tour

Continued from 6

wide terraces along the atrium to allow for flexible workplaces, floor-to-ceiling windows, five large skylights designed to permeate the building with natural light and more. According to Foster + Partners, the design ultimately embraces new ways of working and collaboration for the PGA TOUR, as the company responds to changing media landscapes and audiences in the future.

“We are excited for the opportunity to continue to grow in St. Johns County and believe the PGA TOUR’s new home will be a sense of pride for the entire area and state of Florida,” Monahan said, “while allowing us to become more efficient in the way we communicate, collaborate and operate as an organization.”

During the event, Scott awarded Monahan with a Governor’s Business Ambassador Award for his commitment to creating jobs in Florida.

“When I became governor, one of the things I wanted to do was start highlighting businesses and business people that added jobs in our state,” Scott said. “It’s the most important thing you can do for a family. Everybody I know wants to have a job.”

The PGA TOUR moved to Ponte Vedra Beach from Washington, D.C., in the late 1970s with three employees who occupied a house in the Sawgrass Players Club development. Monahan noted that his organization has grown from one tour to six around the world since 1982. He added that the changing media landscape has offered more opportunities to reach new marketplaces and tell the story of PGA TOUR athletes.

Scott also praised the TOUR for donating to a wide range of charities in the community. Mayor Curry said he was

grateful for the PGA TOUR, referring to the organization as “the fabric of the City of Jacksonville.”

This story has been edited for the Year in Review edition. Please visit pontevdrearecorder.com to read the full story.

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 Chairman Jeff Camarda has been repeatedly named by Barron's* as "one of the best financial advisors in America," one of WORTH

Magazines' "Top 250 advisors" in the US, and one of Forbes* "Best in State Wealth Advisors" for Florida. His advice has been featured in the Wall Street Journal for years, and he's been quoted as a financial expert in the national press for decades. Barron's* has called advisors like Jeff "the best people in the business" and "truly great financial advisors" and says that they are "accepted in the industry" as the "top 1%" who set "the highest standards of their profession." Forbes says it "scours... financial services industry" and has "uncovered great advisors" like Camarda "that are leading the way" and apply "best practices" to deliver a "high-quality experience for clients." Camarda's completed the CFP®, ChFC®, CLU®, CFS® and BCM™ designations**, and currently holds the CFA® investments expert and EA tax expert designations, as well as graduate degrees in financial planning, including a PhD in Financial and Retirement Planning. Dr. Camarda has written hundreds of articles and dozens of financial reports, whitepapers, and guides, and founded Wealth Education Radio. He is also an award-winning academic researcher into advisor competence and ethics. Camarda Wealth is A+ rated by the Better Business Bureau and has offices in Ponte Vedra Beach and Fleming Island.

Dr. Camarda's Weekly Wealth Nugget HOW MUCH LIFE INSURANCE DO I NEED?

I'm about to tell you the truth about life insurance. In our experience, many people own the wrong kinds of life insurance, have the wrong amounts, and often pay far more than the going rate for the insurance they have. Except for people with unavoidable estate tax – and that is close to no one given where the estate tax limits are these days – Camarda does not believe anyone should use cash value life insurance like whole life, universal life, and variable life. This kind of insurance is very expensive compared to cheap modern term life, and can divert large chunks of assets from more important goals like retirement. As an investment, there is always the drag of the actual death benefit insurance cost, plus insurance company profits and usually agent commissions. While there can be some tax benefits, the loan shenanigans and costs you have to go through to get them usually mean less real wealth to you, which is what counts. At its core, life insurance really should only be used to replace income, like from your job or from a pension that will stop or be reduced if you die. Cheap term is best for this. If you or your spouse is in this category, it make sense to shop and see if you can take advantage of today's very low term rates to save some money. And if you have the wrong kind of insurance or the wrong amount, this should be analyzed as well.

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Thursday, Dec. 27	Friday, Dec. 28	Saturday, Dec. 29	Sunday, Dec. 30
<p>Downtown Wine Down at Cowford Chophouse Join Jacksonville's rooftop bar for the Downtown Wine Down, a monthly happy hour and cocktail mixer held at Cowford Chophouse on Dec. 27. Live entertainment will include a performance by The Chris Thomas Band. Additionally, guests can enjoy food and drink specials, a giveaway for a \$100 Cowford Chophouse gift card and a complimentary holiday-inspired cocktail. The roof will be open to ticket holders at 3:30 p.m. and be closed to anyone without tickets the remainder of the night until 9:30 p.m. The Cowford Chophouse is located at 101 East Bay St. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>'Friends' Trivia at Hoptinger Jax Beach \$600 in prizes will go to winners of "Friends"-themed trivia. Fans of the show should arrive on Dec. 27 at 8 p.m. to sign up. This event is for those ages 21 and up only. Hoptinger is located at 333 1st St. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Exhibition: Ponte Vedra Artisan Market Come enjoy this special holiday exhibition and arts market on Dec. 27 at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. Works will be available to purchase and take home as the perfect holiday gift or personal treat. Artists include Amy Dove, Tim Bullard, Masha Sardari, Marlene Scheer, Valarie Forrester, Karen Bullard, Midge Scelzo and Simran Arora. The Cultural Center is located at 50 Executive Way in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Song Stories with Dixie Rodeo, The Willow Sisters & Ronnie Gainey Join the Blue Jay Listening Room for a writers in the round style show of original music and stories features Dixie Rodeo, The Willow Sisters and Ronnie Gainey. All original music will be played. Hear the stories behind the songs. Seven musicians will be playing on Dec. 27 from 8 to 10:30 p.m. The Blue Jay Listening Room is located at 2457 S. Third St. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>	<p>Catty Shack Friday night feeding This is a 45-minute guided walking tour with the opportunity to see resident animals, which include tigers, lions, cougars, leopards, lynx, coatimundis and foxes. At 7:30 p.m., watch the feeding when Catty Shack hands out over 600 pounds of meat. Night feedings are held every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. for more information and ticket pricing, go to http://cattysack.org.</p> <p>Rhum Bar hosts local music The Rhum Bar at the new Embassy Suites by Hilton Oceanfront Resort is now offering live music on Friday and Saturday evenings from 5 to 8 p.m. This event is located in the lobby of the hotel at 300 A1A Beach Blvd. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Friday Paddle and Drift Every Friday morning from 7:30 to 9 a.m., join fitness expert Emily for a paddle, stretch and drift workout on paddle boards in Salt Run. This paddle is at your own pace. Participation is free if you have your own equipment. The cost is \$35 for equipment rental, which includes board, paddle, leash and PFD. Meet 15 minutes before at the lighthouse boat ramp at 442 Ocean Vista Ave. in St. Augustine. This event will continue weekly until Jan. 12.</p> <p>North Florida Women's Chorale Concert The North Florida Women's Chorale will present its annual Christmas performance on Dec. 28 at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine. The event is free and open to the public. There will be a free-will offering. The Cathedral is located at 38 Cathedral Place in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Passafire and El Dub at Surfer The Bar El Dub, the one-man band, opens for Passafire, the reggae rock group from Savannah, at Surfer The Bar on Dec. 28 at 7 p.m.. General admission is \$15. Tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite or at the door. Surfer The Bar is located at 200 1st St. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>	<p>Love Me True Rescue Love Me True Rescue, located at 5150 Palm Valley Road #403, will hold adoption events every Saturday between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. For more information, visit www.lovemetruescue.com. The rescue is also looking for volunteers (18+). Interested suitors can contact Peggy Hatfield at peggyhatfield63@comcast.net.</p> <p>Tree Lighting Under the Sea The St. Augustine Aquarium is hosting Tree Lighting Under the Sea in the Florida reef every Friday and Saturday night in December. Santa and the mermaids will decorate the underwater tree with lights, and there will be caroling, hot chocolate, cookies, story reading and more. The event is from 5 to 8 p.m. Visit www.saaquarium.com for more information and ticket pricing. The St. Augustine Aquarium is located at 2045 S.R 16 in St. Augustine.</p> <p>The Polar Express at IMAX This holiday-themed film is based on the classic Caldecott medal-winning children's book written by Chris Van Allsburg and is directed by Oscar winner Robert Zemeckis. It stars two-time Academy Award winner Tom Hanks. General admission is \$10. This event is on Dec. 29 at 11 a.m. at the IMAX Theater at World Golf Village. For more information visit www.worldgolfmax.com.</p> <p>Donna the Buffalo The distinctive, groove-heavy and danceable American roots music group, Donna the Buffalo, returns to the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on Dec. 29. Guest Western Centuries will kick off the night at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$28 via Ticketmaster. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra.</p> <p>New York-themed beer dinner Join Chef Sarah and Hyperion Brewing on Dec. 29 for a New York New Year's Eve themed dinner. Dinner tickets includes entry into Hyperion's "Cheers to the New Year" private party. Right after dinner from 9 p.m. to midnight continue the evening with dancing, live music, complimentary dessert and a champagne toast at midnight. Hyperion is located at 1740 N. Main St. in Jacksonville.</p>	<p>Historic Weapon Demonstrations at Castillo de San Marcos National Parks Service volunteers and personnel demonstrate the weapons and relate the experiences of the Colonial Spanish soldier stationed in St. Augustine in the 1740s. This event occurs each week on Friday, Saturday and Sunday until Dec. 31. Demonstration times are 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults and children 15 and under are free. The fort is open from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. This event is located at 1 S. Castillo Drive in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Sebastian Maniscalco: Stay Hungry Tour The comedian, actor and best-selling author will be at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts for his Stay Hungry 2018 Tour on Dec. 30. Tickets for the show range from \$39.75 to \$59.75. The event starts at 7 p.m. at 300 Water St. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Swing Dance Sunday Swing Dance Sunday is a weekly event with free lessons starting at 7 p.m. Grab a partner or come alone to The Volstead from 7 to 10 p.m. This speakeasy-style bar features handcrafted cocktails and is located at 115 West Adams St. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Beginners Glassblowing Students will learn the fundamentals of glassblowing and the skills required to make paperweights, cups, bowls and other blown vessels. Learn how to color glass, shape it with traditional hand tools and inflate it with your own breath. No prior experience necessary. Ages 16+. To register, visit www.burntglassworks.net/book-online. This class includes two 5-hour studio sessions Dec. 29-30 at Burnt Glassworks at 5105 Philips Highway in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Jazzy Sunday with The Katz Enjoy a night filled with amazing jazz music and delicious drinks at the Jacksonville Landing. Personal chairs will be permitted on the Food Court Balcony and in the lower bowl of the Courtyard. This event is on Dec. 30 from 5 to 9 p.m.</p>

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Monday, Dec. 31	Tuesday, Jan. 1	Wednesday, Jan. 2	Thursday, Jan. 3
<p>Charity Tap Takeover: The Salvation Army Join Mulligans Pub every Monday in December for the Charity Tap Takeover. Mulligans teamed up with The Salvation Army to take over taps for the month of December. One dollar from every beer on tap ordered will go to The Salvation Army. Mulligans Pub is located at 43 PGA Tour Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>MOCA 2019 NYE Party The MOCA NYE Countdown Bash is for the movers and shakers, the artists and innovators and anyone who likes to kick off the New Year in style. DJ Catharsis and Mama Blue with her seven-piece band are bringing the dance party, as guests enjoy an open bar all night featuring Manifest Distilling and Intuition Ale Works, eats by NOLA MOCA and live art performances. This event is on Dec. 31 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Museum of Contemporary Art at 333 N. Laura St. in Jacksonville. Visit moca-jacksonville.unf.edu for ticket pricing and information.</p> <p>New Years Eve at TPC Sawgrass Join TPC Sawgrass this New Year's Eve for an elegant six-course Prix Fixe tasting menu and live entertainment. This event is hosted at NINETEEN and is on Dec. 31 from 5 to 9 p.m. NINETEEN at TPC Sawgrass is located at 110 Championship Way in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Midnight Masti: New Year's Eve Gala The Morocco Shrine Auditorium will host a Bollywood New Year's Eve party on Dec. 31. This is a black-tie event and dress code will be enforced. Doors opens at 9 p.m. to welcome everyone for an evening of Bollywood music, Indian food, lots of dancing and good times. The Morocco Shrine is located at 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road S. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>NYE celebration in the Courtyard Ring in the New Year at The Jacksonville Landing on Monday, Dec. 31. Downtown Jacksonville is hosting a New Year's Eve celebration that will feature live music, food, drink specials and fireworks. This event is free and will take place from 4 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at 2 Independent Dr. in Jacksonville.</p>	<p>Christmas at Gaylord Palms featuring ICE! Gaylord Palms hosts an all new theme featuring the beloved classic holiday movie, "A Christmas Story." Watch this family tale come to life through interactive ice sculptures and displays. Everything is hand-carved from two million pounds of ice. This daily event will take place until Jan. 6 at Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention center at 6000 W. Osceola Pkwy in Kissimmee.</p> <p>Tapas Tuesday 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>Musicians jam session at That Bar at the Arena Top local musicians hold an open jam session every Tuesday night at That Bar at the Arena. Doors open at 7 p.m. Jam Session starts at 9 p.m. This free event is open to the public and musicians are welcome to play but must bring their own instruments. That Bar at the Arena is located at 234 A Phillip Randolph Blvd. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>First Day Hike and Coastal Cleanup Start the new year with the annual First Day Hike and Coastal Cleanup by helping to contribute to the local wildlife and ecology of Anastasia State Park. To join, meet at the beach parking lot near Island Beach Grill where attendees can sign in to participate in the program. Park entry is free for participating volunteers. This event is on Jan. 1, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at Anastasia State Park. The park is located at 300 Anastasia Park Rd. in St. Augustine.</p>	<p>Yoga at the church Grab a mat and enjoy a weekly yoga session at St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church each Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. All ages and skill levels are welcome. St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville. Call (904) 249-4091 Ext. 103 for more information.</p> <p>Venardos Circus This popular American circus with the heart of a Broadway show returns to the St. Augustine Amphitheatre from Dec. 19 to Feb. 27. Tickets range from \$15 to \$45. Visit www.staugamphitheatre.com for dates and show times. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre is located at 1340 A1A S. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>'The Office' themed trivia night Join Mellow Mushroom for 'The Office'-themed trivia night in Southside. That's what she said! Excellent food, drink specials and prizes will be given out. Prizes range from \$400 for first place to \$50 Mellow Mushroom gift cards. Costumes are encouraged. This event takes place on Dec. 2 from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at 9734 Deer Lake Court in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Bughouse Booking presents live music at Planet Sarbez! Florence & Normandie make their first appearance in St. Augustine along with fellow South Florida touring band, Las Nubes at Planet Sarbez! The act will be joined by St. Augustine locals, Half My Home, on Jan. 2 from 7 to 10 p.m. Planet Sarbez is located at 115 Anastasia Blvd. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Wine Tasting Join Ill Forks Prime Steakhouse on the first Wednesday of every month from 5 to 7 p.m. to enjoy at least six different wines from a featured region and enjoy savory hors d'oeuvres. January will feature wines from Italy. This event is on Jan 2 and is \$25 per person. Please call to RSVP at (904) 928-9277. Ill Forks is located at 9822 Tapestry Park Circle in Jacksonville.</p>	<p>OM in the Dome 2.0 Come join regional teacher Melissa Hirschman along with master musician John Guina for a hypnotic evening of yoga and live music under the starry scenscape inside the Bryan-Gooding Planetarium at MOSH. Space is limited for this unique event on Jan. 3 for both practices. Practices are from 6 to 8:30 p.m. and will have opportunities to mix and mingle and offer light vegan refreshment. No yoga experience is necessary. Reserve your space in advance at Eventbrite.com. MOSH is located at 1025 Museum Circle in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Lantern Workshop Brewery Series: Aardwolf Brewing Company Create your own unique beacon of light on Jan 3 from 6 to 8 p.m. Build and design paper lanterns at Aardwolf Brewing Company in their private party room. Tickets include all lantern making materials and two complimentary beer tickets. Additional beverages can be purchased. Feel free to bring in any food or snacks. Tickets can be purchased at 904tix.com. Aardwolf Brewery is located at 1461 Hendricks Ave. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Kris Vega live @ The Cypher Jax In its 11th year, The Cypher Open Mic Poetry & Soul is the second longest running open mic in Florida. Admission is \$5 before 8:30 p.m. on Jan. 3 and \$10 after. There is limited open mic sign-up, so participants are encouraged to arrive early. Live painting and music will be available as well. This event is located at De Real Ting Café at 128 W. Adams St. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>The Rat Pack is back at the Alhambra Theatre Audiences won't believe their eyes and ears as Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. come to life in this nostalgic reunion concert on Jan. 3 at the Alhambra Theatre & Dining at 6 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at alhambrajax.com. This event is located at 12000 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville.</p>

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WHY I SERVE

Featuring Wounded Warrior Project

HONOR ANDRUZZI

In this edition of Why I Serve, featuring Wounded Warrior Project, the Recorder sat down with Honor Andruzzi, a Navy veteran and St. Augustine resident who served from 1996 to 2005, specializing in field medical services and physical therapy.

What did you learn most in the military?

I think it's to accept others and not judge them for your initial first impression. You really need to learn their backstory, just kind of learn the type of person that they are and be open to everyone around you.

How did you get involved with Wounded Warrior Project?

It's kind of interesting. When I got out in 2005, I reached out to Wounded Warrior and just kind of filed it away for a while, until the beginning of 2018. I got a phone call saying, "Hey, why haven't you been coming to Wounded Warrior?" And I thought, you know what, let's give it a try. So, I started in about April of this year and I haven't looked back. I wish that I would have started a lot sooner with them.



To watch the entire video interview, visit pontevedrarecorder.com and click Why I Serve.

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St. Johns County seeks solution as concern rises over beach erosion

By **Samantha Logue**

Originally published Feb. 22

Following two consecutive years of devastating hurricane damage, residents of northern St. Johns County have found themselves facing a coastal crisis. With some homes collapsing onto the beaches already and others in danger of following suit, residents and elected officials alike are desperately seeking a solution, but it's beginning to look like one won't come easy.

"We had hired a coastal engineer and he surveyed our beach," said Lori Moffett, a leader of the Save Ponte Vedra Beach initiative. "What he determined is we've lost 135 feet of width out of our beach since 1972 and about 80 feet since the 1980s. That equates to 2.5 million cubic yards of sand, which is equal to about 170,000 truckloads of sand. So, the



problem predates Matthew and Irma. It's been going on for decades, and the bottom line is we're in a net loss position every year. The beach will not be rebuilt naturally."

Although the problem is easy enough to identify, with less than four months before the start of the next hurricane season, the county is running short on time to find an answer.

"It's all about funding," Moffett said. "You can't truck in almost 200,000 trucks of sand, so you have to dredge from the ocean. The coastal engineer has found a dredging site that's 5 miles off the coast of Ponte Vedra, so where we are right now is trying to find the money. We've been working with the county, and what they've proposed is raising the bed tax from 4 to 5 percent. That would free up over \$2 million a year for the St. Johns



Photo courtesy of Kitty Switkes

Photos taken in early January of the 900 Block of Ponte Vedra Boulevard show erosion of area beaches.

County coastline."

The bed tax, formally known as the tourist development tax, is a charge on the revenue from short-term accommodation rentals of six months or less. According to the Florida Department of Revenue, most of Florida's 67 counties currently impose a bed tax of 5 percent or higher. While in St. Johns the bed tax is 4 percent, neighboring Flagler and Clay counties tax residents at 5 percent, and in Duval County the tax is as high as 6 percent.

While there are limitations to how bed tax dollars can be spent, it is not unheard of for some of those funds to be designated for use in beach renourishment. In fact,

some of St. Johns County's bed tax dollars are already allocated towards renourishment in St. Augustine Beach. In this case, the proposed 1 percent tax increase would help to fund restoration of St. Johns County's northern beaches — from Vilano Beach to Ponte Vedra Beach.

On Feb. 6, the proposal was reviewed and discussed at a meeting of the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners.

"Our beaches are probably our most important natural asset not only from an environmental, but also an economic standpoint," Commission Chair Henry

EROSION continues on **Page 13**

'If they don't feel safe, nothing else matters'

SJCSD officials address efforts to prioritize safety following Parkland shooting

By **Jon Blauvelt**

Originally published March 1

More than two weeks after a gunman killed 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, St. Johns County School District (SJCSD) officials say steps are being taken locally to maximize school safety and security.

"For the last week or two, we've put other things that are important aside because safety is the absolute priority," SJCSD Superintendent Tim Forson said at a school board workshop held Feb. 27. "As we heard from students yesterday, if they don't feel safe, nothing else matters."

Along with Forson, representatives from school services, facilities and safety attended the workshop and presented to the school board and public about the district's plans to protect area schools. Forson also presented input from students that was provided at the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council meeting on Feb. 26.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Paul Abbatinozzi, senior director for school services, addresses the school board and public about the district's safety plans.

As for what is to come, Paul Rose, executive director for facilities and new construction, shared that \$5 million from the school board's half-cent sales tax revenue is being dedicated to safety and security improvements over the next 10 years. Over \$1 million, he said, is earmarked for the 2017-2018 school year for enhancements to monitoring systems at seven

schools; security door systems at seven schools; single door entry at 14 schools; security cameras at 24 schools; fencing at nine schools; and GPS technology on all school buses. Cathy Mittelstadt, deputy superintendent of operations, added that the district is paying particular attention to the county's older facilities. The district is hoping to allocate more funds to safety



provided that Gov. Rick Scott's plans come to fruition. He announced in February that he wants the state to allocate \$450 million for school safety, as well as \$50 million for mental health initiatives.

Paul Abbatinozzi, senior director for school services, explained that plans were already established prior to Parkland to provide the district's principals, assistant principals, faculty, staff and students with active shooter response training. He noted that the district's principals completed that training with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office (SJSO) on Feb. 1, as did assistant principals on Feb. 8. Faculty and staff are starting to receive the training, he said, and district officials are currently designing programs for students ranging in age from high school to elementary school.

He also noted that an active shooter response training for local law enforcement is scheduled for March 29 at Creekside High School. The district has coordinated with SJSO to allow administrators and school board members to observe the training or participate themselves.

SAFETY continues on **Page 12**



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Paul Rose, executive director for facilities and new construction, discusses school safety at the Feb. 26 school board workshop.

Safety

Continued from 11

Safety measures already in place

Also at the workshop, district officials shared several of the measures that are already in place to keep schools safe.

Abbatinozzi explained that each school completes an annual emergency operations plan that identifies roles and responsibilities for the school and includes guidelines for managing crisis situations, as well as contact information for key district, law enforcement and agency

officials. A copy of this plan, he said, is provided to law enforcement.

In addition, the school services director noted that leadership and support is provided from the district level in crisis situations so that schools are not left on an “island.” He said the district crisis management team has direct contact with law enforcement and first responders during crisis incidents, and assists with staff and student counts, off-site evacuation, provision support, counseling support and media/information coordination.

District Safety Coordinator Steve Ray spoke about safety teams, noting that each school has one that is comprised of principals, assistant principals, youth resource deputies, athletic directors, deans, guidance counselors, nurses and more. Each team, Ray said, meets at least four times a year and focuses on strategies to reduce risk and hazards. He noted that he receives an audit at the end of each year that reviews the takeaways from those meetings.

Ray also addressed CPTED, or Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. He said he conducts CPTED inspections with SJSO at 18 schools per year, identifying potential hazards around the perimeter of the school buildings, such as issues with fencing, lighting, visibility, signage, etc.

On a similar subject, Rose said annual life cycle visits are conducted annually at each school to review the safety, security and functionality of fencing, entry control points, monitoring and camera systems, door access and controls, intercoms and radio and cell phone coverage. Rose noted that each high school in the district has over 100 cameras on their respective campuses. Youth resource deputies monitor these cameras, but Forson said later in the meeting that no one is hired to sit and monitor the cameras at all times.

After addressing the district’s various vehicles for communication, such as School Messenger, radios and email, Abbatinozzi discussed the district’s strong relationship with SJSO. He noted that

SJCSD has a liaison from SJSO, Lt. Mike Strausbaugh, who works directly with the district.

Input from students

To close out the workshop’s safety discussion, Forson shared input that he received from local students at the Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council meeting on Feb. 26, which was also attended by City of St. Augustine Chief of Police Barry Fox, St. Augustine Beach Chief of Police Robert Hardwick and Lt. Strausbaugh.

Students broke into groups to answer the following question: What would remove the fear of not feeling safe in your school environment? Suggestions from the students included the addition of more mental health counselors and resource officers; an increase in the number of lockdown drills; required classes/curriculum that address safety; a culture of “see something, say something;” a reduction in the number of entries into a school; increased security at doors; and a requirement that student IDs be worn at all times, among other input.

After the discussion, the school board provided closing comments on the subject. District 4 member Kelly Barrera noted that there isn’t just one answer to this looming societal problem. District 5 member Patrick Canan said he believes it’s unlikely for someone to fall through the cracks in St. Johns County, as he said was likely the case with the Parkland shooter. He referred to the district as a “great organization” and cited the strength of the relationship between the schools and SJSO. Canan also said the district should not allow money to be an inhibiting factor in working to make schools safer.

“Money shouldn’t be what’s holding us back here,” Canan said. “The priority, as Mr. Forson said, is safety of the kids.”

This story has been edited for the Year in Review edition. Please visit pontevedrerecorder.com to read the full story.

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Erosion

Continued from 11

Dean said. “We need to give immediate attention to our critical beach erosion that we have learned about. We have a crisis, and we have I think only one way out, and the first step is to increase the bed tax by 1 cent.”

Other commissioners were less certain that the tax increase was the county’s best path forward, however.

“I agree we have a catastrophe,” Commissioner Jimmy Johns said. “What I need to know is more details as to how we achieve the intended goal.”

Ultimately, in a 4-1 vote, the commissioners voted to move the process forward and obtain a recommendation from the Tourist Development Council on the proposal, after which the commissioners will vote once more on the proposal, with at least a 4-1 majority needed to approve and implement the tax increase. Commis-

sioner Jeb Smith, the lone dissenting vote, advised the Recorder that he intended to discuss the proposal personally with residents soon.

While supporters of the proposal are hopeful that it will eventually be approved, an increase in the bed tax may not

be the only avenue for beach renourishment funding. The budget deal President Donald Trump signed earlier in February, for instance, approved nearly \$90 billion in disaster relief for those impacted by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, as well as the recent California wildfires.

Whatever the funding source, however, with yet another potentially disastrous hurricane season on the horizon, most can agree that the need for a solution is pressing.

“We don’t have an option,” Moffett said. “This has to get done.”

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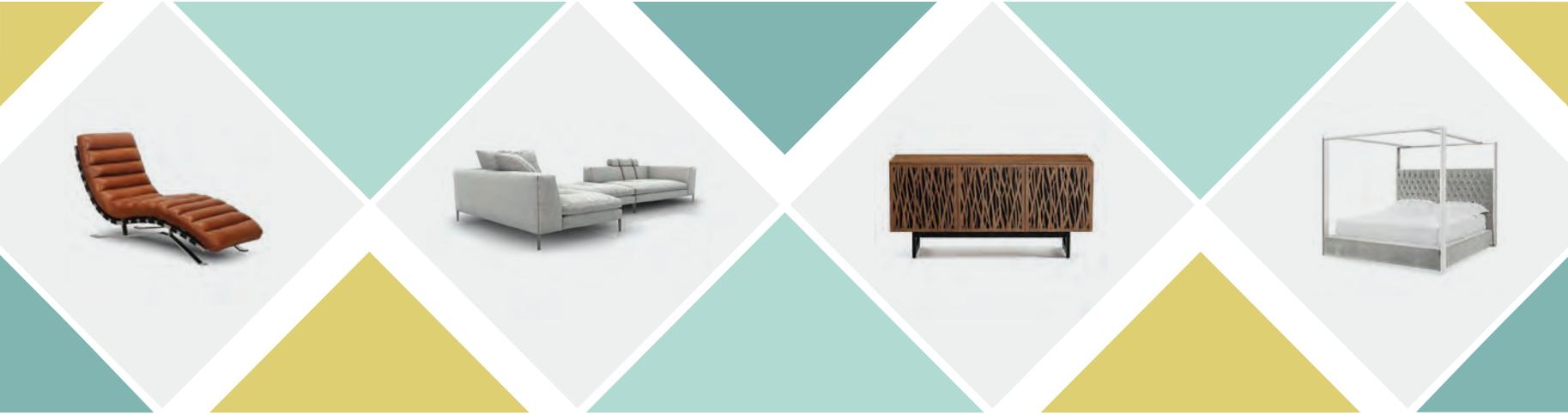
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Historic shipwreck moved from beach to dry land of GTM Research Reserve

By Jon Blauvelt

Originally published April 26

The historic shipwreck that washed ashore in South Ponte Vedra Beach in late March was relocated from the beach to a more protected, dry area of the GTM Research Reserve in late April.

According to Chuck Meide, the director of the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP), the wreck was moved April 19 and is currently situated where the hiking trails begin at the Reserve. Thanks to the help of St. Augustine-based contractors John Valdes & Associates and Construction Debris Removal, Meide said, the ship hull was transported free-of-charge via a front end loader a mile down the beach to the nearest beach access, where it was subsequently placed on a truck and delivered to the Reserve. The wreck had been located on the beach just north of the Exxon gas station on A1A in the 2500 block of the road.

"It was quite a challenge to move it," said Meide, whose organization helped to

**YEAR
IN REVIEW**

April 2018



Photo by Chuck Meide

The historic shipwreck that washed ashore in South Ponte Vedra Beach in late March is transported from the beach to a more protected, dry area of the GTM Research Reserve on April 19.

facilitate the relocation. "Nothing is easy about this kind of process when you're moving a very heavy object that is also very fragile."

The LAMP archaeologist estimated the wreck weighs between 6,000 to 8,000 pounds and dates to the 19th century. He said it was relocated to ensure its protection from the ocean and sun, as well as from looters who had been breaking off pieces of the relic to keep as souvenirs. In addition, the relocation took place to stop people from illegally parking their cars on A1A and walking through private property to view the piece of history.

The ship's story

After comprehensive research, Meide's

team believes the wreck hails from between the 1830s and 1860s. The saw marks on the wreck, among other clues, led the team to this conclusion, as they indicate the use of steam-powered technology that was not prevalent in the United States until after the 1820s. The LAMP team also believes the ship was fairly new when it wrecked, due to its lack of repairs, as well as the fact that the ship's copper sheathing was never replaced.

After studying the ship's choice of timber, Meide said the ship was most likely built in the South, due to its alternating pattern of hard and soft woods. If the ship were built in the North, where hard woods like oak are found, it would most likely feature that timber only. Since the South is home to more soft woods, Meide hypothesized the ship designers probably had an abundance of soft wood and compensated for it by importing the strength of hard woods from the North. The LAMP team believes the ship was at least 100 feet long, and perhaps as big as 150 feet long.

According to Meide, it's most likely that the ship was a merchant ship, since so many more of them were sailing and wrecking in local waters during that time. Meide noted the ship was quite likely participating in the "Coastal Trade," traveling from one port to the next.

The archaeologist said it was clear to him and others in the field that this particular section of the ship has been buried under sand and water for a significant

period of time. Meide said recent erosion dislodged the ship from its resting spot and forced it to come ashore.

Steps to ensure preservation

The wreck will be preserved forever, thanks to the digital efforts of Dr. Lori Collins and the University of South Florida. Her team came to Ponte Vedra a few days after the relic washed ashore and captured digital models of the wreck via terrestrial laser scanning and different types of imaging technology.

"Often times, we'll step in because we have certain types of technology that are not readily available," said Collins, who is a research associate professor at USF and co-director of the USF Libraries Digital Heritage and Humanities Collections. "We partner with archaeologists who are trying to rapidly respond. A lot of times we will partner together to accomplish more."

Collins' technology allows the archaeological community to digitally preserve pieces of history that may be at risk of being damaged or disappearing altogether. In addition, the technology enables those involved with the shipwreck to digitally reconstruct the ship and project what it may have looked like based on dimensions. For more information on the efforts of Collins and her team, visit www.facebook.com/USFDHHC.

This story has been edited for the Year in Review edition. Please visit pontevedrerecorder.com to read the full story.

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2018 In Review

Chamber Connections



December 2018



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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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ST. JOHNS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

YEAR
IN REVIEW

Connections 2018

Message from the President/CEO: New website, new missions for new year

Greetings from your Chamber of Commerce!

Our mission, as stated on our new website (www.sjcchamber.com), is to help businesses grow and thrive. We are excited that our members are taking advantage of the bells and whistles of our website. Here's a quick checklist of what you can do and find there:

- Make your member profile page robust. Add text, photos, videos, etc. Other members, visitors and new neighbors check our member directory.

- Post "Hot Deals." Log into the Member Information Center to post your hot deal and find hot deals at www.sjcchamber.com/hotdeals. I know that The Ponce Hotel has a hot deal posted now through Dec. 31.

- And, you asked, and we are delivering. Post your job opportunities in the Member Information Center. Jobseekers can view available opportunities at our website at www.sjcchamber.com/jobs. Some delicious openings are posted now at Le Macaron Pastries.

We were thrilled to host Dr. Jerry Parrish — economist, Florida Chamber of Commerce — at our Nov. 16 Economic Development Council breakfast. If you



ISABELLE RENAULT
President/CEO, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

were not able to join us, I encourage you to visit www.sjcchamber.com/edc-quarterly-breakfasts to review his presentation. He shared some opportunities and challenges for us!

We had the good fortune of hosting several relevant speakers for our Economic Development Council breakfasts this year including Don Fox

— CEO, Firehouse Subs — in January — and Mark Lamping — president, Jacksonville Jaguars — in June. We have key speakers lined up for 2019; registration is open for our next event on Jan. 25 at World Golf Village at <https://www.sjcchamber.com/events/details/economic-development-breakfasts-2018-2019-01-25-2019-176>. The event will feature a stellar speaker and great networking opportunities.

We were also pleased to host Politics in St. Johns this year. The event at Ponte Veda Concert Hall was well-attended and, for the first time, featured a straw poll for the Ponte Veda Beach residents to mark their preferences. The candidate forums in Ponte Veda Beach and St. Augustine received favorable reviews; these forums provided opportunities for members of St. Johns County's business community to directly interact with current and prospective policy makers. We plan to conduct similar events in the next election year of 2020.

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Council regularly engage in advocacy and educational efforts with local, state and federal policymakers to promote

sound public policies, which in turn support business growth and expansion.

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Committee is comprised of engaged Chamber members and staff and is led by Michael Scine — owner, Scine Advisors, St. Augustine. The Public Policy Committee advises the Board of Directors on adopting positions on pressing issues of the day and assists with advocacy and educational efforts at the state, local and federal level, including attending county and municipal commission meetings and events.

The Ponte Veda business community is fortunate to count many leaders among its midst. We were pleased to honor a few of them at the Chamber's annual awards event in October, BRANDED. Joshua Hull was recognized as Ambassador of the Year for the Ponte Veda Beach division. Dr. Erika Hamer, the Chamber's treasurer and a Ponte Veda business owner, received the Chairman's Award, and Mark Nighbor, an executive with Ponte Veda-based Advanced Disposal and current

RENAULT continues on Page 17

Chamber holds Politics in St. Johns in Ponte Veda, St. Augustine

Nearly 1,000 people attended the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Politics in St. Johns series of events held in Ponte Veda on July 16 and in St. Augustine on Aug. 1. This marked the largest attendance since the Chamber launched the series in 2012. In addition, more than 550 votes were cast in straw polls administered by the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections office.

Tamara and Dr. Ronald "Doc" Renault enjoy Politics in St. Johns in Ponte Veda Beach on July 16.



Photos by Susan Griffin



School Board District 4 Representative, and then candidate, Kelly Barrera (center) gathers with her husband, Gil (left), and Bill Curtis at Politics in St. Johns in St. Augustine on Aug. 1.



County Commission District 4 race winner Jeremiah Blocker (center) gathers with supporters at the event in St. Augustine.

Chamber members recognized at annual recognition and awards event

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce recognized eight individuals and one company at its signature annual recognition and awards event, "Branded 2018 – Recognizing Business Leaders That Make their Mark," Oct. 19 at Shell Hall at World Golf Hall of Fame. The following people were recognized:

- Mark Nighbor — Member of the Year
- John Dickinson — President's Award
- Dr. Erika Hamer — Chairman's Award
- Joshua Hull — Ponte Veda Ambassador of the Year Award
- Robin Burchfield — St. Augustine Ambassador of the Year
- Michael Scine — Public Policy Award
- PGA Tour — EDC Member of the Year – Fred Schroeder Award
- Mary O'Brien — Recognized as outgoing chairman of board
- Rob Matthews — Recognized as outgoing EDC chair

ST. JOHNS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

YEAR IN REVIEW

Connections 2018

Message from the Director: A look back at our success

December is often a special month to reflect on the past year. It's an opportunity to recognize our successes as well as look ahead, setting intentions for the new year. As the year comes to a close, we take this time to thank our members for their dedication to the growth of our business community. This year was filled with countless highlights and none of them would be possible without the ongoing commitment from our past and current Division Board of Directors, Ambassadors and volunteers who continue to be a key element in the success of the Chamber.

Our signature events included our Annual Membership Appreciations Awards, which this year was a white party held at Sawgrass Beach Club. This was a festive evening where we recognized outstanding Chamber members going above and beyond the everyday. Our Annual Golf Tournament held in June attracted a full field of players — many of whom were businesses and community leaders throughout the county swinging their clubs, networking and enjoying the great outdoors.

The 16th Annual Ponte Vedra Auto Show in September was the most



TONI BOUDREAUX-GODWIN
*Ponte Vedra Beach Division
Director, St. Johns County
Chamber of Commerce*

successful Auto Show to date featuring more than 165 classics and new cars. This Ponte Vedra tradition welcomed over 2,300 automobile lovers and enthusiasts from all across the Northeast. In November, Our Veterans Luncheon, "Connecting the Stars," combined veterans services organization including

Operation New Uniform (ONU), Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) and K9s for Warriors. Guest speakers included Michele McManamon, co-founder and executive director of ONU; Dan Schnock, national alumni director for WWP; and Tim Crosby, strategic partnership manager for K9s for Warriors, among other special guests.

Lastly, we rounded out the year with a little Jingle and Mingle. The Chamber's Ponte Vedra Division holiday party this year was held on the Houseboat at Freedom Boat Club in Jacksonville Beach. The evening was filled with lively holiday tunes, great food and amazing raffle items that helped make the night merry and bright!

As we head into the new year, I encourage residents and visitors alike to look at Ponte Vedra Beach with an eye for the beauty that surrounds us. We look forward to working with local area businesses to enhance existing assets such as outdoor recreation, arts and heritage, wellness and passive nature-based activities, creating a more dynamic experience for everyone to enjoy. From all of us at the Chamber, we wish everyone a new year filled with peace, love and joy!

Renault

Continued from 16

vice chairman of the Chamber, was honored as the Member of the Year.

We are making great strides as we implement our three-year strategic plan. As part of that implementation, we recently announced three new staff changes — one of which is a well-deserved promotion for Lucia Miller, the senior coordinator for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division and Visitors Center. In this role she will take on new responsibilities as it relates to securing membership, sponsorship and assigned projects. The Chamber also promoted Bob Porter to vice president, public policy, and made Bethany Taylor our full-time office coordinator and retention specialist. These new and expanded roles will allow us to increase our capacity to adapt, make a greater impact and be a known influencer.

Thank you for your support and participation during 2018, and I look forward to noting our progress and prosperity in 2019.

CHAMBER ORGANIZES LETTERS TO SANTA INITIATIVE



Photo by Matus Foris

First Coast children once again had a chance this year to drop off their Christmas lists at Santa's mailbox located near Nona Blue in Sawgrass Village and at the Ponte Vedra Recorder office. Letters mailed by Dec. 15 received a response from Santa thanks to a special arrangement the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce made with the North Pole.

UPCOMING CHAMBER PONTE VEDRA BEACH DIVISION EVENTS

January

Chamber Before Hours

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019

Time: 8 to 9 a.m.

Location: Trasca & Co Eatery, 155 Tourside Drive, Suite 1500, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Sponsor: Trasca & Co Eatery, Mary Kay - Trudy Toche

PVB Division Joint Luncheon w/ Jax Chamber Beaches Division

Date: Thursday, Jan. 10, 2019

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Location: Sawgrass Golf Club, 10034 Golf Club Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, 32082

Info: Jared Rice, executive director of THE PLAYERS Championship, will provide members with an update on the 2019 tournament.

Sponsor: Fields Auto Group

Chamber After Hours

Date: Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019

Time: 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Location: Standfast Asset Management, 100 Executive Way, Suite 208, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Sponsor: Standfast Asset Management

February

Chamber Before Hours

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2019

Time: 8 to 9 a.m.

Location: TBD

Chamber at Noon

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2019

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Sawgrass Beach Club, 9797 Summer Place, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, 32082

Sponsors: Fields Auto Group, FirstAtlantic Bank

Chamber After Hours & Ribbon Cutting

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019

Time: 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Location: The Morgan Company Promotional Advertising, 13500 Sutton Park Drive S., Suite 204, Jacksonville, FL 32224

Sponsor: The Morgan Company Promotional Advertising

March

Chamber Before Hours

Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Time: 8 to 9 a.m.

Location: TBD

After Hours @ The PLAYERS

Date: Thursday, March 7, 2019

Time: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Location: THE PLAYERS Welcome Experience (located at the Nicklaus Entry), 110 Championship Way, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, 32082

Info: Come support THE PLAYERS and enjoy an evening of complimentary refreshments and networking with 700 business leaders from Northeast Florida. This annual event is in partnership with the JAX Chamber of Commerce and sells out every year. Please RSVP early to guarantee admission.

Cost: \$20 for members

Chamber at Noon

Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2019

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Sawgrass Beach Club, 9797 Summer Place, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, 32082

Sponsor: Fields Auto Group

For more information and to register, visit www.sjcchamber.com or call the Ponte Vedra Beach Division office at (904) 285-2004.

JANUARY 2018



Photo by Susan Griffin

Mainstream Boutique Owner Carla Miles

Mainstream Boutique hosts Chamber 'Before Hours' event

Local business professionals in the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division gathered at Mainstream Boutique before work on Jan. 10 for breakfast and networking.

Located at 880 A1A North (Suite 4), Mainstream Boutique features stylish women's retail clothing and accessories.

For more information on the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, visit sjc-chamber.com.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

St. Johns County Administrator Michael Wanchick, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce President/ CEO Isabelle Renault, Atlantic Beach Mayor Ellen Glasser, recently retired Jacksonville Beach City Manager George Forbes, Jax Chamber Beaches 2018 Division Board Chair Christine Wier, Brandon Starks of Fields Auto Group, Chamber PVB Division Director Toni Boudreaux-Godwin and Brian Zehren of Fields Auto Group, gather following the Jan. 11 joint Chamber luncheon (Not pictured: Neptune Beach Mayor Elaine Brown).

Local officials address state of the Beaches at joint Chamber luncheon

One of the first events of the year for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division was a joint chamber luncheon on Jan. 11 at Sawgrass Country Club with the JAX Chamber Beaches Division. The event featured presentations by local officials about the state

of the Beaches communities, including remarks from St. Johns County Administrator Michael Wanchick, Atlantic Beach Mayor Ellen Glasser, Neptune Beach Mayor Elaine Brown and recently retired Jacksonville Beach City Manager George Forbes.

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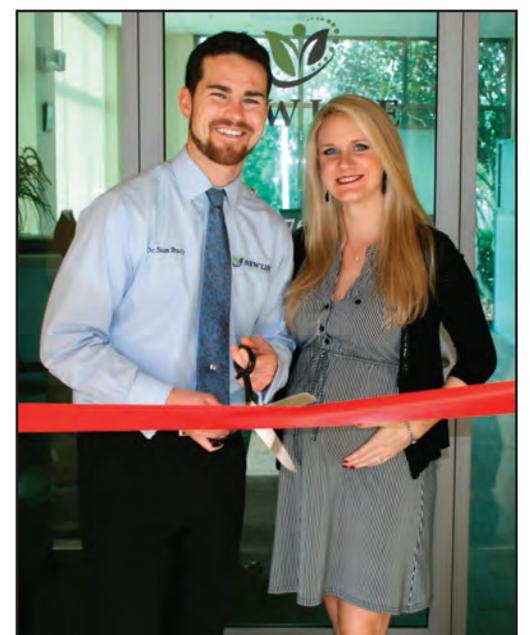
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New Life Healthcare hosts Chamber 'After Hours' event

New Life Healthcare hosted an "After Hours" event Jan. 24 for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. Chamber members gathered at the event for food, drinks and live music from local guitarist Chase Rideman of Chillula. The business also celebrated joining the Chamber with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.



ABOVE: Dr. Sean Tracy and his wife, Kelly, celebrate New Life Healthcare's Chamber membership with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



LEFT: Dr. Marijane Boyd, Kelly and Dr. Sean Tracy and Stacey Gabby of New Life Healthcare gather at the Chamber "After Hours" event on Jan. 24.

Photo by Susan Griffin

FEBRUARY 2018



Photo by Susan Griffin

Fluffy Cuts owner Brian Anderson (center) speaks with fellow Chamber members at the "Before Hours" event on Feb. 7.

Fluffy Cuts convenes local business leaders at Chamber 'Before Hours' event

Local business leaders had the opportunity to network and enjoy breakfast before work on Feb. 7 at the Chamber's "Before Hours" event, which was sponsored by Fluffy Cuts and held at the Chamber's Ponte Vedra Beach Division office.

Fluffy Cuts, which is owned by Brian Anderson, is a dog groomer located at 2185 3rd St. South in Jacksonville Beach.



Starling at Nocatee hosts Chamber 'After Hours'

Starling at Nocatee hosted an "After Hours" event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 28. The event provided attendees the opportunity to network after work and enjoy food and drinks.

Located at 999 Crosswater Parkway in Ponte Vedra, Starling at Nocatee is a senior living community offering concierge living, assisted living and memory care.

ABOVE: Starling at Nocatee Executive Director Megan Kennedy addresses the event attendees at the Chamber "After Hours" event on Feb. 28.

RIGHT: Gloria Dongara, Toni Boudreaux-Godwin and Kari Zerrahn



Photos by Susan Griffin



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MARCH 2018



Tom DeStella, Lars Anderson, Toni Boudreaux-Godwin, Kari Zerrahn, Kathleen Anderson and John Anderson gather at the Chamber 'Before Hours' event on March 7 at Allstate.

Allstate hosts Chamber 'Before Hours'

Allstate hosted a "Before Hours" event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on March 7. The event provided local business professionals the chance to network with each other and enjoy breakfast before work.

Allstate is located at 258 Solana Road in Ponte Vedra Beach.



Photos by Susan Griffin
Isabelle Renault and Dr. Erika Hamer



Photo by Susan Griffin

The BBVA Compass team joins representatives from the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division for a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 21 to celebrate the bank's recently enhanced services.

BBVA Compass Bank celebrates enhanced services with ribbon cutting

BBVA Compass Bank in Ponte Vedra Beach celebrated its recently enhanced services with a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 21, which was attended by representatives of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra

Beach Division.

In addition to the ribbon cutting, attendees of the event enjoyed networking, door prizes, beverages and hors d'oeuvres at a Chamber "After Hours" event. BBVA Compass is located at 155 Corridor Road.



ABOVE: Commissioner Henry Dean addresses St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce members at a luncheon held March 14 at Ruth's Chris Steak House.

Photos by Benjamin Naim

RIGHT: Henry Dean, Wiam Battah, Toni Boudreaux-Godwin, Brandon Starks, Isabelle Renault and Bob Porter

Photo by Susan Griffin

Commissioner Dean addresses beach renourishment, tourism at Chamber luncheon



District 5 St. Johns County Commissioner Henry Dean discussed the importance of beach renourishment and its potential impact on tourism at a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division luncheon March 14 at Ruth's Chris Steak House.

At the "Chamber at Noon" event, Dean suggested the county should increase its tourist development tax (also known as the bed tax) by a penny to help fund a renourishment project. Dean's address also included discussion on smart growth and proposed impact fees for business/residential areas.



Carol Maurer and Ellis McDonald

APRIL 2018

Toni Boudreaux-Godwin, Dr. Casey Means, Marissa Daniels, Ponte Vedra Wellness Center Owner Dr. Erika Hamer, Jackie Payne, Daniel Brauch and Vickie Meads gather at the Chamber "Before Hours" on April 4.

Photo by Susan Griffin



Ponte Vedra Wellness Center hosts Chamber 'Before Hours'

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center hosted a "Before Hours" event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on April 4.

The event served as an opportunity for

attendees to network, enjoy coffee and a healthy breakfast and get a relaxing chair massage before heading to work. Ponte Vedra Wellness Center has locations in Ponte Vedra Beach and Nocatee.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Guests at the "After Hours" event at Freedom Boat Club in St. Augustine enjoy a boat ride to end the day.

Freedom Boat Club hosts Chamber 'After Hours' event

Freedom Boat Club hosted an "After Hours" event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on April 18.

Held at the business' Camachee Cove location in St. Augustine, the event allowed guests to take boat rides, network, enjoy snacks and beverages and more.



ABOVE: Greg Wells, Felicia Cox, Tim Crosby, Isabelle Renault, Garry Redig, Toni Boudreaux-Godwin, Brian Zehren, Brandon Starks and Christine Wier gather at the joint Chamber luncheon April 12 at Sawgrass Country Club.

LEFT: Tim Crosby, strategic partnerships manager for K9s For Warriors, talks about the nonprofit at the luncheon.

Photos by Benjamin Naim



K9s For Warriors manager discusses organization's future, impact at Chamber luncheon

Tim Crosby, the strategic partnerships manager for K9s For Warriors, discussed the organization's future and planned growth at a joint luncheon for members of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division and JAX Chamber of Commerce Beaches Division on April 12 at Sawgrass Country Club.

Crosby played a video package featuring a testimony on how the K9s For Warriors program can change the lives of veterans in need. The K9s manager asserted that the organization not only saves lives, but points struggling veterans in the right direction by pairing them with trained canine companions.

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APRIL 2018

Representatives from the JAX Chamber of Commerce and St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce gather with representatives from Florida Women's Law Group to celebrate the firm's new name and practice areas.

Photo by Susan Griffin



Florida Women's Law Group celebrates new name, practice areas

Florida Women's Law Group, which was formerly known as the Quick Law Group, launched its new name and practice areas of estate planning and appellate services with a dual ribbon cutting ceremony with the JAX Chamber of Commerce and St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on April 30.

The event included other local businesses such as Julie Ryan Photography

and Frenchy's Wellness Spa, which provided chair and hand massages. Florida Women's Law Group works to advocate for women in the legal arena, where often women feel the effects of gender bias. The firm educates women on their rights and the law, so they can find the strength to endure the process and live life to the fullest.

Visit thequicklawgroup.com for more information.



Representatives from NuMoon and the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division celebrate the business' new Chamber membership with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Photo by Susan Griffin

NuMoon joins Chamber of Commerce

NuMoon Regenerative Medicine hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony April 27 to celebrate its new membership with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division.

Located at 115 Professional Drive in suite 104D in Ponte Vedra Beach, NuMoon is a specialized medical practice that focuses on the natural heal-

ing properties of patients' own blood, called platelet rich plasma (PRP), to help promote healing of injured or diseased tissues.

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MAY 2018



Photos by Susan Griffin

Diane Motes, Samantha Solan, Sandy Ford and Josh Hull

Chamber holds annual joint 'After Hours' event at THE PLAYERS Championship

Approximately 700 business and community leaders celebrated the start of THE PLAYERS Championship festivities at the Chamber of Commerce's "After Hours" at THE PLAYERS reception on May 3.

The annual joint event organized by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

and JAX Chamber of Commerce allowed attendees to network and enjoy food and refreshments from Sawgrass Events, Anthony's Gourmet Catering, III Forks Steakhouse, Mocha Misk'i, Monroe's Smokehouse Bar-B-Q & Catering, Seasons 52 and Peterbrooke Chocolatier.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Isabelle Renault, Rob Schlingmann, Dr. Tony Parker, Toni Boudreaux-Godwin, Brian Zehren and Brittany Wynne gather at the "Chamber at Noon" event on May 23 at the Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach.

Ponte Vedra Beach Division hosts golf historian for 'Chamber at Noon'

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted World Golf Hall of Fame Historian Dr. Tony Parker for the organization's monthly "Chamber at Noon" event on May 23.

Held at The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach, Parker discussed the history of golf and the efforts of the World Golf Hall of Fame. Fields Auto Group served as the sponsor of the event.



Sam Ruiz and Greg Voss



Jennifer Belisario and Cameron Fischer



World Golf Hall of Fame Historian Dr. Tony Parker addresses the "Chamber at Noon" event.



Felicia Cox and Sandra Ingram

Titanium Yoga celebrates opening, Chamber membership with ribbon cutting

Titanium Yoga, a new infrared heat yoga studio located at 111 Solana Rd. Suite A in Ponte Vedra Beach, celebrated its business opening May 29 with a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and JAX Chamber.

The event also celebrated the business' new membership in both chambers. Titanium Yoga was founded by Ashley Hanna, who used hot yoga to recover from a near fatal car accident. For more information, visit Titanium Yoga's website at titaniumyoga.com.



Titanium Yoga owner Ashley Hanna (center) participates in a ribbon cutting ceremony with representatives from the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on May 29 to celebrate the opening of her business on Solana Road.

Photo by Susan Griffin

MAY 2018



ABOVE: Representatives from the Ponte Vedra Family YMCA and St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division gather during the Chamber "Before Hours" event on May 16 at the YMCA.



RIGHT: Dr. Erika Hamer, Brian Anderson and Clare Berry
Photos by Susan Griffin

Ponte Vedra Family YMCA hosts Chamber 'Before Hours'

The Ponte Vedra Family YMCA hosted a "Before Hours" event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on May 16. The event served as an opportunity for attendees to network and enjoy breakfast before heading to work.



ABOVE: Toni Boudreaux-Godwin gathers with award winners John Anderson, Karsten Jacobson, Wendy Ranson, Kathleen Floryan, Gloria Dongara, Arthur Wildblood and Jennifer O'Neal.



RIGHT: Hannah Berman, Ellen Taylor and Lucia Miller
Photos by Susan Griffin



ABOVE: Christine Ondek and Gloria Dongara



RIGHT: Mark Berman and Janet Collins

Chamber's Ponte Vedra Beach Division presents Membership Appreciation Awards

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held its annual Membership Appreciation Awards May 30 at the Sawgrass Beach Club. The "White Party"-themed event featured the following awards and recipients:

- **Crushing It Award:** Jennifer O'Neal with MosquitoNix.
- **Going the Distance Award:** Art Wildblood
- **Key Contributor Award:** John Anderson, Allstate
- **Rookie of the Year Award:** Karsten Jacobson, Edward Jones
- **Dedicated Service Award:** Ruth's Chris Steak House
- **Spotlight Award:** Fields Auto Group
- **Board Member of Year:** Gloria Dongara, AAA Insurance Agency
- **Jeff Jenkins Community Service Award:** PIVOT CPAs
- **Pat Morgan Outstanding Member Award:** Kathleen Floryan.

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JUNE 2018

Toni Boudreaux-Godwin, Catherine Tatem, Jennifer Sartiano, Donna Guzzo, Sara Bass and Mary Bonatakis gather at the Chamber "Before Hours" event at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach on June 6.

Photo by Susan Griffin



Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach hosts Chamber 'Before Hours'

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach hosted a Chamber "Before Hours" event June 6. Attendees of the event enjoyed the opportunity to network and eat breakfast before work. The Cultural Center is located at 50 Executive Way.



Photos by Susan Griffin

The team from Ponte Vedra Wellness Center receives first-place honors based on gross results at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Golf Classic and Seasonal Blend on June 7.

Chamber hosts Golf Classic and Seasonal Blend

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held its annual Golf Classic June 7 at Slammer & Squire Golf Course in St. Augustine.

The Classic featured course games such as hole-in one, closest to the pin and longest drive. The team from Ponte Vedra Wellness Center took home first-place honors based on gross results. Pop-A-Lock was recognized as the best dressed golfers in attendance.

Immediately following the Classic, the Chamber hosted its Seasonal Blend networking event, at which attendees enjoyed food and drink, the opportunity to win a raffle and door prizes and the Chamber



The team from Pop-A-Lock is recognized as best dressed at the Classic.

Classic awards presentation.

Sponsors of the events included Center-State, Jack Wilson Family of Dealerships, Bojangles', TIAA Bank and the Ponte Vedra Recorder.

Thank you for your support in 2018!

6036 BRIDGEWATER CIR.



This beautiful TPC home features 3BD, 3BA and almost 2,000 sq. ft. Meticulously maintained, this home was recently renovated, replumbed and the roof has recently been replaced. The backyard is fenced with a large in-ground pool. **MLS# 969426 / \$525,000**

328 CLEARWATER DR.



This beautiful estate home in Plantation Oaks has everything! With hardwood flooring, gorgeous kitchen cabinetry, brand new storage area, oversized 3-car garage, large bonus rooms and a wonderful pool, what more do you need! **MLS# 969034 / \$1,049,000**

241 PLANTATION CIR.



Exquisite, completely renovated pool home located on a double lot in the prestigious Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach. This home features 7 bedrooms, 7 full and 3 half baths, and over 12,500 square feet. **MLS# 971131 / \$3,350,000**

140 INDIAN COVE LN.



This Marsh Landing home features 5BD, 4.5 BA and 3,376 Sq. Ft. You'll love entertaining on the large screened lanai looking out at the water and a fountain. Plus, there is a brand-new roof and air conditioners! **MLS# 917279 / \$699,000**

1800 THE GREENS WAY UNIT# 706



This lovely 2BD / 2BA condo in The Villas at Marsh Landing features updated bathrooms, kitchen, brand new carpet and new interior paint. You'll love spending evenings on your large screened balcony! **MLS# 959949 / \$169,950**

667 PONTE VEDRA BLVD. UNIT B



Enjoy the outstanding views and smell the ocean breeze from your back patio or even your master bedroom. This 2BD, 2BA oceanfront condo is fully furnished and located at The Retreat in Ponte Vedra Beach! **MLS# 964235 / \$698,000**



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JUNE 2018



Photos by Susan Griffin

Jim Moyers, Jennifer Belisario, Toni Boudreaux-Godwin, Pat McManamon and Brandon Starks gather at the “Chamber at Noon” event on June 13 at the TPC Clubhouse.

Ponte Vedra Beach Division hosts Sandler Training president for ‘Chamber at Noon’

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted Pat McManamon, president of Sandler Training, for the organization’s “Chamber at Noon” event on June 13 at the TPC Clubhouse.

McManamon discussed the merits, challenges and purpose of networking while providing tips and techniques to get the most of your time when meeting potential clients. Sandler Training is a sales management development firm and Jacksonville affiliate of the internationally recognized Sandler Training. For more information, visit www.solutions.sandler.com.



Ashley Folladori and Janet Collins



Karen Everett and Toni Boudreaux-Godwin announce winners of the door prizes.



ABOVE: Ruth’s Chris Steak House general manager Christine Griggs addresses attendees of the Chamber “After Hours” on June 27.



LEFT: Jennifer Ryan and Kim and Andy Scott

Photos by Susan Griffin

Ruth’s Chris Steak House hosts Chamber ‘After Hours’

Ruth’s Chris Steak House in Ponte Vedra Beach hosted an “After Hours” event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on June 27.

Attendees enjoyed networking, hors d’oeuvres and beverages. Ruth’s Chris Steak House is located at 814 A1A North, Suite 103. For more information, visit www.ruthschris.com/restaurant-locationsponte-vedra-beach/.

Representatives from SVR Realty, LLC and the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce celebrate the company’s new Ponte Vedra Beach location at Summer House with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Photo by Susan Griffin

SVR Realty celebrates new location with open house and ribbon cutting

On June 22, SVR Realty, LLC hosted an open house at its new location at Summer House in Ponte Vedra Beach that included a ribbon cutting ceremony with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

The event featured food, drinks and live music, and allowed attendees to learn more about SVR Realty’s offerings.

JULY 2018

Toni Boudreaux-Godwin, Scott Grant and Jennifer Price gather at the Chamber "Before Hours" at Standfast Asset Management July 11.

Photo by Susan Griffin



Standfast Asset Management hosts Chamber 'Before Hours'

Standfast Asset Management hosted a "Before Hours" event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce July 11 at its recently renovated office.

Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to network and eat breakfast before heading to work. Standfast Asset Management is an investment management company located at 100 Executive Way in Suite 208. Visit standfastic.com for more information.



Glenn Layton, Toni Boudreaux-Godwin, Ricki Taylor and Katrina Watkins gather at the Chamber "After Hours" event July 25 at The Hammock at Twenty Mile.

Photo by Susan Griffin

Ricki Taylor with Synovus Mortgage Corp. hosts Chamber 'After Hours'

Ricki Taylor with Synovus Mortgage Corp. hosted an "After Hours" event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce July 25 at the Hammock at Twenty Mile in Nocatee.

Attendees enjoyed networking, appetizers and drinks, and were encouraged to bring donation supplies for the Investing in Kids (INK!) Tools 4 Schools Supply Drive.

The Hammock at Twenty Mile features custom homes by local homebuilder of the HGTV Smart Home, Glenn Layton Homes. The neighborhood consists of nine private homesites, offering coastal, custom homes starting in the mid \$800s and ranging from 3,800 to 7,500 square feet. Visit www.nocatee.com for more information.

Chamber luncheon honors service members, provides insight on armed forces

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division and JAX Chamber Beaches Division hosted a joint Chamber luncheon July 12 at Sawgrass Beach Club that honored local service members and updated the community on the state of the armed forces.

Yasmine Mays of the Florida Air National Guard, Jayna Garber of the U.S. Coast Guard, Veronica Davis of the U.S. Army, Taverious Lee of the U.S. Navy and Maichelo Bolanos of the U.S. Marine Corps accepted awards in recognition of their service to the community. Each honoree received a special plaque. Florida Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Brian Simpler also discussed the state of his organization, recruitment, readiness and more.



Commemorative plaques were awarded to five military servicemen/women at the joint Chamber luncheon event at Sawgrass Beach Club.



Florida Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Brian Simpler delivers a speech on the state of the armed forces at the joint Chamber luncheon.

Photos by Benjamin Naim



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AUGUST 2018



Photos by Susan Griffin

Toni Boudreaux-Godwin, Jon Blauvelt, Ed Johnson, April Snyder, Susan Griffin, Samantha Logue and Kristin Flanagan King gather at the “Before Hours” event held at the Ponte Vedra Recorder on Aug. 8.

Recorder hosts Chamber ‘Before Hours’

The Ponte Vedra Recorder hosted a “Before Hours” event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on Aug. 8 at the paper’s office in the Overlook Building.

Event attendees had the opportunity to meet with the Recorder’s staff, network with others and enjoy breakfast treats and coffee. In addition,

guests of the event had a chance to view a new collection of art by the First Coast Artists adorning the walls of the paper’s office.

In addition to the Recorder, the event was sponsored by Gloria Dongara of AAA Ponte Vedra. The Ponte Vedra Recorder is located at 1102 A1A N. in Unit 108, just north of the intersection of Mickler Road and A1A.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Social media expert Paxton Hare discusses his three secrets to Facebook marketing at the Aug. 15 Chamber at Noon event hosted by the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce at Sawgrass Golf Club.

‘Chamber at Noon’ features discussion on Facebook marketing

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted social media expert Paxton Hare at its Aug. 15 “Chamber at Noon” event to discuss Facebook marketing.

Held at the Sawgrass Golf Club, the event featured discussion on Hare’s three secrets to Facebook marketing that he said will deliver 100 leads. Fields Auto Group sponsored the event.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Rob Schlingmann, the general manager of The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach, addresses attendees of the Chamber “After Hours” event on Aug. 22.

The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach hosts Chamber ‘After Hours’ event

The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach hosted an “After Hours” event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on Aug. 22. Held at the Plantation’s Beach Club, attendees of the event enjoyed networking, appetizers and drinks. For more information on the Plantation, visit www.theplantationpyb.com.



Photo courtesy of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Representatives from RE/MAX Specialists PV, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, Mark Macco Architects and others participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening and groundbreaking of Northshore at Atlantic Beach on Aug. 23.

Ribbon-cutting ceremony held to celebrate development of Northshore at Atlantic Beach

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Aug. 23 to celebrate the grand opening and groundbreaking of Northshore at Atlantic Beach.

Representatives from RE/MAX Specialists PV,

the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, Mark Macco Architects, the developer, buyers who have already purchased a unit and several realtors attended the event.

SEPTEMBER 2018

1970 Fiat 124 Coupe wins top honors at Ponte Vedra Auto Show

More than 170 classic and collectable automobiles were showcased at the 16th Annual Ponte Vedra Auto Show on Sept. 9 in Nocatee.

Presented by the Fields Auto Group and hosted by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, the annual event was overflowing with attendees, car enthusiasts and vendors, making it the largest auto show in the event's history. The Best in Show Classic winner was awarded to Giancarlo Fruzzetti for his 1970 Fiat 124 Coupe, earning a perfect score of 100 points. This award was sponsored by Wells Fargo Advisors.

The Best in Show 60th Anniversary of Austin-Healey, sponsored by Meehan's Irish Pub, was awarded to Bill Young, with his 1960 Austin-Healey Bugeye. Charles



Photo by Susan Griffin

Giancarlo Fruzzetti's 1970 Fiat 124 Coupe took home the Wells Fargo Advisors Best in Show Classic award at the 2018 Ponte Vedra Auto Show, held Sept. 9 in Nocatee. Shown here with Fruzzetti (left) is Porsche Jacksonville General Manager Brandon Starks of Fields Auto Group and St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division Director Toni Boudreaux-Godwin.

Cordes, with his 2012 Porsche B59, was awarded the Porsche Jacksonville "For the Spirit of It!" award, sponsored by Porsche of Jacksonville.

Celebrity endurance racecar driver Hurley Haywood was

also in attendance, signing books and taking photos with fans of all ages. Haywood is well-known for his 40 successful years racing in and winning popular events such as Rolex 24 Hours of Daytona and the 12 Hours of Sebring.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Isabelle Renault, Van Nguyen, Anna Moyer and Toni Boudreaux-Godwin gather at the "Before Hours" event at Bluebird Pharmacy on Sept. 12.

Bluebird Pharmacy hosts Chamber 'Before Hours'

Bluebird Pharmacy hosted a "Before Hours" event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on Sept. 12.

Attendees enjoyed a little breakfast and conversation before heading into their respective work days.

Located at 145 Hilden Road, Suite 102, in Ponte Vedra, Bluebird Pharmacy personalizes healthcare with its state-of-the-art compounding pharmacy and products. Visit www.bluebirdpharmacy.com for more information.



St. Johns County Emergency Management Deputy Director Jeffrey Alexander informs St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division members about the threats posed by hurricanes at a Sept. 19 luncheon held at Sawgrass Country Club.

Photo by Samantha Logue

Understanding hurricanes: St. Johns County Chamber members encouraged to be prepared, know risks

On Sept. 19, as the Carolinas began their walk down the long road to recovery following the devastation incurred by Hurricane Florence, St. Johns County Emergency Management Deputy Director Jeffrey Alexander encouraged local members of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce to stay vigilant at a "Chamber at Noon" event.

Alexander, who recently served as the opera-

tions and logistics chief for St. Johns County during Hurricanes Matthew and Irma, said it is imperative that residents obey mandatory evacuation orders when they are issued.

"This is really all about keeping people alive," he said. "We can't save your property, we can't save structures ... but we can save lives. Everything else we can replace or repair."

SEPTEMBER 2018



Photo by Susan Griffin

First Coast Sotheby's International Realty celebrates its membership in the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce by participating in a ribbon cutting ceremony on Sept. 24 with representatives from the Ponte Vedra Beach Division.

First Coast Sotheby's International Realty celebrates Chamber membership

First Coast Sotheby's International Realty in Ponte Vedra Beach celebrated its St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce membership on Sept. 24 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The ceremony included representatives from the realty firm and the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the Chamber. First Coast Sotheby's International Realty is located at 820 A1A North Suite E 15, adjacent to the Veranda buildings. Visit www.firstcoastsir.com/eng for more information.



Photo by Ed Johnson

Dr. Gil Houston, Heather Hartman, Marcy Dragotta, Dr. Karen Wolf, Lynn Dunlap, Susan Ledrew and Kelly Trent gather at the Chamber "After Hours" event on Sept. 26.

Ponte Vedra Eye Associates hosts Chamber 'After Hours'

Ponte Vedra Eye Associates hosted an "After Hours" event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on Sept. 26.

Attendees networked among Chamber members and guests, as well as enjoyed beverages and snacks provided by Ponte Vedra Eye Associates.

Located at 150 Professional Drive, Suite 300, Ponte Vedra Eye Associates has been an established business in the Ponte Vedra community for over 23 years, providing optometry services and vision care products. Visit vision-source-pontevedra.com for more information.

OCTOBER 2018

TITANIUM YOGA HOSTS CHAMBER 'BEFORE HOURS'



Photo by Susan Griffin

Ashley Hanna, the owner of Titanium Yoga, and Toni Boudreaux-Godwin, the director of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, gather at a Chamber "Before Hours" event held at Titanium Yoga on Oct. 3. Attendees of the event enjoyed networking and a little breakfast before work, while also learning about Titanium Yoga, which opened at 111 Solana Road in Ponte Vedra Beach in May 2018.



Toni Boudreaux-Godwin, R.J. Larizza and Kathy Sutton gather at a luncheon on Oct. 10 at Sawgrass Beach Club that was hosted by the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and the Beaches Division of the JAX Chamber.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Laura Morey and Pixie Larizza

Joint Chamber luncheon features talk by R.J. Larizza

State Attorney R.J. Larizza of the 7th Judicial Circuit discussed how his office works to impact the business community at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon on Oct. 10 at Sawgrass Beach Club in Ponte Vedra Beach. Jointly hosted by the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and the Beaches Division of the JAX Chamber, the event was sold out and sponsored by Fields Auto Group.

OCTOBER 2018

Chamber Ponte Vedra Beach Division Director Toni Boudreaux-Godwin and Tesh Upadhyaya, David Vigil and Robert Franskousky of LPL Private Wealth gather at the Chamber "After Hours" event held at LPL on Oct. 24.



Photo by Susan Griffin

David Vigil, Robert Franskousky of LPL Private Wealth host Chamber 'After Hours' event

David Vigil and Robert Franskousky of LPL Private Wealth hosted an "After Hours" event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on Oct. 24 at their office on Ponte Vedra Boulevard.

Held on the business' deck overlooking

the water, the event featured food catered by the Lodge & Club and live music from string guitarist Richard Kuncicky. Vigil and Franskousky took an opportunity to introduce themselves and their business, as well as discuss the latest news in the market.

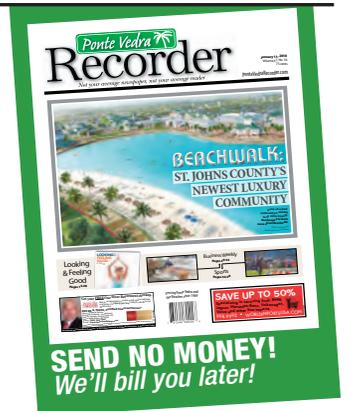
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Source: Real Value of Joining a Local Chamber of Commerce
Shapiro Group, 2012.

NOVEMBER 2018



Photo by Susan Griffin

Chamber representatives gather with the Ponte Vedra Wellness Center team at the "After Hours" event on Nov. 28.

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center hosts Chamber 'After Hours'

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center hosted an "After Hours" event for the Ponte Vedra Beach (PVB) Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on Nov. 28.

Held at the business' Nocatee office at 205 Marketside Ave., Suite 200, the event featured networking and beverages and snacks. Ponte Vedra Wellness Center also collected toys for Toys for Tots at the event.



Speakers and attendees of the Nov. 7 Veterans Luncheon gather with Chamber representatives at Sawgrass Beach Club.

Chamber hosts Veterans Luncheon



Photos by Susan Griffin

Tim Crosby of K9s For Warriors addresses attendees of the event.

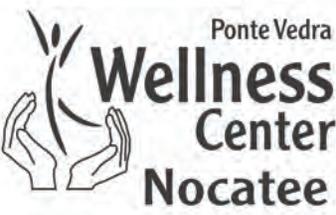
The Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Veterans Luncheon Nov. 7 at Sawgrass Beach Club.

Michele McManamon, the co-founder and executive director of Operation New Uniform (ONU), served as the event's guest speaker. ONU is a Jacksonville-based non-profit organization that provides veterans with tools to succeed in the business world.

Attendees of the event also heard from representatives of K9s For Warriors and Wounded Warrior Project.

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NEW URGENT CARE CURE FACILITY IN NOCATEE CELEBRATES OPENING WITH CHAMBER



Photo by Benjamin Naim

The team from Urgent Care Cure in Nocatee celebrated its recent opening by participating in a ribbon-cutting ceremony Nov. 7 with representatives from the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. President Alexei Prytkov did the honors by cutting the ribbon. The event also featured food, drinks, a chance for guests to mingle and more. For more information on Urgent Care Cure, visit www.urgentcarecure.com.

NOVEMBER 2018

DECEMBER 2018

Chamber Ponte Vedra Beach Division (PVB) Director Toni Boudreaux-Godwin stands with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Realtor Sarah Alexander at the "Before Hours" event on Nov. 14. Alexander hosted the event, which was held at the PVB Division office.

Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce



Sarah Alexander of Berkshire Hathaway HSFNR hosts Chamber 'Before Hours'

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty (HSFNR) Realtor Sarah Alexander hosted a "Before Hours" event for the Ponte Vedra Beach (PVB) Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on Nov. 14.

Held at the PVB Division office, the event allowed attendees to network and enjoy breakfast before work.

FREEDOM BOAT CLUB CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF JACKSONVILLE BEACH LOCATION



Photo courtesy of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

The team from Freedom Boat Club Jacksonville, Jacksonville Beach and St. Augustine celebrates the grand opening of its new location at Beach Marine in Jacksonville Beach by participating in a ribbon-cutting ceremony with representatives from the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on Nov. 8.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Jennifer O'Neal and Toni Boudreaux-Godwin

Chamber PVB Division holds 'Jingle & Mingle' holiday party



Lori Adams and Debbie Kopp

The Ponte Vedra Beach (PVB) Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted its holiday party, "Jingle & Mingle," Dec. 5 on a houseboat at Freedom Boat Club in Jacksonville Beach.

Event attendees enjoyed a festive evening of holiday fun with live music, heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, a raffle and boat rides courtesy of Freedom Boat Club. Guests also enjoyed dessert provided by Ruth's Chris Steak House and drinks sponsored by MediaShare Consulting Group.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Stretch Zone celebrates the opening of its new facility in Ponte Vedra Beach with representatives of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on Dec. 18.

Stretch Zone celebrates grand opening of new facility in Ponte Vedra Beach

Stretch Zone, a new business located at 266 Solana Road in Ponte Vedra Beach, hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Dec. 18 to celebrate its grand opening with representatives from the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

According to its Facebook page, Stretch Zone is a proprietary program of stretching that uses a patent-pending strapping system, together with specific protocols, to work with the muscle tonus (muscles' ner-

vous tension) in a scientific way to achieve an optimal active range of motion.

The business says the program is increasing in popularity and is licensed to over 30 locations, including professional sports teams and world-class spas. Benefits of the program include increased range of motion, enhanced physical and athletic skills, increased muscle relaxation and relief of stiffness and soreness, among others.



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Simpson overcomes TPC Sawgrass, ruling bodies to win THE PLAYERS Championship



**YEAR
IN REVIEW**
May 2018

By Kathy Bissell

Originally published May 13

It was his to lose. Despite what Webb Simpson said May 11 after his course record tying round of 63 — which was that no lead was safe — it was virtually impossible for anyone to catch

him on May 13. He had history on his side.

But Simpson had more than a victory on Sunday, he overcame a rules change that damaged his career in his prime earning years. The putting style he had used to win the U.S. Open in 2012 was banned by the R&A and the USGA in 2016. It was not a pleasant time for him.

Simpson tried conventional putting, but finally settled on a style preferred by Matt Kuchar and allowed by the USGA.

It was a tip, however, from Tim Clark — who is now out of golf, some say due to injury and some say due to the ban of the anchored putter — that turned his game around 12 months before THE PLAYERS.

“He [Clark] asked me had I ever tried the claw grip, and I said no,” Simpson explained at the tournament. “It felt pretty awkward.”

Before the first round of THE PLAYERS in 2017, Simpson’s caddie, Nocatee resident Paul Tesori, asked him if he was going to use the claw.

“I said, ‘I still don’t know,’” Simpson recalled. “But I warmed up with it, and it felt pretty good, and last year, especially the first two days, was the best I had putted in a long time.”

He had a year of practice before creating a seven shot lead going into the final round of THE PLAYERS. Historically, that was insurmountable. In all the rounds that have been played on the PGA Tour, no one has ever lost a seven-shot lead.

The only question that remained was would he break Greg Norman’s 1994 scoring record of 24-under par for the tournament? It would have been a fitting way to celebrate the last time THE PLAYERS was held in May.

Simpson was steady through the first six. He birdied the seventh and bogeyed the eighth. When he turned in even par, it looked like Norman’s score would remain.

Simpson would have had to shoot 6-under in the final round to break the tournament record, and he was content with pars. He was safely ahead, and that was all he wanted.

Photo by Chris Norton

Webb Simpson displays the trophy after winning THE PLAYERS Championship 2018.

THE PLAYERS continues on Page 36

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THE PLAYERS

Continued from 35

Woods birdied the 11th and 12th, but when he bogeyed the 14th, it seemed finished for him. He had climbed to within five shots of the lead, but with the bogey, mojo had moved on. At that time, he was five shots back with five holes to play.

Simpson remained stuck on 19-under, refusing to budge for Tiger Woods or anyone else.

The only way anyone other than Simpson could win, was if Simpson started making bogeys and doubles, which he refused to do.

When Woods drove into the right rough on the 16th, his chances were completely gone, and then things got worse for him. The 17th. Water.

At that juncture, there were about 12 players left on the golf course. None of them pressed Simpson. In all, it was amazing that so few golfers were able to mount a serious charge against Simpson after Friday, but the course is not user friendly.

Simpson actually won the tournament on Friday and Saturday. His lead stymied the rest. He could only fire and fall back like ping pong balls thrown against a wall.

For Simpson, THE PLAYERS victory came nearly six years after his U.S. Open title, and some will say it's his second major. More importantly for him, however, it was an extraordinary career comeback for someone who had previously been at the pinnacle of the game and then, due to the whims of the R&A and USGA, fallen victim to a change in rules on equipment and method of play.

Simpson overcame more than past putting problems at THE PLAYERS. He overcame two golf organizations that had conspired against him to ruin his career. With the drop of the final putt, plenty of middle-aged men gave loud cheers from their sofas and bar stools saying, "Take that, ruling bodies."

Then they went out to the garage to find their old long putters to start practicing with the claw.

This story has been edited for the Year in Review edition. Please visit pontevedrerecorder.com to read the full story.

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DeSantis rallies support for gubernatorial bid in Ponte Vedra Beach

By Samantha Logue

Originally published June 28

Congressman Ron DeSantis (R-FL) took some time away from “the swamp” on June 23 to garner support at home for his gubernatorial campaign. With multiple meet-and-greet events scheduled throughout the day, DeSantis chose to make his first stop in Ponte Vedra Beach at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa.

Joining DeSantis on the campaign trail was Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL), who helped to fire up the crowd, stating, “We’ve got enough folks in Congress and enough folks in politics who sit on the sidelines, who sit on the back row. ... Ron DeSantis is the type of man who leads from the



Photo by Samantha Logue

Congressman and Florida Gubernatorial Candidate Ron DeSantis (R-FL) addresses attendees of his campaign event in Ponte Vedra Beach June 23 alongside his wife, Casey, and children.

front, and that is exactly the type of governor we need in the great state of Florida.”

Contrasting DeSantis against his Republican primary opponent, Adam Putnam, Gaetz added, “I’ve seen more leadership from Ron DeSantis in 17 months than I ever saw from Adam Putnam in six whole years.”

Putnam, who is currently Florida’s Commissioner of Agriculture, previously represented Florida’s 12th District in Congress and earlier served as a member of the Florida House of Representatives.

DESANTIS continues on Page 39



Oak Bridge development to be contested in court

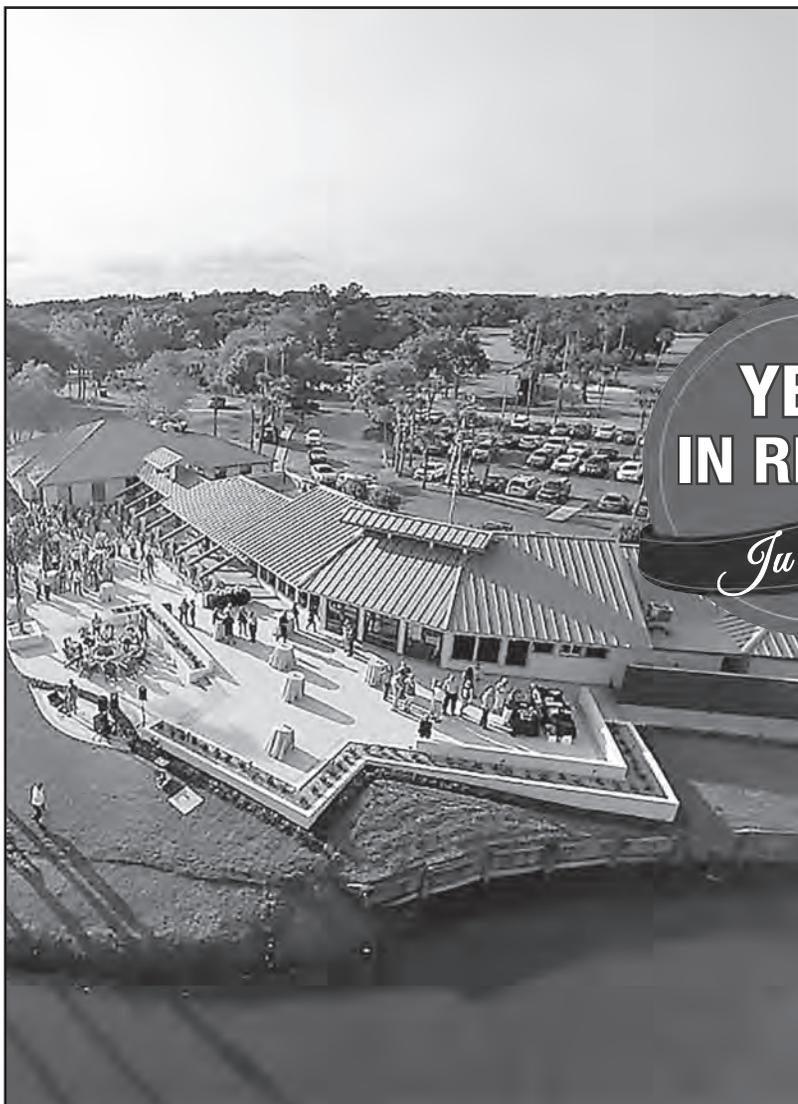


Photo courtesy of the Oak Bridge Club at Sawgrass

Lawsuit filed against golf club owner, St. Johns County

By Samantha Logue

Originally published July 12

With the unanimous approval of the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners, the controversy over Alta Mar Holdings LLC’s proposed plans for the sale and development of the Oak Bridge golf course appeared to have reached its conclusion in May. Following the filing of a lawsuit on June 14, however, it seems the public battle will indeed rage on, only now it will be in a courtroom.

It was in a 5-0 vote that the county commissioners decided May 15 to approve Alta Mar’s plans for the back 40 acres of the Oak Bridge course, which included selling them off for commercial and age-restricted residential development. Although the commissioners were united in their approval, however, the proposed development was not without its detractors, with many residents and business owners abutting the land citing the potential for increased traffic flow and a decrease in property values as reasons for concern.

Filed against St. Johns County and OBDP, LLC (which is managed by Alta Mar), the June 14 complaint challenges the commissioners’

decision, asserting that the approved development orders — which involved rezoning parcels of land — were inconsistent with the county’s 2025 Comprehensive Plan, and that the proper protocols were not followed in approving them.

Seeking declaratory and injunctive relief, the complaint maintains that “neither the county nor the developer provided any evidence or analysis of an overriding public need to convert the property from public recreation to the private development proposed by the (development orders),” and urges the court to prevent the implementation of the development plans.

Noting that the county has until mid-August to formally respond to the complaint, County Attorney Patrick McCormack said, “The county will defend the Board of County Commissioners’ decision through the litigation.”

Representatives for OBDP were unable to be reached for comment, but since first proposing his plans for the Oak Bridge course in 2016, Alta Mar’s David Miller has contended that the course is in desperate need of repair and that at least \$2 million is required to ensure its economic viability. He has also further maintained that the only way to obtain those funds is through selling the last six holes of the 18-hole course.

Plaintiffs listed in the lawsuit include: Ponte Vedra Management Group LTD; Dr. Frank Levene, a resident of Hidden Oaks, which is a neighborhood that abuts the planned development; Schweim Properties, LLC; Park Place at Sawgrass Condominium Association, Inc.; and Sawgrass Village Executive Center Association, Inc.

Representatives for the plaintiffs did not respond to requests for comment.



DeSantis

Continued from 38

DeSantis, however, characterized Putnam as an “establishment” candidate, whom he contended could not be the leader that Florida needs.

“Whoever wins will get the title ‘governor,’ there’s no doubt about that,” DeSantis said. “But, we need someone who, yes, will have the title of governor, but will be a leader as governor. And I’ll be that guy.”

Praising current Gov. Rick Scott for his leadership during his two terms, DeSantis said that, if elected, he intended to continue Scott’s conservative agenda by keeping taxes low, nominating conservative constitutionalists to Florida’s Supreme Court and supporting the president’s immigration policies.

Also highlighting education as a major issue, DeSantis denounced the institution of Common Core in Florida’s school system and expressed his support for prioritizing vocational training. Additionally, he stressed the importance of teaching students the core values America was founded upon.

“Ronald Reagan pointed out (that) freedom is only one generation away from extinction — it’s not passed along in the bloodstream,” he said. “We, as adults and as voters and as Republicans, we have an obligation to make sure that the next generation understands those values and

is going to be willing to defend those values, as well.”

Desantis’ visit to Ponte Vedra Beach came a day after he received a glowing endorsement from President Donald Trump via Twitter.

“Congressman Ron DeSantis, a top student at Yale and Harvard Law School, is running for governor of the great state of Florida,” Trump tweeted on June 22. “Ron is strong on borders, tough on crime and big on cutting taxes — loves our military and our vets. He will be a great governor and has my full endorsement!”

Not the first time Trump has publicly supported DeSantis, the president previously tweeted on Dec. 22, 2017, that the congressman was a “brilliant young leader,” and that he would “make a great governor of Florida.”

In addition to DeSantis, Putnam and other Republican challengers, there are several Democrats vying to be Florida’s next governor, including Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, former Congresswoman Gwen Graham, businessman Chris King and former Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine.

FOX News will host a televised gubernatorial primary debate for the Republican candidates at 6:30 p.m. EST on Thursday, June 28 in Orlando.

The primary election is set for Aug. 28.

This story has been edited for the Year in Review edition. Please visit pontevedrarecorder.com to read the full story.



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Scenes from the Aug. 28 primary elections



Jeremiah Blocker embraces his wife, Lauren, after winning the Aug. 28 primary election for county commissioner District 4.
Photo by Benjamin Naim

**YEAR
IN REVIEW**
August 2018



ABOVE: Ponte Vedra Democratic Club members and guests react to results of the primary elections at a watch party at the Coastal Oaks at Nocatee clubhouse.

Photo by Benjamin Naim



State Rep. Cyndi Stevenson (left) and St. Johns Education Association President Michelle Dillon (right) congratulate Kelly Barrera on her win for District 4 School Board.
Photo by Jennifer Logue



LEFT: The St. Johns County Young Republicans and guests gather at a primary watch party at Mellow Mushroom in St. Augustine to watch the election results come in.

Photo by Samantha Logue



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Photo courtesy of Gary Jurenovich

Gary Jurenovich (center, back) gathers with supporters at Woodys Bar-B-Q after winning Seat 1 of the Municipal Service District of Ponte Vedra Beach.

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Denny McCarthy wins Web.com Tour Championship to take top spot in Finals 25



YEAR IN REVIEW
September 2018

25 players receive PGA Tour cards

Originally published Sept. 27

Entering the day one stroke back, Denny McCarthy enjoyed a barrage of birdies down the stretch at Atlantic Beach Country Club to win the season-ending Web.com Tour Championship on Sept. 23 by four strokes at 23-under 261.

McCarthy, who earned his first Web.com Tour victory in 48 career events, also earned the top spot on the Finals 25. With the top spot, McCarthy earned fully-exempt status for the 2018-19 PGA Tour season, as well as a spot in THE PLAYERS Championship 2019.

“It’s been quite a journey this year,” McCarthy said. “The PGA Tour was tough to start out the year and stuck through it and got my game, (I) raised my level and have been playing some really good golf. Just feels incredible to finish off these Finals. So much work behind the scenes that nobody really sees. I have a great team, they’ve been tremendous throughout the whole process.”

McCarthy began the round quietly with a par at the first and a bogey at the second. The 25-year-old turned it around with a birdie at the par-4 fourth, birdieing Nos. 4, 6, 7 and 8 to make the turn at 3-under 32. The University of Virginia alum continued his momentum with birdies at Nos. 10, 13, 14 and 18 to finish with a 6-under 65.

It looked to be a two-horse race for most of the final round between McCarthy and Sepp Straka, but a late triple bogey by Straka at No. 16 solidified McCarthy’s win. In all, McCarthy carded 23 birdies and an eagle in 72 holes. He attributed experience at Atlantic Beach Country Club to his consistently low rounds through the week.

Photo by Benjamin Naim

Denny McCarthy prepares to hit the ball during the Web.com Tour Championship on Sept. 23, at Atlantic Beach Country Club.

WEB.COM TOUR continues on Page 42

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Web.com Tour

Continued from 41

“Knowing the golf courses and having the knowledge of the golf courses really helps me (in the Finals),” McCarthy said. “I feel like this next year on the PGA Tour I’m going to be much better suited having played all these places once this past year and getting some tournament rounds on those places. It’s tough, it’s really tough, to go to a course that you’re not familiar with and expect to play great golf. You’re just not familiar with the course, you’re just not as comfortable with where to miss it off the tee and into the green.”

Despite a stressful even-par 71, highlighted by an eagle and capped by a 5-foot par save at the last, Jim Knous earned the 25th and final card of the Web.com Tour Finals and gained 2018-19 status on the PGA TOUR, thanks in large part to making all four cuts through the Finals. His top finish during the Finals was a T10 at the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Championship.

Knous earned \$41,931 through the four Finals events, the highest amount ever earned by the 25th player to earn his card. The record was previously set last year by Seamus Power at \$40,625.

“It was a brutal day emotionally,” Knous said. “I wasn’t quite sure how much my performance would affect the overall outcome. It kind of just depended on what everybody else did. That’s pretty terrifying.



Photo by Benjamin Naim

Sebastian Munoz prepares to hit the ball out of a precarious position.

So, I really just kind of did my best to stay calm and inside I was really freaking out and just super psyched that at the end of the day finished right there on No. 25.”

Cleveland native Justin Lower finished just outside the bubble at 26th on the Finals money list, less than \$500 short of the 25th spot. The 29-year-old had an 8-foot birdie opportunity at the final hole slide by the hole, which ended up being the difference.

Knous joined four other rookies in earning their card through the Finals 25; the other four were Seth Reeves, Curtis Luck, Sepp Straka and Cameron Davis.



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Local women support fight against breast cancer at Pink Ribbon Golf Classic

Originally published Oct. 11

The Pink Ribbon Golf Classic took place Oct. 4 at Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, bringing together several local women in the fight against breast cancer.

In addition to golf, the event included a luncheon, presentation and awards ceremony. Prizes were awarded to winners of the hole in one, closest to the pin, low gross, low net and overall best sport contests.

The Pink Ribbon festivities continued Thursday, Oct. 11 with the annual cocktail party at a home in Marsh Landing. The party will have a silent auction featuring pieces from many local artists thanks to the help and coordination of Village Arts. Then on Nov. 8, one of the organization's original sponsors, Underwood Jewelers, hosted the annual check presentation at a David Yurman trunk show, where Pink Ribbon will present the 2018 check to their beneficiaries, Baptist Medical Center Beaches and Mayo Clinic-Jacksonville.



Photo by Kelly Valentine
Pink Ribbon golfers Wendy Waller, Maggi Kelly, Gretchen Peverley and Sue McCaw have some fun during the Pink Ribbon Golf Classic on Oct. 4 at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

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Scenes from the general elections



**YEAR
IN REVIEW**
November 2018

ABOVE: Before being elected governor of Florida, Ponte Vedra Beach resident Ron DeSantis votes at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church with his wife, Casey, and children, Madison and Mason.



RIGHT: Gov.-elect Ron DeSantis shakes hands of supporters at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Ponte Vedra Beach.
Photos by Jon Blauvelt



Photo courtesy of Francesca Rutherford
Congressman John Rutherford (fifth from right) meets with supporters at Bogey Grille in Ponte Vedra Beach after winning the U.S. representative District 4 race.



Florida Rep. Cyndi Stevenson (center left) and husband Henry Stevenson (center right) gather with (from left) St. Johns County Republican Committeewoman Elizabeth Chatham and Shorty Robbins at the St. Johns County Republican Party watch party at Buffalo Wild Wings in St. Augustine. Stevenson won the state representative District 17 race.
Photo by Samantha Logue

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Nocatee-A-Glow lights up the holidays

By Amber Lake

Originally published Dec. 6

Nocatee's Splash Waterpark was transformed into a winter wonderland on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 for Nocatee-A-Glow.

A favorite tradition of residents and non-residents alike, Nocatee-A-Glow offers a festival of Christmas-themed activities and events that spans from the waterpark to the parking lot.

Everything from bounce houses and carriage rides to snow and bubble zones came together to help welcome in the season with an abundance of holiday cheer. The event on Nov. 30 was open to Nocatee residents only, while guests of residents were admitted entry on Dec. 1.

The Roberts family, who lives in Nocatee, has attended the event every season.

"I personally like the choreographed music and light show," Michael Roberts said.

Wife, Doni Roberts, said she loves how the event creates, "a sense of community with everyone coming together." She also



Photo by Amber Lake

Children admire the Christmas tree at Nocatee's Splash Waterpark during Nocatee-A-Glow on Nov. 30

said, however, her daughter, Mimi, was probably, "here for the swag."

Most residents attended the tree lighting ceremony, which included a countdown to the light show.

At the center of the park, a grand light pillar towered over the hundreds of families and residents that had gathered around it. At 7 p.m., the lights became ablaze, synchronizing with some of the season's

favorite holiday songs every half hour.

Over at Crosswater Hall, a line was wrapped around the building for an opportunity to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus. Children from across the community took pictures with Mr. and Mrs. Claus and got a chance to tell the couple directly about their wishes for Christmas morning.

"Mostly this year, it's Legos," Santa said. "Everyone wants Legos — both girls and boys."

According to St. Nick, however, a few kids wanted something a bit different. One child asked for a "purple unicorn" and another for a "dog that doesn't shed hair."

"Oh, yes," Mrs. Claus said. "That was a good one. I expect that someone's parents don't want to clean up after a dog in the house."

The Christmas tree shows will continue through the month of December. Shows are open to the public and run 6 to 10 p.m. at the Splash Waterpark, with new shows beginning every half hour. The shows include a traditional Christmas music show, a contemporary Christmas music show and a "Variety Spectacular" show. Visit www.nocatee.com for more information.

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- *Whoville's _____ beast
- Tropical constrictor
- E.B. White's Little
- What siren does
- Not a thing
- Bear the expenses of
- Between larva and adult
- In a fitting way
- Neighbor of Ger.
- Up and about
- Unadulterated
- Excessive protection
- Middle-earth creature
- No balance due
- *Winter Gathering spot
- Resident uncle?
- Diarist Anne
- *Christmas pudding raisin
- *Done with #8 Across
- "Fahrenheit 9/11" filmmaker
- *The stump of a _____ he held tight in his teeth..."
- Pout
- Machu Picchu mountains
- Snaky swimmers
- Wild swine
- Words from Wordsworth
- Kind of humor
- Southern stew staple

DOWN

- Gone by
- Wash froth
- Fe
- Light display
- Cass Elliot and Michelle Phillips
- Like a crooked kilt?
- Lime-rich soil
- *Hot chocolate add-on
- One with biggest share
- Olden-day elbow-related measurement, pl.
- Do after tie
- Formal discussion
- "Bite the bullet," e.g.
- Verbose
- Beyoncé, a.k.a. Queen _____
- Finger move
- *Angler's accessory
- U in UV
- Uber alternative
- Female sirs
- Hands on hips
- Marketing giveaway
- Email option
- *Hockey turf
- Ore deposit
- Expel
- E-reader brand
- _____ gum on a list of ingredients
- Zedong of China
- Major time period

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

- Your own teacher
- Sudden stream
- Box office failure
- *Hot Buttered _____
- St. Louis monument
- Time for relaxation, pl.
- Change, as in U.S. Constitution
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