

Celebrating 50 years of the

PONTE VEDRA



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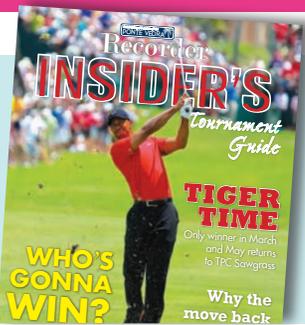
Run for CHANGE



A group of PGA TOUR employees gathers in front of the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse at THE PLAYERS DONNA 5K held last Saturday. Flip to page 20 for more pictures from the event.

Photo by Ben Jared, PGA TOUR

Insider's
Tournament
Guide
INSIDE



Women Mean Business

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In the Arts

Pages 26-27



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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.

One reader correctly identified last week's photo as the sign for Mon Amie. That reader was **Patti Kotchkowski**. Congratulations, Patti — you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



ADOPT A PET



CAT OF THE WEEK

Linus is a 3-year-old orange/white male cat who is looking for a new home. Come visit him today at the Pet Center. #48886



DOG OF THE WEEK

Walter is a 9-month-old bulldog mix male who is looking for a new home. Come visit him today at the Pet Center. #48901

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 \$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

L	I	M	B		M	A	T		L	E	D				
A	S	E	A		V	A	N	E		E	B	O	N	Y	
G	L	A	D		E	R	N	E		G	R	O	V	E	
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				G	O	O	E	Y		R	O	C			
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Y	E	S				E	R	E			L	E	A	S	

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

Discover something **NEW!**

AFRICAN FOREST

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jacksonvillezoo.org



Ultimate Beach Retreat

Jacksonville Beach
Steps away from the ocean, this beach bungalow is the ideal space to call home or utilize as an investment property. Located in a highly desired neighborhood within walking distance of restaurants and shopping, this home is the perfect space to enjoy the quintessential beach lifestyle. **3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths \$750,000**



Intracoastal Waterfront Condo

Mariana San Pablo 2ndstory condo featuring open floor plan, luxury amenities, and private balcony with water views. **2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths \$475,000**



Turnkey Beach Condo

Oceanfront turnkey property 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**



Extraordinary Views

Riverfront/ Epping Forrest
The only home that sits atop the bluff next to the exquisite DuPont Mansion, this home shares the same breathtaking views of the formal gardens, the marina, & the St. Johns river. Wonderful & livable floorplan takes advantage of the home's premier location. **4 bedrooms & 4.5 bathrooms \$1,250,000**

Local Rotary Club taking applications for 'Service Above Self' Scholarship

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset is currently accepting applications for the "Service Above Self" Scholarship (SASS).

Students enrolled as juniors or seniors at Ponte Vedra or Allen D. Nease high schools are encouraged to apply. Offered annually by the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset, these \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to the top applicant from each school based on his/her application, which includes an essay about community service. Children of Rotarians

are not eligible to apply.

Details and the SASS application are available at <https://goo.gl/forms/HAuBTJPijjLaCcWv1>. The deadline for receipt of all application requirements is March 14, 2019. The two scholarship winners will be notified by mid-April. Later, they will receive their scholarships at a dinner hosted by the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset.

For additional information, contact the SASS chair, Paula Roderick, at paroderick1@comcast.net or call (904) 280-8933.

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GOLF COURSE HOMES



HAMMOCK COVE

6555 Burnham Cir., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
\$475,000 | MLS 969604
Linda Ostoski | 904.473.1515
LindaOstoski@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



WALKERS RIDGE

10 Walkers Ridge Dr., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
\$519,900 | MLS 956096
Jim Zeller | 904.772.5592
JimZeller@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



MARSH LANDING CC

204 Green Heron Way, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
\$749,900 | MLS 955358
Rhonda Gummerman | 904.994.1721
RGummerman@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



SAWGRASS CC

3060 Timberlake Pt. Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
\$850,000 | MLS 971865
Murray Beard | 904.465.2784
MurrayBeard@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



PALENCIA

174A Costa Blanca Rd., St. Augustine, FL
\$1,049,000 | MLS 907947
Cammy Ray | 904.806.3489
CammyRay@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



DEERWOOD

8267 Presidential Dr., Jacksonville, FL
\$1,250,000 | MLS 981270
Kathleen Larriviere | 904.728.7059
KLarriv@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



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Upcoming MSD meeting to feature workshop on code enforcement, proposed amendments to PVZDR

By Jon Blauvelt

The next meeting of the Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District (MSD) will feature a workshop on code enforcement issues, proposed amendments to the Ponte Vedra Zoning District Regulations (PVZDR) and a few additional topics.

To be held Monday, March 11 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church's Cultural Center, the workshop will begin at 6 p.m. and be led by Beverly Frazier of St. Johns County Growth Management Planning and Zoning. County staff is introducing the general topics for discussion to receive public input for future amendments.

According to the workshop agenda, the code enforcement section of the meeting will begin with discussion on where

commercial vehicles can and cannot park and what constitutes a commercial vehicle. The workshop will then focus on refuse containers and the inclusion of bagged yard waste as a refuse container to limit front yard storage. The third code enforcement issue on the agenda is fences and walls, with discussion to focus on the allowance of 6-foot tall fences within side and/or rear yards to provide requested privacy for homes and pool/patio areas.

The proposed amendments to the PVZDR first include revisions to address viewpoint neutrality for signage and clarify sign allowances based on zoning district, type (temporary or permanent) and location. The second proposed amendment regards the vacated 34-foot right-of-way adjacent to Ponte Vedra Boulevard and the addition of language to require non-

platted lots to measure the setback from the vacated right-of-way in lieu of the front property line. The third proposed amendment for discussion is regarding tree protection. According to the agenda, residents have requested additional code regulations for protection of trees in the Ponte Vedra Zoning District for residential lots. Discussion will focus on the proposed regulations crafted by community member and MSD trustee Mack McCuller and environmental staff to address land clearing, tree preservation, permitting and mitigation for unauthorized removal.

Additional topics on the workshop agenda include lagoon bulkheads and docks and Ordinance 2006-68, which prohibits parking/placement of construction materials within the right-of-way on Ponte Vedra Boulevard.

Trustee assignments

In other MSD news, Chairman John Cellucci shared the Board's responsibilities for 2019 at the previous meeting in February. They are as follows:

- **Chairman John Cellucci:** Beach renourishment* and landscaping
- **Vice Chairman Brad Wester:** Beach access and communications/newsletter
- **Treasurer Gary Jurenovich:** St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and street signs
- **Trustee Al Hollon:** Sanitation
- **Trustee Holly Kartsonis:** Beaches Energy and Traffic Task Force
- **Trustee Mack McCuller:** Road and bridge and tree ordinance
- **Trustee Kitty Switkes:** JEA

*The MSD Board will address beach renourishment together, with Cellucci as the chair.

Cub Scouts Pack 277 enjoys annual Blue and Gold Banquet

Cub Scouts Pack 277 hosted their annual Blue and Gold Banquet and Awards Dinner on Friday, March 1 at Christ Episcopal Church.

With 225 people in attendance, the event featured several pack advancements, as well as the presentation of Arrow of Light awards — the highest level of recognition in Cub Scouts — to 12 deserving scouts. Eleven of these scouts crossed over into BSA Boy Scout Troops on Feb. 25.

Food at the Banquet was all donated by local restaurants and scout families. Woody's Bar-B-Q served as the event's No. 1 gold sponsor, donating iced tea, lemonade, mashed potatoes, gravy and macaroni and cheese. Silver sponsors included Publix, Chick-fil-A, Ruth's Chris Steak House, 3 Palms Grille and Pusser's Bar and Grille. Bronze sponsors included Fresh Market, Trader Joe's, Metro Dinner and Sierra Grille.

Volunteers from Ponte Vedra High School, Landrum Middle School and Palmer Catholic Academy helped serve the food. In total, about 20 scout families helped to organize the event, with Lisa Goetz and Michelle Pavlik serving as coordinators of the evening.

Chartered by Christ Episcopal Church, Cub Scouts Pack 277 is one of the largest packs in the area with more than 85 scouts



ABOVE: Cub Scouts in Pack 277 receive their Arrow of Light awards at their annual Blue and Gold Banquet on March 1 at Christ Episcopal Church.

LEFT: Cub Scouts Pack 277 gathers around cake at the Banquet.

Photos by Katie Yoder

ABOVE: Cub Scouts participate in face painting.

LEFT: Girls in the Pack display their Arrow of Light awards.

St. Johns County offering volunteer opportunities with boards, committees

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners is looking for residents who have an interest in serving their community and participating in local government through a few board and committee opportunities.

The volunteer positions involve considering and making recommendations in regards to a wide variety of topics, including planning and zoning issues, development projects, libraries, parks and recreation facilities and programs, arts, culture and tourism matters.

The Affordable Housing Advisory Committee and the Ponte Vedra Zoning and Adjustment Board are both currently accepting applications. Applications for the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee are due by March 20. Applications for the Ponte Vedra Zoning and Adjustment Board are due by March 29.

Visit the Boards and Commission webpage at www.sjcf.us/boards to view the requirements and duties of each board and committee or to download an application. For more information, contact the Board of County Commissioners office at (904) 209-0300 or mlundquist@sjcf.us.

Nease NJROTC wins 5th consecutive state drill championship

Nease NJROTC laid claim to its fifth consecutive Area 12 State Drill Championship on March 3 in Douglas, Georgia.

Nease competed against the top 16 Navy high school JROTC drill teams in Area 12, which includes all of Northeastern Florida and the entire state of Georgia. Sixty NJROTC programs competed at local drill meets during the fall and winter with the top 16 advancing to the state championships. Nease earned its berth by winning first place at both the Mandarin High School and Terry Parker High School drill competitions earlier.

“Everyone contributed today,” Cadet Battalion Cmdr. Peyton Gustafson said. “Our athletic and drill teams picked the right moment to deliver their best performances.”

In addition to winning the overall championship, Nease claimed first place in Personnel Inspection, Overall Drill, Armed Exhibition and 16x100 Relay. Nease NJROTC earned second place in Overall Athletics, Unarmed Exhibition, Pushups, Situps and 8x220 Relay, as well as third place in Unarmed Basic.

Two cadets also earned individual medals for achievement: Elizabeth Villalba (302) in Situps and Erin Sass (103) in Pushups.

“We knew we were in second place going into the final Relays,” Cadet Troy Barber said. “Everyone on the team gave



Photos courtesy of Nease NJROTC

Nease Battalion Cmdr. Peyton Gustafson and Battalion Executive Officer Emily Blackford receive the overall championship trophy at the NJROTC Area 12 State Drill Championships in Douglas, Georgia on March 3.



ABOVE: Cadets Genevieve Jacobi, Candice Edwards and Victoria Jacobi lead Nease's Unarmed Exhibition Drill Team to a second-place finish during the NJROTC Area 12 State Drill Championships.

LEFT: Cadet Drill Cmdr. Erin Sass and Platoon Guide Cadet Christopher Oliver lead Nease to a first-place finish in Personnel inspection.

max effort, which proved enough to win us the championship.”

Nease will now travel to the Navy National Drill Championships in Pensacola,

Florida, on April 5 and 6. Second- and third-place finishers South Effingham (Georgia) and North Cobb (Georgia) also earned berths at the championships.

Scouts

Continued from 4

ages 5 to 11 years old. This is the organization's first year of allowing kindergarteners and girls to participate.

Kindergarteners receive their Lion badge. First graders start out as Tigers and receive their Tiger badges at the Blue and Gold Banquet. Second graders receive their Wolf badges, third graders receive their Bear badges and fourth graders receive their Webelos 1 badges. Fifth graders start out as Webelos 2 and then transition to the Boy Scouts.

The following parent volunteers lead the Pack:

- **Cub master:** Rick Wicker
- **Den leader for girls Bears, Webelos and Arrow of Light dens:** Alina Keenbaugh
- **Den leader for the Arrow of Light:** Mike Horine
- **Den leader for the Webelos den:** Dan Dowling
- **Den leader for the Bear den:** Bill Vickers
- **Den leader for the Wolf den:** James Streit
- **Den leader for the Tiger Den:** Colleen Makey
- **Leaders for the girl dens of Lions, Tigers and Wolves:** Bonnis Davis and Trina Dockery

Throughout the year, the pack takes part in other events, including the Soap Box Derby, Raingutter Regatta, Pinewood Derby and a scout basketball clinic. The scouts also take camping trips and other trips, visiting the USS Yorktown in Charleston, South Carolina, and the Kennedy Space Center this past year. Cub Scouts Pack 277 also participates in several service projects throughout the year.

OBITUARIES

Albert Steven Klamroth

Mr. Albert Steven Klamroth passed peacefully on Feb. 19, 2019, surrounded by his family.

He was born in New York City on April 28, 1931, to Albert and Elsie Klamroth.



Albert Steven Klamroth

He had one brother, Richard Klamroth, also deceased.

Albert graduated from Stuyvesant High School in New York City and the University of Alabama. He was in the United States Air Force for four

years and the Army Reserves.

He had a successful career as a salesman, but his greatest pride was his own business, ASK Binders, in which he sketched artwork and designed graphics for binders and index systems.

He moved his family to the Beaches area of Jacksonville in 1977. He was a dedicated member of Palms Presbyterian Church for over 40 years and was the Superintendent of the Sunday School for several years.

He was a member of the National Exchange Club of the Beaches for over 30 years and was President of the Craftsman Printers Club of Jacksonville. He was the recipient of several awards including Man of the Year from both clubs and one award in which he received a military commendation for saving a man's life in a fire.

Albert leaves behind his wife, Louise; three daughters: Laura Hall, Ellen Cyphers, and Susan Shami (Charles); eight grandchildren: Sara Polatty (Ryan), Matthew Boggess, John Colin Boggess, Samuel Gard, Tanner Gard (Allison), Aubrey Sarasty (Nick), George Shami, and Albert Shami; and four great-grandchildren: Brenner Polatty, Alana Polatty, Rylan Polatty, and Emma Sarasty. His family was always the most important thing in his life, and we will always miss

his kind heart and loving nature. His passion was the beach, his sailboat, the ocean, and nature.

A memorial service celebrating his life will be held at Palms Presbyterian Church, 3410 Third Street South, Jacksonville Beach, FL on Saturday, March 16 at 11:00 am. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to The Exchange Club of the Jacksonville Beaches, P.O. Box 50795, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32240 or Community Hospice & Palliative Care, 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257.

Please visit the online tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.



A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre
3600 Third Street South (904)249-1100

Kevin Farley

Kevin Farley, 84, died March 1, 2019. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Crema-

tion Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Susan Carol Fiske

Susan Carol Fiske, 68, of Jacksonville, died March 4, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Eugene M. Frein

Eugene M. Frein, 72, died Feb. 26, 2019. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Rose Ann King

Rose Ann King, 90, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died March 1, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Jack Tadao Tendo Jr.

Jack Tadao Tendo Jr., 69, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Feb. 21, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.

Ponte Vedra resident Paul Tesori is the caddie for PGA TOUR golfer Webb Simpson, who won THE PLAYERS Championship in 2018. Tesori grew up in St. Augustine and played golf at the University of Florida, where he won a national championship in 1993. He played on the PGA TOUR a few years himself before becoming a caddie. Before Simpson, Tesori caddied for Vijay Singh, Jerry Kelly, Chris Couch and Sean O'Hair.

Paul Tesori

When you reflect on last year's win at THE PLAYERS, what do you remember most?

For me, it was the emotion of being part of winning the golf tournament. THE PLAYERS is the tournament I wanted to win more than any other besides the Masters. My grandfather and my dad taught me how to play golf in the area when I was 5 years old. In 1981, we went out to TPC before it was even grassed over, and we hit shots off 17. So, it was just that whole history I had. I also had a close call here with Vijay (Singh) losing by one. So, for me, it was finally checking that one off the box and getting that one done. Right behind that would be getting to experience it with my friends and family.

How do you think the course will play in March, compared to May?

March can be hit or miss. It might be 85 degrees, blowing 5 mph and beautiful. Or we could get one of our little nor'easters, and it could be 57 and blowing 25 mph with some misty rain. In May, we knew what we were going to get. We were going to get one or two days of some late afternoon thunderstorms. We were going to get warm weather, and the ball was going to go forever. March is our windiest month here, and it's also going to be 13 degrees cooler than it will be in May, so the ball is going to go a lot shorter. That's a big change there. A par 5 like No. 2 that we're used to hitting five wood off the tee and still getting home in two with a hybrid, is now going to be a driver or a three wood. Another example is No. 18. We hit hybrid off the tee the last day and probably should have hit a seven iron in the green for our second, and that's now going to be a three wood or a driver into that north wind.

How do you think your experience playing TPC Sawgrass in various months throughout your life will help Webb?

I'll have a bigger advantage the harder the conditions are. During the harder conditions, some of my knowledge about missed spots, where to leave the golf ball, how to play the golf course, will come into play. I think I've played over 700 rounds there. You can't take that away from me. No matter what, there are things I know there that people won't be able to figure out.

What's the story of the Tesori Family Foundation?

I always had a dream of starting my own foundation. At UF, we used to do one hour of community service each week. We went to a senior center, and there was a lady named Eileen there. We played Yahtzee every week, and it was something I always remembered. I said one day, I want to have my own foundation and try to do something for child poverty, hunger and seniors. For the first four or five years, my wife Michele and I did a lot of work in the local community with mostly homeless shelters, such as the Sulzbacher Shelter and the St. Augustine Coalition, and we did as much as we could for senior centers, too. Then, my son Isaiah was born with one extra chromosome, aka Down syndrome. Very quickly, the Lord gave us a push for what we wanted to do. We wanted to get more involved in the community of kids with special needs. It's really now blown up for us. Anybody who has met my wife and son, they know how quickly they can become a part of your heart, and they've done a tremendous job with that. With us winning THE PLAYERS in 2018, it's really brought a bigger light to the foundation. We were able to go over \$1 million this year since 2010, which we're excited about.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

How important has your faith been throughout your life?

There is nothing more important. My road was a little different than most. I kind of thought I was a believer. I was kind of walking in the light of saying I was a Christian. Not until later on in life, 2010 to be exact, did I look at my life and realize there was no fruit that showed I was a believer. So, I changed my life. I was baptized, became a follower of Christ and started walking in a different light. Very quickly, things started falling apart for me, worldly. I lost my job for the first time ever. That was when the housing crisis had really hit, so I had lost all of the money I had made. Everything worldly had been stripped, but it was the most at peace I had ever been in my life. It was such a great learning experience for me, knowing that the Lord was stripping me of those things I was holding onto. He stripped me of those things and showed me it's not about me, it's about him and what he's been able to give me. Everything then happened really quickly. The biggest being my boss, Webb Simpson, who hired me in 2011. He was a believer. He was struggling with his game at the time at 213th in the world. I was struggling as a new believer. He was able to help me out a lot with my faith, and I was able to help him a lot with his golf game. It was a good marriage for sure.

Edited by Jon Blauvelt

Foodies feast for good cause at 26th annual Chocolate and Beyond

By Jon Blauvelt

Between 300 and 400 chocolate lovers and foodies alike enjoyed sampling various culinary sensations for a good cause on Saturday at the 26th annual Chocolate and Beyond event.

Held at First Coast Technical College in St. Augustine and benefiting the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of St. Johns County, the March 2 event featured chocolates from chocolatiers such as Peterbrooke and Whetstone, as well as other culinary creations from restaurants such as Catch 27 and City Bistro. Produced by TASK (Teacher's Aid for Student Knowledge), the food fest also featured a silent auction with items including hotel and restaurant gift certificates, sports memorabilia and admission tickets for local, fun attractions.

According to Cheryl Freeman, director of RSVP of St. Johns County, proceeds from the event allow RSVP to recruit, professionally train, place and recognize its nearly 150 volunteers throughout all 40 schools in St. Johns County, while supporting its 40,000 students and more than 2,500 instructional staff members.

RSVP, said Freeman, consists of volunteers "55 years old and better" who address critical community needs, especially in education. The program includes mentors who work with youth facing challenging times in their lives, as well as tutors who work with students on academic advancement in reading and math. Volunteers also visit local preschool classrooms to assist in the Head Start preschool reading program. According to Freeman, RSVP additionally participates in one-time projects in the community.



ABOVE: Joopjang and Piya Chavalit of Peterbrooke Chocolatier enjoy Chocolate and Beyond at First Coast Technical College on March 2.



LEFT: Kadarieh Wiggins and Leslie Rodriguez of First Coast Technical College
Photos by Jon Blauvelt



Judith Tomes and Chef Michael Lugo of Michael's Tasting Room

RSVP is a federally funded program under the Corporation for National and Community Service and is sponsored locally by the St. Johns County School District. For more information, contact Freeman at (904) 547-3952, or visit www.rsvpstjohns.com.



Virginia Whetstone and Bruce Maguire of Whetstone Chocolates



The team from Purple Olive

SJCSD begins early registration for 2019-2020 school year

The St. Johns County School District (SJCSD) began early registration for the 2019-2020 school year on March 1. This registration is only for children new to the school district, including those entering kindergarten.

Early registration can be completed online at www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/student/enrollment or by visiting the student's assigned school website. To find the assigned school, enter the street address on the Attendance Zone Locator at www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/zoning/.

To be eligible for public kindergarten in the SJCSD, children must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1 and must reside in St. Johns County.

Other requirements for registration include:

- Birth certificate/Guardianship documents
- Documentation of a health examination performed within one year of enrollment
- Proof of completed required immunizations on Form DH680
- Proof of residence per the Residency and Guardianship Policy located at www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/student/residency/

For additional information on registration, contact the Student Services Department at (904) 547-7598 or the assigned school.

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Photos by Amber Lake

Local children explore the indoor playground at Sunshine Play + Learn in World Golf Village at the center's grand opening on March 1.



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It takes a village

Newly opened Sunshine Play + Learn offers community hub for parents and children

By Amber Lake

A new children's play center opened its doors to the community last week.

Sunshine Play + Learn, located in St. Augustine at the Shops at World Golf Village, specializes in inspiring creativity and fostering imagination through play for children up to 6 years old. Lisette Perdomo opened the center with the hope of introducing the center's indoor playground and its unique concept to local families in the St. Johns County area.

The center focuses on the "importance

of play" for cognitive development in children's growth. Its model is based on the idea that play is an essential tool for nurturing creativity, confidence, social development, emotional strength and problem solving, as well as advancing motor skills.

Seen last weekend at the grand opening, for example, a "police officer" carefully watered the flowers on her windowsill inside the brightly lit and colorful storefront of the center. Across the room, "Wonder Woman" was putting on makeup at her vanity while singing softly to herself. To the right, there was a "veterinarian" who was conducting a questionable procedure on an "exotic animal." As the "vet" tossed the "animal" aside, a second "police officer" drove by and hit a "pedestrian," who started to cry.

The center promotes this type of imagination with various play spaces that Perdomo says "mimic real life." Perdomo also hopes to offer an environment that nurtures the caregivers of children as well.

"It's great to meet other people from the community," Perdomo said. "A lot of people that live here are not from here. They don't have family and they don't have friends that have kids. That's kind of how I started (Sunshine Play + Learn). When I came here, I didn't know a soul and would just go to the library."

To help connect the community, Perdomo is working on introducing a few educational classes to the center next month. These would include a pre- and postnatal class, single mother's groups, speech therapy, grandparent story time, a dad's group, a developmental milestone class and a special needs group.

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NOCATEE HAPPENINGS

Nocatee hosts realtors for VIP tour of Spray Water Park

Local realtors had the opportunity to tour Nocatee Spray Water Park last Thursday, Feb. 28, before the attraction opens to the community.

In addition to a tour of the new amenity, guests at the VIP event enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, drinks and live music by Ted Jennings.

Opening Saturday, March 9, Nocatee Spray Water Park features more than 100,000 square feet encompassing a 42-foot water slide tower, five slides, a resort-style beach and interactive spray features. Nocatee residents and their guests will be able to interact with water features such as being sprayed while sliding, climbing and playing in a tropical island setting.

Nocatee Spray Park will have interactive features for kids and adults, centered around Whale Harbor, a four-story water slide tower that will be the tallest of its kind in Northeast Florida — with the top of the structure being higher than Rip Tide Slide in the Nocatee Splash Park. The Spray Park will also include Serenity Bay, a resort-style beach environment with beach volleyball; Scuttle Cove, a smaller spray park for younger children; Paradise Park playground; and Blue Water Bar & Grill, a restaurant serving both food and drinks.

The neighboring event field, which will be more than twice the size of the current event area, will be the new home for community events and concerts, including the monthly Nocatee Farmers Market, the Roscolusa country music festival, drive-in movie nights, concerts and more. Blue Water Bar & Grill will also be accessible from the new event field.

The general public is invited to tour Nocatee Spray Water Park on Saturday from 12:15 to 1:20 p.m. The Spray Park will be open to Nocatee residents for the rest of the afternoon, and the Splash Water Park will be open to Nocatee residents and their guests.

To learn more about Nocatee Spray Water Park, stop by the Nocatee Welcome Center, call (904) 924-6863 or visit www.nocatee.com.



ABOVE: Michele Daly, Maggie Martinez and Kathleen Floryan enjoy a VIP tour of Nocatee Spray Water Park on Feb. 28.



LEFT: Debi Kopp, Drew Kopp and Keely Kopp

Photos by Susan Griffin

Nocatee Spray Park will have interactive features for kids and adults, centered around Whale Harbor, a four-story water slide tower that will be the tallest of its kind in Northeast Florida.



ABOVE: LeeAnn Anderson, Ryan Turner, Wayne Novak, Father Michael Ellis, Josh Tonge, Shirley Patterson and Ed d'Avi break ground on St. Francis in-the-Field Episcopal Church's new Founders Youth Building on March 3.

RIGHT: Children participate in the groundbreaking event for the church's new youth building.

Photos by Matt Ray, Matt Ray Productions



Sacred ground: St. Francis in-the-Field Episcopal Church breaks ground on new youth building

St. Francis in-the-Field Episcopal Church broke ground on its new Founders Youth Building on Sunday, March 3.

Located on Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra, the church raised \$1,031,000 in four months for the new building and some other deferred maintenance items. The building will be a dedicated space for youth, ranging in age from nursery and toddlers to children and high schoolers.

"We are so very fortunate to have had such a successful capital campaign," church member Jan Kary told the Recorder via email. "We set a \$1 million goal and reached that — and exceeded that goal —

in just four months."

The fundraising campaign was led by Shelly Turner and Josh Tonge. The architect of the new building, Chris Kaye with PQH, is a church member. With Sauer Construction hired for the project, the church hopes to have the building completed by October 2019, in time for the church's annual "Rally Day," a kickoff to the 2019-2020 ministry year. The church announced its plans for the new building in fall 2018.

Visit www.stfrancisinthefield.net for more information on St. Francis in-the-Field Episcopal Church.



A rendering shows the plans for St. Francis in-the-Field Episcopal Church's new Founders Youth Building.

Rendering courtesy of Jan Kary

2018-2019 Florida Forum to conclude March 27 with football icon Tony Dungy

Proceeds to benefit Wolfson Children's Hospital

Pro Football Hall of Fame member and Super Bowl winner Tony Dungy will complete the 2018-2019 Florida Forum Speaker Series at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts on March 27 at 7 p.m.

Elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2016, Dungy's 31-year career in the NFL earned him an overall record of 148-71 as the head coach of the Indianapolis Colts and Tampa Bay Buccaneers. In 2007, Dungy became the first African-American coach to win a Super Bowl. In 2008, he set an NFL record for consecutive playoff appearances by a head coach, securing his 10th straight playoff appearance after a win against the Jacksonville Jaguars. A former player for the Pittsburgh Steelers, he won his first Super Bowl ring in 1978.

Known as a leader who emphasizes decency and respect, Dungy's memoir, "Quiet Strength: the Principles, Practices and Priorities of a Winning Life," was a No. 1 New York Times Bestseller. Dungy currently serves as an analyst on NBC's "Football Night in America" and is the national spokesperson for the fatherhood program, All Pro Dad.



Tony Dungy

Tickets are currently on sale for Dungy's Florida Forum presentation. Tickets begin at \$83 each for general seating and are \$100 each for preferred seating. Premium seating starts at \$283 for two reserved Bronze seating tickets and \$708 for two reserved Silver seating tickets that include invitations to the private receptions honoring the speaker. It costs \$1,417 for four reserved Gold seating tickets with private reception invitations. Patrons under age 30 may purchase Young Subscribers tickets for \$50 each.

The speaker series is produced by The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital. Proceeds from The Florida Forum benefit Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville and the creation of a new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), to care for the smallest patients. The series is presented by Wells Fargo, Florida Blue, Landstar and supporters of The Women's Board. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to The Women's Board website at womensboardwolfsonchildrenshospital.com.



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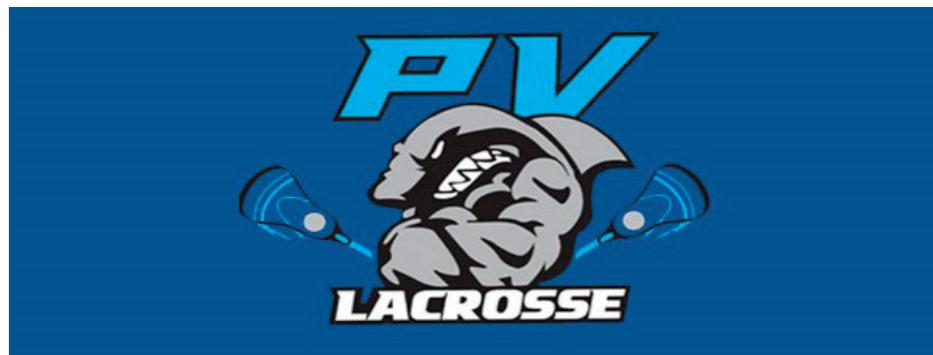
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Thursday, March 7	Friday, March 8	Saturday, March 9	Sunday, March 10
<p>Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance 2019 Literally meaning, "Competition of Elegance," in French, the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance is an automotive charitable event at The Ritz-Carlton Amelia Island. With over 250 rare vehicles from collections around the world, the Concours d'Elegance is a celebration of the automobile like no other. Can't go today? The "concours" lasts all weekend from March 7-10. For tickets and more information, visit www.ameliacconcours.org. The Ritz-Carlton is located at 4750 Amelia Island Pkwy. in Amelia Island.</p> <p>Sip, Style & Soiree Moms' Night Out at Wicked Barley Jacksonville Moms Blog is hosting Sip, Style & Soiree, a Moms' Night Out at Wicked Barley Brewing. The event starts at 6:30 p.m.. Get ready to mix, mingle and enjoy a fun night out in the beer garden and under the tent on the banks of Goodby's Creek. For tickets, visit www.904tix.com or contact Wicked Barley at (904) 379-7077 for more information. Wicked Barley is located at 4100 Baymeadows Road in Jacksonville.</p> <p>'Captain Marvel' premiere in IMAX Carol Danvers becomes one of the universe's most powerful heroes when Earth is caught in the middle of a galactic war between two alien races. Watch it on the big screen at the World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX Theater. Visit www.worldgolfimax.com for tickets and showtimes. The IMAX Theater is located at 1 World Golf Place in St. Augustine.</p> <p>After-Hours at THE PLAYERS Come support THE PLAYERS Championship by enjoying an evening of food, refreshments and networking with Northeast Florida business leaders at After-Hours at THE PLAYERS at TPC Sawgrass. The event is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This annual event hosted by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and JAX Chamber sells out every year. RSVP early to guarantee admission. Cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. For more information, call (904) 285-2004. TPC Sawgrass is located at 5387 Palm Valley Road in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p>	<p>Night Under the Stars St. Johns County Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the Ancient City Astronomy Club (ACAC) are hosting an educational evening that is out of this world. ACAC will lead an Astronomy 101 class that will teach participants all about the night sky. Bring friends and family to learn about the constellations, star names and more. Telescopes and binoculars will be on hand to view the moon, planets and other objects. The class will be held at the St. Johns County Fairgrounds and is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Reservations must be made at www.EventBrite.com. Contact Kelly Ussia for more information at (904)209-0335. The St. Johns County Fairgrounds are located at 5840 Florida 207 in Elkton.</p> <p>'Sand, Soul & Rock 'N Roll' exhibit opening at the Beaches Museum Music has long been an integral part of life in the Beaches community. "Sand, Soul, & Rock n' Roll: Music at the Beaches" will provide a look at the most popular local trends and venues throughout the 20th century. Memories, events, photographs and memorabilia that depict a fascinating time of changes in lifestyle and entertainment over only a few generations will be shared with all. Museum members, supporters and patrons are invited for a first look at the exhibit. The opening is from 6 to 8 p.m.. Contact the museum at (904) 241-5657 for more information. The Beaches Museum is located at 381 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Jacksonville Icemen vs. Greenville Swamp Rabbits at Veterans Memorial Arena Watch some live-action slap shots, tillies and dangling as the Jacksonville Icemen go up against the Greenville Swamp Rabbits at the Veterans Memorial Arena at 7 p.m.. Tickets can be found online at www.jacksonvilleicemen.com. The Veterans Memorial Arena is located at 300 A Phillip Randolph 300 Blvd in Jacksonville.</p>	<p>St. Augustine Celtic & Heritage music festival The sounds of the ancient Celtic peoples of Scotland and Ireland are as alive today as ever in America's oldest city at the St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival, March 9 and 10 at Francis Field. Take in the sights, sounds and tastes of centuries of European history with Celtic clans showing off their ancestral pride, Highland Games athletes demonstrating their strength, vendors offering Celtic cuisine and hand-made crafts and the St. Patrick's Day Parade marching through the streets of the ancient city's Historic District. Dance along as bands from Scotland, Ireland, Canada and around the U.S. play both traditional tunes and Celtic rock throughout the two-day festival. For tickets and more information, visit www.celticstaugustine.com. Francis Field is located at 29 W. Castillo Dr. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Lutheran Women's Missionary Society Rally Join the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) for the LWMS Spring Rally with keynote speaker Pastor Lucas Bitter. The rally is on March 9 and starts at 9 a.m. at Victory Lutheran Church and Preschool. Events will be scheduled throughout the day and lunch will be provided. LWMS wants to encourage women (and men) to learn about the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) and its mission efforts in North America and around the world. For more information or to RSVP, call Victory Lutheran Church at (904)642-8900. Victory Lutheran Church and Preschool is located at 4651 Kernan Blvd S. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Olivia Love 5k Olivia Love is a junior at Nease High School who has underwent brain surgery along with other procedures after getting seriously injured from falling from the rear of a golf cart. Join the Olivia Love Run 5k and one-mile fun run and help proceeds go to Love's family. The run starts at 9 a.m. at the Village Church and will take place in the scenic King and Bear Community. Register at www.floridaraceday.com. The Village Church is located at 4225 Pacetti Road in St. Augustine.</p>	<p>Sundays at Surfer the Bar Every Sunday, join Big Fish Power Yoga for a free Music & Flow class at Surfer the Bar. The class is held upstairs at the bar and runs from 10 to 11 a.m. every week. Bring friends and family and enjoy brunch and mimosas downstairs following class. Register under classes on bigfishpoweryoga.com. Surfer the Bar is located at 200 First St. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Swing Dance Sundays Swing Dance Sundays is a weekly event with free lessons starting at 7 p.m. at The Volstead. Attendees can either bring a partner or come alone. The Volstead is located at 115 West Adams St. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Festivals of Speed The luxury lifestyle Motorsports display will showcase over 300 exotic cars, motorcycles, watercraft and luxury brands. The Festivals of Speed show field has become known for its unique diversity, showcasing both vintage and contemporary vehicles of all makes and models placed for display on the fairways of the golf course. Guests will experience automotive designs by Porsche, Ferrari, Rolls-Royce, Lamborghini, Aston-Martin, BMW, Mercedes, McLaren and more, while enjoying wine, culinary offerings, on-site cafes, smooth jazz in the gardens and luxury brands. The Festivals of Speed is located at the Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort. The festivities begin at 10 a.m. and is \$20 per person. The Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort. is located at 39 Beach Lagoon Road in Fernandina Beach.</p> <p>Tank and the Bangas at the St. Augustine Amphitheater The Backyard Stage at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre welcomes genre-bending soul-funk group Tank and the Bangas with guests Alfred Banks and Maggie Koerner on March 10. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. and the show starts at 6:30 p.m.. For tickets and more information, visit www.staugamphitheatre.com. The St. Augustine Amphitheater is located at 1340C A1A S. in St. Augustine.</p>

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Monday, March 11	Tuesday, March 12	Wednesday, March 13	Thursday, March 14
<p>Trivia at Mellow Mushroom Join Mellow Mushroom every Monday night at 7 p.m. for trivia with Trivia Nation. This event is free to play and there are prizes for the winners. Mellow Mushroom is located at 1018-2 Third St. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>7th annual MS Silent Auction at Bogey Grille National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Awareness Week will be launched locally on Monday, March 11, at Bogey Grille in Ponte Vedra Beach, with the seventh annual MS silent auction. The event will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. and is free for all who attend. All proceeds from the event will benefit the North Florida Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Bogey Grille will also donate a percentage of food and beverage sales to the MS cause. Bogey Grille is located at 150 Valley Cir. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Last Samurai cocktail competition at Domu Jax Domu Jacksonville is hosting The Last Samurai cocktail competition sponsored by Noble Coyote Mezcal. The event starts at 9 p.m. with the competition beginning at 9:30 p.m.. Bartenders with a passion for crafting amazing drinks will be asked to create an Asian inspired Noble Coyote Espadin cocktail. Competitors will be given seven minutes to present two cocktails in front of three judges. Cocktails will be judged on presentation balance and creativity. The winner will be awarded with a Noble Coyote prize. All Competitors are invited to check in at 9 p.m., enjoy some food with friends and be ready to start at 9.30 p.m.. For more information, contact Domu at (904)683-1367. Domu is located at 4852 Town Center Pkwy #101 in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Jeff Tweedy at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Jeff Tweedy, the lead singer and founding member of Wilco and Uncle Tupelo, has created an eclectic body of work spanning four decades, which has solidified him as a major figure in Americana, indie rock and contemporary folk. The show starts at 7:30 p.m.. For more information, visit www.pvconcerthall.com. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p>	<p>Palm Valley farmer's market The Palm Valley farmer's market will be held every Tuesday from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Community Center at 148 Canal Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach. It features produce, seafood, jams, baked goods and peanut butter. For more information visit them on their Facebook page Palm Valley Farmers Market.</p> <p>Florida Blue free Tuesday at the Cummer Each Tuesday evening from 4 to 9 p.m. enjoy free admission to the Cummer Museum and its historic gardens, thanks to the generous support of Florida Blue. Guests can enjoy free admission to the galleries each Tuesday evening and the Cummer Café is also open for Tapas Tuesday sponsored by VyStar Credit Union. The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Author Steve Berry at The Bookmark New York Times and #1 internationally bestselling author Steve Berry will make an appearance at The BookMark on March 12 at 7 p.m. to introduce his new mystery, "The Malta Exchange"—the eagerly-anticipated fourteenth installment of his "Cotton Malone" mystery series. Berry has 23 million books in print, which have been translated into 40 languages. In "The Malta Exchange," former Justice Department operative Cotton Malone is in Italy, on the hunt for some legendary letters between Winston Churchill and Benito Mussolini—which could change the course of history. For more information, call The Bookmark at (904)241-9026. The Bookmark is located at 220 First Street in Neptune Beach.</p> <p>'Leaving a Legacy' with Susan Brandenburg Susan Brandenburg is an award-winning biographer who has partnered with local leaders to pen personal and family histories. For this community event, she'll share some of her writing techniques for autobiographies so that everyone can leave their own legacy. The 90-minute interactive program begins at 10 a.m. and will be hosted at River Garden Cohen Auditorium. For more information, call (904) 288-7855. River Garden Cohen Auditorium is located at 11401 Old St. Augustine Road in Jacksonville.</p>	<p>Greenhouse Yoga Join Maggie's Herb Farm every Wednesday and Friday morning from 10 to 11:30 a.m. for a mindful Kripalu flow yoga practice in the greenhouse at Maggie's Herb Farm. Soothe body and mind in the fresh air, grounded on natural, river pebbles for a unique greenhouse yoga experience. Practice yoga surrounded by beautiful greenery, butterflies, herbs, hummingbirds and free-range chickens. Attendees are encouraged to bring their yoga mat, towel and water bottle. Pre-registration is not required. Maggie's Herb Farm is located at 11400 Country Road 13 N. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Newcomers of the Beaches monthly luncheon The Newcomers of the Beaches Club invites new members to attend their luncheon the second Wednesday of each month. This social club consists of a diverse group of women who have recently moved to the beaches and/or have gone through a major life event. The luncheon will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sawgrass Beach Club. For more information or to make a reservation for the luncheon, visit www.newcomersofthebeaches.com. The Sawgrass Beach Club is located at 9795 Summer Place in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Let's Talk Turtle Join in discovering the wonderful sea turtles of Anastasia State Park on March 13 at 10 to 11 a.m.. Learn about how to identify turtle nests and hatching, along with the dangers they encounter after leaving the beach and beginning their journey in the ocean. This is a fun-filled, energetic program about these ancient animals who have been on Earth for millions of years. The program will take place at the Anastasia Watersports Classroom. This program is free with regular park admission. Anastasia State park is located at 300 Anastasia Park Road in St. Augustine. For more information, call (904) 461-2033 or email chanell.guillaume@floridadep.gov.</p>	<p>First Coast Newcomers Club of Northeast Florida archaeology talk Attend an archaeology talk with the First Coast Newcomers of Northeast Florida. Dr. Gary Mormino will speak about Florida and World War II at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum. The event is from 7 to 8 p.m. and is free for all who attend. For more information or for those needing special accommodations, call Allyson Ropp at (904) 829-0745. The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum is located at 81 Lighthouse Ave. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>THE PLAYERS Championship at TPC Sawgrass Hosted annually at TPC Sawgrass, THE PLAYERS Championship has been one of the PGA TOUR's most coveted titles. THE PLAYERS is one of the most anticipated tournaments on the PGA TOUR calendar, boasting not only the strongest field but also the biggest purse on the PGA TOUR. Watch as the greatest golfers compete for the championship. The championship lasts all weekend, from March 14-17. For tickets and more information, visit www.theplayers.com. TPC Sawgrass is located at 110 Championship Way in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Travis Scott: 'Astroworld Tour' at the Veterans Memorial Arena Houston rapper and hip-hop artist, Travis Scott is announcing the second leg of his "Astroworld: Wish You Were Here" tour. The tour promises some of his most explosive performances yet. The show starts at 8 p.m. For tickets and more information, contact the arena at (904) 630-3900. The Veterans Memorial Arena is located at 300 A Philip Randolph Blvd. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to Amber@opcfla.com or call (904) 686-3939.</p>

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TUESDAY, MARCH 12



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Local kids explore the indoor playground at Sunshine Play + Learn in World Golf Village at the center's grand opening on March 1.

Photos by Amber Lake

Sunshine

Continued from 8

Perdomo said that not only will the individualized classes offer something different for every parent, but there will also be classes that every parent and child can learn from.

"I don't have a child with special needs," Perdomo said. "But I want my child to know how to interact with another child that does."

Mainly, however, Perdomo wants moms, dads and grandparents from the community to have a place to come and interact with their children. She said that although there are more and more families moving to the area, there is a shortage of available kid-friendly activities. People as far as Ponte Vedra and Fernandina Beach have expressed interest in coming to the center, she said.



"There are a lot of people in this area that want more things to do with their kids," Perdomo said. "Especially when some of the older ones are in school."

Daily play passes for the center start at \$8 for infants and \$15 for children 1 to 6. Additional siblings are \$6. Outside of play days and educational classes, Sunshine Play + Learn can be booked privately for birthdays or events in their Rainbow Room, as well.

To find out more about the center, visit sunshineplaylearn.com.



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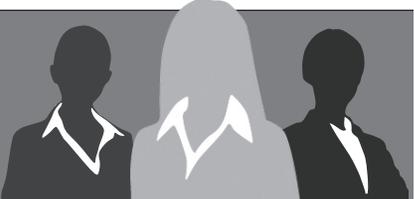
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WOMEN MEAN BUSINESS

Pages 15-22



The Morgan Company celebrates office relocation, success as women-owned business

By Daniela Toporek

In a world where many businesses are still primarily run by men, First Coast business owner Kim Scott is defying all odds with The Morgan Company.

A promotional product distributor offering corporate apparel, business gifts and many other custom branded products, The Morgan Company has been in business for 19 years and is continuing to grow. Previously located at the Beaches, the business celebrated the relocation of its office to the Hodges and Butler Boulevard area with a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 27.

“It was a super turnout,” Scott said. “We felt like we got to spend some quality time with customers and dear friends from the Chamber.

“Our move has really just kind of (created) ... a new energy,” Scott added. “There’s some great new energy and I’m excited about 2019 and exploring some opportunities and changes that we’ve never done before.”

Scott first opened the company alongside her mother, Samm Morgan, in their own home office in 2000. Her business gained so much traction that in 2010, The Morgan Company moved its offices to the Beaches.

“From 2000 to 2009, we both worked in our home offices in Sawgrass,” Scott said. “In 2010, the big change was leaving our home offices and getting an office outside of our home and asking Karen Butler to join me. And that’s the start of building our team.”

Butler is Scott’s long-esteemed colleague and was recently promoted to director of operations and marketing. She started with The Morgan Company in 2011 as a sales and marketing project manager and has been an “integral part of organizational development and growth,” according to Scott.

“It’s remarkable, not everyone can do it,” Butler said about Scott. “I’m proud of her. What small business lasts this long and continues to grow every year? We have the flexibility to put family first, yet still provide quality service to our customers. The lifestyle is amazing! You can’t find this type of happiness in the corporate world.”

When it comes to women in the business world, Jacksonville is surely progressing. According to U.S. Census Bureau data from 2012, 46 percent of



Photo by Susan Griffin

The Morgan Company celebrates its office relocation to the Hodges and Butler Boulevard area with the Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 27.

businesses in Jacksonville are owned by women, compared to only 40 percent nationwide. According to Data USA, however, “Males in Jacksonville, Florida have an average income that is 1.34 times higher than the average income of females. Thankfully for The Morgan Company, Scott said this reality hasn’t affected their progress.

“We’ve been so fortunate because we know that exists around us, but we have been in such a wonderful, tight-knit community that we haven’t really experienced that kind of negativity,” said Scott concerning gender inequality in the workplace. “We feel we built a reputation that allows us to bypass that.”

So what advice do these women in business have for young women trying to start up their own?

“I really think finding a mentor, whether in the same industry or not, but someone who has built a successful business to help avoid some pitfalls you might not know exist,” Scott said. “My mentor was my dad. I think his work ethic and drive and setting goals were really a great influence on me.”

Butler added: “Always surround yourself with people smarter than you that had experiences you haven’t had yet.”

Scott is also an advocate of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at the University of North Florida.



Women Mean Business

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Photo by Susan Griffin

The Morgan Company team gathers at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Pictured from left to right: Gennifer Mace, controller; Donna McDonough, new business development; Kim Scott, president; Karen Butler, director of operations and marketing; and Aimee Oakes product and sales specialist.

Morgan

Continued from 15

“Anyone that’s starting a new business, visit the SBDC at UNF and get a counselor that can help develop a plan because there are so many different aspects of having your own business, you can’t be good at every single thing.”

Scott explained.

The Morgan Company now has five employees and expects to expand even more this upcoming year.

“I’ve made a number of leaps of faith over the last few years and surrounded myself with some amazing women,” Scott said. “I am excited and proud to continue to grow The Morgan Company as a successful women-owned business.”



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Photo courtesy of Beaches Museum

Girlz Rule Band will perform at the Historic Beaches Museum Chapel on March 11 at 7 p.m.

Girlz Rule to perform at Beaches Museum March 11 in Chapel Concert series

The Beaches Museum and Lazzara Family Foundation will host Girlz Rule on March 11 at 7 p.m. as part of the museum's Chapel Concert series.

Girlz Rule Band is comprised of Heather Vidal, Lynley Tolls and Kristie Bobal. Vidal has multiple times been a nominee for Best Female Vocalist by the Trop Rock Music Association. Tolls is an award-winning vocalist with several honors from Beachfront Radio, The MEONA awards and 9Volt Magazine. According to the Beaches Museum, Bobal

has earned top reviews of her "passionate vocal delivery." The museum noted that one review states "She can go from a 'pin drop' quiet ballad to a raucous rock anthem with equal ease and confidence."

Advanced tickets cost \$25 and day-of tickets cost \$30. To order tickets, visit beachmuseum.org/tickets or call the museum at (904) 241-5657.

Chapel Concerts are held in the Historic Beaches Museum Chapel. Shows start at 7 p.m. Check in and refreshments begin at 6 p.m. Seats are first come, first serve.



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& Tears" annual DUI seminar. Ms. Johnson has been awarded the AV preeminent rating™ from Martindale-Hubbe® and was named a fellow to the prestigious Litigation Counsel of America™, as well as one of the ten best criminal defense attorneys nationally for client satisfaction by the American Institute of Criminal Law Attorneys. She also appears as a legal commentator on CNN and HLN.

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Southern Smash shatters myth of body perfection

By Amber Lake

In a world of fad dieting, Instagram models, “thinspiration,” Snapchat filters and detoxing, Ponte Vedra resident McCall Dempsey wants to break the bathroom scale. No, not by stepping on it the morning after an all-you-can-eat pasta night (we’ve all been there). Actually, Dempsey prefers a sledgehammer.

Welcome to Southern Smash, a nonprofit that is dedicated to raising awareness about eating disorders and celebrating true beauty and self-love. Founded in November 2012 by Dempsey, Southern Smash tours college campuses across the country to host events that include panel discussions, along with its “signature” smashing event, where attendees can smash scales to symbolize letting go of defining their value by a number.

The organization was recently recognized nationally for its work in the eating disorder field, receiving Eating Disorder Hope’s 2019 Seal of Excellence in the nonprofit category. This recognition is given to highlight significant contributions in the eating disorder field and for helping people find help, hope and healing across the nation.

“People think that eating disorders might be decisions of vanity or choice,” Dempsey said. “But they’re illnesses. The brain is part of the body just like any other organ. So, our mission is to really push that eating disorders know no bounds. They affect every race and every gender or socioeconomic level. One of our clinicians in a panel talk said that, ‘The only requirement to have an eating disorder is to have a body.’ That’s it.”

According to the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders (ANAD), at least 30 million people of all ages suffer from an eating disorder in the United States. In addition, eating disorders have the highest mortality rate over any other mental illness.

To address this issue, Dempsey has hosted Southern Smash events at Louisiana State University, the University of Mississippi, Duke University, the University of North Florida and Flagler College. She recently got back from a trip to UCLA in Los Angeles and Clemson in South Carolina, after having made appearances at over 100 different schools since the nonprofit’s inception. Her events draw students for not only being interactive but high-energy, giving away koozies and T-shirts and playing music. Southern Smash’s mission statement is, “to challenge men and women to rethink their beauty and redefine their self-worth,” Dempsey said.

“It’s really unique and different because it draws a crowd,” Dempsey said. “If I sat at a table and said, ‘eating disorder information’ nobody is going to come.”

At least that was the idea when she was first asked to come speak at LSU in Baton Rouge in 2012. At the time, Dempsey



Photo courtesy of McCall Dempsey

Southern Smash hosts events to raise awareness for eating disorders and promote healthy body image. After the event, the scales are sent to treatment centers for art therapy, which McCall Dempsey calls a “scale guts transformation.”



Photo by Collin Richie

McCall Dempsey, founder of Southern Smash

had been blogging about her experiences recovering from an eating disorder that lasted 15 years. She was treated at both outpatient and inpatient facilities after recognizing she had a problem with a host of issues, one forming after another. She struggled with anorexia, compulsive exercise, diet pills and bingeing, before identifying the illness through the help of a close friend, who suggested treatment.

“I had never thought about doing some-

thing public like that,” Dempsey said. “I called them back and said yes, but I have this really crazy idea — I want to do a scale smash. They said, ‘What’s that?’ And I said, ‘smashing bathroom scales with sledgehammers?’”

The event proved to be a success and afterward Dempsey said, “I just knew in my gut, this is why I am on this earth.”

Since then, she has worked to fight against the poor body image and nega-

tive self-talk that she says has become a “cultural norm.” She believes, however, that eating disorders are mental illnesses that, just like any other disease, are passed through genetics. Dempsey sees culture as “pulling the trigger” on what biology has already determined. She says that media and social influence play a significant role on whether or not these illnesses manifest themselves.

“Our society is a disordered eating society, and it tells us to be thinner, richer, whiter,” she said.

Dempsey would like to stress, however, that these illnesses don’t just belong to super models. They are prevalent in all types of people and body types. Sometimes, she says, they don’t even have anything to do with weight loss.

“This is not a rich, white girl disease,” she said. “We are seeing in children what used to be written off as picky eating. It’s actually an eating disorder. Not all eating disorders are a drive for thinness.”

In addition, she said that no diet is a good diet. Instead, she would like to make the focus on personal health.

“When we talk about diets, none of them are good, Dempsey said. “Anytime you cut out anything. Why not come from a place that we are all born with? It’s called intuitive eating. We eat when we are hungry and stop when we are full. It’s this amazing phenomenon that nobody seems to get. It’s not about, ‘Let’s eat cheeseburgers all day every

Women may need to make extra financial moves



Karsten Jacobson
Columnist

By Karsten Jacobson, CFP®

International Women's Day will be observed on March 8. Around the world, special events will celebrate the cultural, social, political and economic achievements of women.

This last area — economic progress — is one that still causes concern, however, and rightfully so, because women still face gender-related challenges. How can you deal with them?

To begin, you need to recognize the nature of these challenges. While many factors are actually responsible for women facing more economic pressure than men, two stand out in particular:

■ **Gender wage gap** — It's still around, despite some progress toward equality. The U.S. Census Bureau has found that full-time, year-round working women earn about 80 percent of what their male counterparts earn. Other studies show a slightly smaller gap.

■ **Caregiving responsibilities** — Women

typically take more time away from the workforce than men, both to raise children and then, later in life, to take care of aging parents. These absences can result in lost wages, lower Social Security benefits and fewer contributions to 401(k) and similar retirement plans.

So, given these realities, what can you do to improve your own financial outlook? Here are a few suggestions:

■ **Increase your contributions to your retirement plan.** Every time your salary goes up, increase the amount you contribute to your 401(k) or similar retirement plan. At a minimum, put in enough to earn your employer's match, if one is offered. These plans offer potential tax-deferred earnings, and since your contributions are typically made with pre-tax dollars, the more you put in, the lower your taxable income.

■ **Invest for growth.** Some studies show that men may invest more aggressively than women — though not necessarily more successfully. While you do need to invest wisely, however, you can't ignore the need for growth. Consequently, you should consider including a reasonable

JACOBSON continues on Page 20

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Hundreds run, walk for change at THE PLAYERS DONNA 5K

A field of approximately 1,750 runners and walkers participated in THE PLAYERS DONNA 5K at TPC Sawgrass on Saturday to support breast cancer research at Mayo Clinic and care for those living with breast cancer.

Runners and walkers of all levels enjoyed a 5K route through the back nine of THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass. The March 2 event, presented by Nimmicht Family of Dealerships, started and finished by the Davis Love III Tournament Entry, near the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse. After the race, participants enjoyed a post-event celebration and awards ceremony.

The top three overall male and female finishers were:

Males

1. Jonathan Hulzebos, 23 years old, 15:56
2. Christian Skaret, 26 years old, 17:54
3. Logan Sallas, 15 years old, 18:50

Females

1. Julie Stackhouse, 40 years old, 18:47
2. Allison Bovee, 38 years old, 20:48
3. Beth Boyer, 39 years old, 21:09

Visit thedonnafoundation.org for more information on the DONNA Foundation.



Runners/walkers participate in THE PLAYERS DONNA 5K at TPC Sawgrass on Saturday, March 2.



Photos by Ben Jared, PGA TOUR

Donna Deegan, founder of the DONNA Foundation, addresses attendees of THE PLAYERS DONNA 5K.



Jacobson

Continued from 19

percentage of growth-oriented investments in your retirement and other investment accounts, with the precise amount depending on your individual goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

■ **Look for income even while serving as caregiver.** Of course, you may never become the primary caregiver for your elder-

ly parents — but even if you do, it doesn't necessarily follow that you must forego all earned income. If it's possible, you could seek to go part-time at your current job, or request some type of telecommuting arrangement. And as long as you have some earned income, from somewhere, you can still contribute to an IRA.

■ **Manage retirement plan withdrawals carefully.** Once you're retired, possibly to become a full-time caregiver, you can take penalty-free — though still tax-

able — withdrawals from your 401(k) as early as age 55, provided you meet certain conditions. Once you're 59½, you can take penalty-free withdrawals from a traditional IRA, though the money will be taxable. While you can withdraw contributions you made to a Roth IRA at any time, tax- and penalty-free, you'll have to wait until 59½ to take out your earnings free of taxes and penalties. And you'll need to find a sustainable withdrawal rate so you can reduce the risk of depleting these accounts too early.

As a society, we are still working toward equality for all people — including economic equality. As a woman, however, you can't afford to wait until that day arrives, so you need to be proactive in seeking and maintaining your financial security.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor. Karsten L. Jacobson, CFP®, is a financial advisor for Edward Jones at 2208 Sawgrass Village Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Womens Food Alliance hosts 2nd annual Hospitality Social Expo



Event guests and various culinary and hospitality industry representatives enjoy the Womens Food Alliance's second annual Hospitality Social Expo on Feb. 26 at Morocco Shrine Auditorium in Jacksonville.

Photos by Susan Griffin



The Ponte Vedra Beach-based Womens Food Alliance (WFA) hosted its second annual Hospitality Social Expo on Tuesday, Feb. 26 at Morocco Shrine Auditorium in Jacksonville.

Guests at the tasting and educational event had the opportunity to visit 33 exhibits representing restaurants, chefs, cruises, caterers, wineries, entertainment, bakers, event planners and more. A portion of the proceeds from the event were donated to the Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech.

Founded by Ponte Vedra resident Leigh Cort, the WFA cultivates and advances networking, education and collaboration for women in the culinary and hospitality industry in the Northeast Florida region. Visit www.leighcortpublicity.com/womens-food-alliance.htm for more information.



THEME: 20TH CENTURY

ACROSS

1. Nibble away
5. *Information space
8. School support org.
11. Royal Indian
12. Short for Dorothea
13. Oak nut
15. And others, for short
16. Seat of intellect
17. Branch of philosophy
18. *War to end all wars?
20. Lump of stuff
21. Type of examination, pl.
22. Owned
23. Downer
26. Wiggle room
29. * ___-Wan of "Star Wars," a 20th Century Fox film
30. Tends to fire
33. Affirm
35. Grabbing tool
37. Blade drops
38. ___ ballerina or ___ donna
39. *Village People song
40. Verse with repeating lines
42. Bartender's Triple ___
43. Panhandler
45. *"Cheers" owner
47. Any high mountain
48. Like yellow polka dot bikini

50. Tropical edible root
52. *First on the moon
56. Holy See's administering body
57. Focuses
58. * ___ Lady, a.k.a. Margaret Thatcher
59. Newspapers and such
60. December 24 and 31, e.g.
61. Vena ___
62. Common conjunction
63. Itty-bitty
64. Fence piece

DOWN

1. Increased in size
2. *North Atlantic Alliance, acr.
3. Slightly open
4. Whack
5. Mark from a lash
6. Is dressed in
7. Dry riverbed
8. *Walt Kelly's comic strip (1948-1975)
9. *Aldous Huxley's journey
10. *Mandela's org.
12. Foil
13. Aquarium scum
14. *Conflict without active fire
19. One step to success?
22. "For ___ a jolly..."
23. Half-rotten
24. *Manhattan Project invention

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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.

25. Don't do this to words!
26. Raunchy
27. Dispatch boat
28. *Aden Emergency locale
31. Skunk's defense
32. *"The Century Trilogy" author Follett
34. *Space ___
36. *First in space
38. Manufacturing site
40. *Tupac's genre
41. Vomiting
44. Triumph maliciously
46. Song words
48. Treasure collection
49. Event host
50. U, on the road
51. Like Mojave
52. "___ Good Men"
53. Singular of #21 Across
54. Most luminous star
55. Buzzing pest
56. Number cruncher

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Smash

Continued from 18

day.' It wouldn't be healthy. Just like it's not healthy to eat kale all day every day. There's a balance."

At a Southern Smash rally, there are all types of people with all types of bodies. Dempsey believes just because a body isn't thin, doesn't mean it is any less healthy. What isn't healthy, she said, is obsessing over it. Instead, people should

be asking themselves the question, "If (I) weren't thinking about food and body, what would (I) have time for? How much free brain space would I have?"

For anyone struggling with eating disorders or negative body image, Dempsey recommends checking out the Health at Every Size philosophy or visiting the Turning Tides Eating Disorder Treatment Center at 4300 Marsh Landing Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach. For more information about Southern Smash, visit southern-smash.org.

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Business Weekly

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Analyzing the recent tumble of tech shares in the stock market

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The PARC Group unveils vision for eTown

The developer of Nocatee is at it again with another master-planned community, this time in Jacksonville's Southside with the highly anticipated smart-living community known as eTown.

The PARC Group unveiled its plans on Monday for the community, which will feature new single-family homes, apartments, retail and various amenities. The Welcome Center and initial neighborhoods are scheduled to open in summer 2019.

Located off State Road 9B and Interstate 295, and just three miles from St. Johns Town Center, eTown is built upon four core principles: community, technology, convenience and sustainability. According to the developer, the community will feature smart-home technology, Zero Energy Ready Homes™, eco-friendly features, community-oriented amenities, pedestrian- and electric car-friendly trails and convenient access to neighborhood services.

In addition, THE PARC Group says parks, ponds and paths will span the entire community, with 50 percent of eTown's acreage remaining undeveloped to preserve much of the area's longleaf pine habitat. According to the developer, the vision for the community is to strike a balance between convenient development and natural outdoor spaces.

"eTown is a one-of-a-kind community and a complete rethink of Jacksonville living," said Roger O'Steen, chairman and founder of The PARC Group. "With state-of-the-art homes, canopied walking trails, resort-style amenities and cafes and shops just a golf cart ride away, eTown offers a fresh approach to the modern lifestyle."

At the heart of eTown will be its Village Center, a walkable town center that will be home to retail shops, restaurants and neighborhood services, as well as "the 'Hub,'" the eTown Welcome Center. According to The PARC Group, the Hub will feature a gourmet cafe, traditional and co-working offices and evening gathering spaces with outdoor seating. The Village Center retail will be announced at a later date.

"In addition to having all the essentials for daily life located conveniently within eTown, residents will benefit from the community's central location," said Mike White, The PARC Group's director



Image courtesy of The PARC Group (etownjax.com)

eTown's welcome center, the "Hub," is scheduled to open in summer 2019.

of planning and development. "The St. Johns Town Center, University of North Florida and the region's fastest growing employment centers are right around the corner. eTown is also close to some of the region's best beaches, hospitals, schools and entertainment."

eTown's 5-acre amenity area will blend recreation with nature. The community's amenities, available exclusively to eTown residents, will include a resort-style pool with zero entry and an adjoining three-lane lap pool, a high-tech fitness center

with an outdoor yoga lawn, a Bier Garden with lounge seating and a fire pit, kids playground, event lawn and a lake-side dog park. According to the developer, the amenity area is scheduled to open in spring 2020.

Neighborhoods

eTown will feature several neighborhoods all centered on modern living, sustainability and smart technology. All will be named after renowned inventors and innovators. They are as follows:

Marconi

The first neighborhood to open at eTown, Marconi will feature newly constructed homes by David Weekley Homes and ICI Homes. This gated community will offer homes with a range of modern coastal, craftsman and farmhouse elevations, starting in the mid \$300s. The grand opening of Marconi is scheduled for May 2019.

Edison

Toll Brothers will build new homes in Edison starting in the high \$300s. This gated community will feature one- and two-story home designs featuring new architecture ranging from 2,500 to more than 4,000 square feet. Edison is scheduled to open in summer 2019.

Del Webb

An age-restricted, 55-plus community, Del Webb eTown will offer homes starting in the mid \$200s. The gated neighborhood will feature 5 acres of exclusive amenities, including an 8,000-square-foot private clubhouse, event lawn, resort-style pool and spa, state-of-the-art fitness center, multipurpose rooms and pickleball and tennis courts. The community will also have an onsite lifestyle director. Del Webb eTown will open in summer 2019.

ETOWN continues on Page 24

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Image courtesy of The PARC Group (etownjax.com)

The "Hub" will feature a gourmet cafe, traditional and co-working offices and evening gathering spaces with outdoor seating.

eTown

Continued from 23

Kettering

Providence Homes will introduce Zero Energy Ready Homes™ in Kettering. While all homes at eTown will feature various energy-efficient features and technologies, Kettering will be the only neighborhood offering homes with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Zero Energy Ready Home™ label, which are deemed to be so energy efficient that all or most annual energy consumption can be offset with renewable energy. Kettering is scheduled to open in spring 2020.

Nobel

This neighborhood by ICI Homes and David Weekley Homes is opening in late 2019.

Apartments

eTown will also feature an apartment community. Construction will begin in

spring 2019. The neighborhood, located at eTown's southernmost point, is scheduled to open in spring 2020.

The future of eTown

Builders are taking VIP reservations, and prospective buyers can contact the builders directly to learn more about new home-building opportunities.

In addition, The PARC Group will be launching the eTown Certified Agent program in spring 2019, giving real estate agents exclusive access to models and community updates before they're available to the public.

"eTown will be the first of its kind in our area — a relaxed suburban setting with a dynamic urban vibe," White said. "We're creating the ideal place to enjoy a convenient and modern North Florida life, and we look forward to sharing it with those who will call it home."

For more information about eTown, visit etownjax.com or email thehub@etownjax.com. To view an interactive map of the eTown community, go to discoveretown.com.



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Analyzing stock market volatility in the technology space



By Ric Schilling

Ric Schilling
Columnist

As you know, the stock market has become quite volatile the last few months, and one sector that has been particularly hard hit is technology.

The technology sector includes those companies that make computers, computer components, smartphones, networks and servers, internet-based content providers, social media firms and companies that sell products primarily or exclusively online.

Often referred to as the FANG group, the leaders include Apple, Netflix, Facebook and Alphabet/Google, with Amazon thrown in as well. While these names have all seen double-digit declines since their market highs in October, the question remains as to whether the glory days of double-digit growth are over or merely in hiatus.

Many believe these stocks have a bright future because our use of advanced technologies is still in its infancy. They postulated that technology will continue to evolve (we've certainly seen that) both in its capability and application, and our desire for these new features will be as unabated as it has been in the past. So, these companies, and others yet to be created, will continue to apply the lessons they've earned in new and exciting ways to improve our lives and our world. If that comes to pass, the recent downturn in these stocks will be but a small blip on an otherwise steady rise in their values.

That said, I suggest these stocks are moving from ones popular with traders looking for a quick profit to ones popular with investors looking for solid long-term growth. Technology companies have not traditionally been considered value buys as futures were less predictable than many blue-chip names and seemed to hinge on every new product announcement or feature improvement.

Our view of this sector may be changing, however, and with it, the base of stockholders may be shifting from the short-term speculators to the long-term growth-oriented investors. That would tend to reduce the volatility in technology stock prices as trading in these shares would be less intense, and that will further enhance the attractiveness of this sector for investors.

So, before deciding that technology is just too unpredictable to own as an investor, consider the benefits of a long view. Those who bought Amazon or Apple a few years ago have seen their investment double or more just by being patient. One word of caution, however, is to always diversify your investments so you are not overly committed to any one stock or sector. That way, the temporary fluctuations in one sector are often offset by contrasting performance in another sector or asset class. Diversifying is always the way to go. Do your own homework and work with a company/individual

who has your best interest at heart, such as an Independent Financial Fiduciary.

Frederic "Ric" Schilling is a Florida native, born in Jacksonville, Fl. Ric is President of Senior Guardians of America, a local North Florida firm specializing in tax reduction, long term illness planning, asset protection, probate avoidance and life income planning. Ric is a National

Speaker and Advocate on Senior Issues and has been featured by the Florida Times Union and WJXT, TV-4 in Jacksonville as an authority on Estate Planning and Retirement Issues. Senior Guardians has an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau and is a member in excellent standing with the National Ethics Association. Contact Frederic: 904-371-3302 or 888-891-3381 Please visit: www.seniorguardian.com

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Photos by Jon Blauvelt

Donna Guzzo, executive director of the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, and Vincent Pollaci of Weenie Panini gather at Art Tapas on March 1 at the Center.

Cultural Center celebrates the arts, 25 years in Ponte Vedra with Art Tapas

By Jon Blauvelt

From live dance performances to interactive painting, fashion to photography and pretty much everything in between, the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach exposed the community to an abundant “tasting of the arts” at its Art Tapas event last Friday, March 1.

With proceeds benefiting the Center's arts education program and underserved children in the nonprofit's spring break arts camp, the event gathered art, artists and patrons to connect in an environment of learning, experiencing and appreciating all that the arts, and popular culture, have to offer to the community.

“We are experiencing here tonight what the Cultural Center is all about,” said Donna Guzzo, executive director of the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach.



Daniel Bagan and Scott Grant

“The inspiration is to show the community that we have been here for 25 years.”

Among several other activities and attractions, the event featured culinary and crafts stations, performances from two dance companies, silhouette artists and local photographer Daniel Bagan, who sponsored the event and took professional

ART TAPAS continues on Page 27



Sue Garofalo participates in a community painting activity at Art Tapas.

Art Tapas

Continued from 26

portraits of guests. Bagan is known for his re-enacted portrait of Gloria Steinem and Dorothy Pitman Hughes. Attendees of the event also had the chance to participate in silent and live auctions. VIP guests enjoyed a jazz lounge sponsored by Perdue Office Interiors and Shaw Contract.

During the event, the Cultural Center additionally recognized co-founders Janet Wilson and Sandy Beers, as well as Barbara MooreWedow, who was named volunteer of the year. The nonprofit also honored Ellen Diamond for her 21 years of teaching at the Cultural Center.



Jen Ancelin strikes a pose at Art Tapas.

The seven-time Grammy-nominated singer and songwriter, whom The New York Times has called "a fiercely intelligent, no-nonsense singer," winds her supple, soulful voice around Dylan's poetic, evocative lyrics.

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Sports



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PGA TOUR FAN SHOP
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Sports Briefs, Page 30

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Nease girls end dominating season with narrow loss in state title game

Veteran coach proud of 'special group of players' as standout seniors prepare for next step

By Paris Moulden

"It's not the medal you've got around your neck, it what's behind the medal, in your heart."

That's what a former Nease basketball player told the Nease girls basketball team after its 43-40 loss to Dillard in the Class 7A state championship game on Saturday, March 2, in Lakeland.

It's something prolific girls basketball coach Sherri Anthony understands well, although it can be tough to accept in the immediate aftermath of such a heartbreaking defeat.

"I'm still walking around pretty aimlessly right now," Anthony said. "Still thinking 'what if this, what if that.'"

Anthony guided the Lady Panthers to a dominating 29-2 season, including a 41-home game winning streak, led by highly touted seniors Kiya Turner, Camille Hobby, Tia Robinson and Peyton Carter. The team looked ready to roll through the state tournament, especially after dethroning the defending state champion Fort Myers with a 52-40 in the semifinals on Friday night.

But the turnaround to play Dillard for the state title was a fast one — less than 24 hours — and may have taken a toll.

"We were just as prepared for Saturday's game (as Friday's), but physically you're more tired," Anthony said. "We played within 20 hours of the first game. Shots just weren't falling. Defensively we held them to 43 points which is good. We had a chance at the end with 5 seconds left and had an out-of-bounds play and went for that final shot. We hit that shot 80 out of 100 times, but it just didn't fall."

Anthony said she'd like to see changes to the state tournament made so teams have an extra day between games, giving players time to prepare, heal — and enjoy their previous win. Particularly between the semifinals and the final.

"All of the other playoff games (prior to



Photo by Hannah Favorite

The Nease girls basketball team gathers after beating Booker T. Washington in the regional finals on Feb. 22 at home. The team narrowly lost in the state title to Dillard, 43-40, on March 2 in Lakeland.

the state tournament), you have days off in between, then the most important game of the whole season, you have less than 24 hours to prepare," Anthony said. "I think the whole tournament would be better if everyone had that extra day."

But even with the sting of the loss still fresh, Anthony said she couldn't be prouder of her players and how they conducted themselves — on and off the court.

Three of the seniors — Hobby, Turner and Carter — have already signed with Division I schools, and Anthony expects Robinson to make her decision in the next few weeks. The coach is looking forward to being able to see them play at the next level.

She said this team's dedication to the sport and their loyalty to the program and each other were what really made them a special group.

"That's the legacy I've always wanted

for my program," Anthony said. "To be loyal, to be true to your school."

Loyalty is something Anthony has been able to instill at Nease, primarily leading by example. The coach finished her 33rd season at Nease and has compiled over 600 wins with the school. That loyalty was apparent in the state tournament, where a number of former players, including four of the starting five from the 1998-99 state champion team, made the trek to Lakeland to show their support.

"I'm very blessed to be the one who says, I coached all those kids," Anthony said. "It was amazing. That's the part that choked me up more than anything was to see them all together."

After 33 seasons, Anthony said it's the love of the game, and dedication to the players, that keep her coming back.

"I love to compete, I love the coaching aspect of it," Anthony said. "That's what

drives me to stay in it is because I like to see how I can get those kids to the next level or how I can make them a better player. That's the part I really love. I don't know what I'd do if I wasn't involved in it. I re-evaluate every year, but right now I don't see it not happening again."

And even though the season may not have ended the way she hoped, Anthony said it's hard to be too upset considering the season and a group of seniors who have gone 110-16 in just four years, including winning three district titles, four Sweet 16 games, one Elite Eight game, a Final Four game and finishing as the runner-up state champion.

"We can't be anything but proud and blessed at this point," Anthony said. "We would have loved to have won it all, but somebody's got to lose and it just happened to be us that day."

"... It's been a great, great journey."

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PVHS boys lacrosse tops Bolles

The Ponte Vedra High School boys lacrosse team defeated Bolles, 16-2, on Tuesday night.

Tony Rossi and Patrick Dotsikas each had three goals. Dylan Hess had one goal, four assists and five groundballs. Freddie Amato, Joe Tarboletti and Freddie DiMarzo each had two goals. Tommy Zitello also had five groundballs.

With the win against Bolles and previous wins over Woodward and Fleming Island, the Sharks are 6-0 and head to North Carolina for the Brine King of Spring Tournament. The team will play Lambert (of Georgia) on Friday.

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