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PONTE VEDRA



# Recorder

April 4, 2019  
Volume 47, No. 117  
75 cents

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## TEBOW TIME

Ponte Vedra native Tim Tebow hosted various celebrities last week at TPC Sawgrass for his foundation's annual gala and golf classic. *Flip to page 38 for more on the classic.*

Photos by Paris Moulden and Daniela Toporek

Kids  
Summer  
Fun Guide  
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Page 33



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**Hugh Osteen**  
Florida Market Manager  
hugh@opcfla.com  
(843) 858-0128

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

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

**Paris Moulden**  
Page Designer/Reporter  
paris@opcfla.com  
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3943

**Amber Lake**  
Reporter  
amber@opcfla.com  
(904) 285, 8831, ext. 3945

**Ed Johnson**  
Senior Account Executive  
ed@opcfla.com  
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3940

**Kristin Flanagan**  
Account Executive  
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3950

**Suzanne Kirby**  
Account Executive  
Suzanne@opcfla.com

**April Snyder**  
Sales Assistant  
aprils@opcfla.com  
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3937

**Bob Bueno**  
Circulation Manager  
bbueno@opcfla.com  
904-463-0962

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## Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. Email submissions to [pvrecorder@opcfla.com](mailto:pvrecorder@opcfla.com) or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach**. Submissions may be published in the paper, on our website or on our social media platforms.

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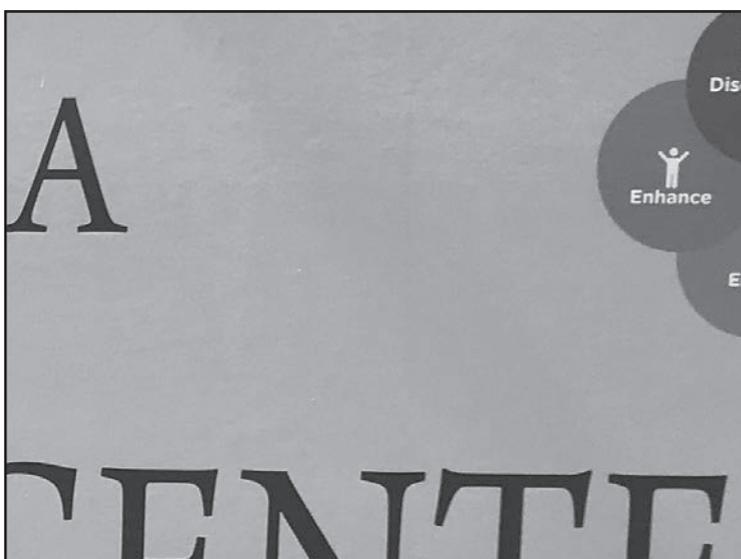


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Also, check out the **Ponte Vedra Recorder** channel on YouTube.

### WHAT'S THIS?



**Do you know what this is?**

Email your answer to [jonb@opcfla.com](mailto: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.

No readers correctly identified last week's sign. As a result, we're going to give you all another chance. Good luck!

### ADOPT A PET



#### CAT OF THE WEEK

Mitzy is a 9-year-old, loving and sweet cat who was brought to the Pet Center as an owner surrender. She is already spayed. Come visit her today at the Pet Center. #49017



#### DOG OF THE WEEK

Sara is a 10-month-old, spayed, female terrier/lab mix who came to the Pet Center as a stray. She gets along well with

other dogs and is extremely playful. Come visit Sara today at the Pet Center. #49195

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

A	L	U	M		D	A	M		C	B	S				
G	U	R	U		D	I	V	E	S	C	A	R	E		
E	L	S	E		A	N	I	S		T	H	R	O	E	
	L	A	S	V	E	G	A	S		E	E	L	S		
			L	E	M	O	N		B	A	S				
C	A	S	I	N	O				K	I	D	N	A	P	S
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2	4	5	6	8	7	9	1	3
6	8	1	4	9	3	5	7	2
9	3	7	5	2	1	8	6	4
8	6	4	3	1	5	2	9	7
1	2	3	7	4	9	6	8	5
7	5	9	2	6	8	3	4	1
4	9	2	1	5	6	7	3	8
5	7	6	8	3	4	1	2	9
3	1	8	9	7	2	4	5	6

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

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# County Commission votes for reallocation of tourism taxes for beach restoration but against raising them despite public support

By Amber Lake

It was clear that St. Johns County residents desire beach restoration in the two and a half hours of public comment at the March 19 County Commission meeting. How the Tourist Development Tax (TDT) will help fund it, however, was divided by the Board of County Commissioners, and remains a hotly contested topic more than two weeks later.

A vast majority of residents and speakers told the commissioners they preferred raising the bed tax a percentage point to supplement the cost of the beach restoration projects in question. Agenda item 11 at the meeting was aimed at amending the current Tourist Development Plan to allocate the additional tax revenues for the renourishment projects. Despite their pleas, however, the commission voted against the increase in a 3-2 super majority vote, with James Johns of District 1 and Jeb Smith of District 2 dissenting. A collective sigh of disappointment was audible after the vote.

The Board did vote in favor of agenda item 10, however, which instead redistributed TDT dollars for the beach restoration projects by the creation of a fifth category within the plan. The new category, called “Tourism Assets,” may be utilized for a variety of projects that “support a healthy and diverse tourism industry.” Projects include beach restoration and access improvements, boat ramps, sports and arts facility improvements, and land acquisition and programming projects.

The new reallocation plan will help pay for the beach restoration plans, both the dune restoration and 50-year U.S Army Corps of Engineers project, immediately. The projects are in the South Ponte Vedra and Vilano areas, respectively. The Ponte Vedra Beach proper project may also receive funding, although the plan is still in its development phase. The new formula is designed to allocate the \$2.3 million for fiscal year 2020 needed for both restoration projects. Smith was the only dissenting vote for both the Tourist Tax agenda items, with Johns voting favorably on agenda item 10.

Johns stated prior to the voting of the 5th cent agenda item, that he didn’t feel comfortable with the project partnership between the U.S Army Corps and St. Johns County.

“It is in summary — an open-ended check,” Johns said. “That we will be held liable for. Bottom line. In this document it states the specific cost of payment and funding and what’s expected, and the timing required to hold this contract. In short,



Photo by Amber Lake

all of these sources of funding will not achieve the goals that you are here begging us to achieve. That’s the bottom line. I can give you details to where it says, if the federal government determines this project will cost more, we have to come up with the difference.”

Both restoration projects require a local funding match that will be supplemented with state and federal money. Because the project requires this “funding match,” it was the crux of the three agenda items at the meeting, both the TDT agendas, as well as a vote on a proposed MSTU ordinance.

Commissioner Henry Dean of District 5 has been a longtime advocate of the renourishment project. He rebutted Johns’ allegations prior to the vote.

“If you remember (Jason Herrera of the Army Corps) told us at our last commission meeting, that we are not on the hook,” Dean said. “We are not going to be strung out to dry. He said that for if for some reason in the future, after the first construction, the second, or at any time, if we choose to not participate, they will simply not let the contract.”

In addition, Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker of District 4 refuted the claim.

“In life sometimes you’re not going to have a 100 percent solution, sometimes you’re going to have to work with a 70 or 80 percent solution,” Blocker said. “This is an option, and this is an opportunity for us address a problem. These renourishment projects happen all over the state and they are using the same legal framework we talked about. As a lawyer I’ve studied these frameworks before. With all due respect, I am going to have to disagree with you on that ... This is a solution that will help address this problem.”

Despite many members of the tourism industry coming forward in favor of raising the bed tax, St. Johns County residents seemed to be able to concede to the less favorable agenda item, because beach restoration is what’s most important to them, regardless of how it’s done. Attendees at the meeting did express concern, however, that the reallocation could negatively impact other categories of the industry, such as marketing or arts.

Tara Meeks, the tourism and cultural development director for St. Johns County’s Tourist Development Council, told the Recorder she doesn’t expect that outcome whatsoever.

“We’ve seen pretty consistent growth

for the last 10-plus years,” Meeks said. “It’s probably safe to assume that everything is not just going to go flat.”

In fact, Meeks said that the last time the bed tax ordinance was modified, in fiscal year 2012, the county collected \$6.9 million. Currently, in fiscal year 2019, they expect to collect \$13.2 million, over double since the last modification. That 12 percent growth enabled the county to reallocate the current 4 cent bed tax across each category, “without impacting the new revenue that those categories received,” she said.

“Both of the marketing contractors will see a 5 percent increase in their budget for next year in the draft budget,” Meeks said.

At the end of the day, St. Johns County is proceeding with its beach restoration projects, a cause that not one voice of public comment disagreed with.

One resident at the County Commission meeting compared the beach’s erosion issues to having a terminal illness.

“It’s like a person having a heart attack, you don’t decide if you’re going to get treatment,” he said. “You don’t decide if it costs this or it costs that. You just say, ‘Save my life.’”



Flower arrangement winners gather at the Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants event Friday, March 29, at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

## Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants draws nearly 60 people for 'Springtime at Downton' event

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants returned to the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library on Friday for its "Springtime at Downton" event.

Drawing nearly 60 people, the event featured 18 flower arrangements, several of which were created live in front of attendees by the Sisterhood. The Sisterhood is comprised of Cathy Snyder and Marilyn Smith.

The event also included discussion about the forthcoming "Downton Abbey" movie due out in September 2019, as well as flower arranging tips and more.

Each chair was adorned with a reading list of both flower arranging and "Downton Abbey" books owned by the St. Johns County Public Library System. The event concluded with the popular raffle allowing



The Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants — comprised of Cathy Snyder and Marilyn Smith — presents "Springtime at Downton."

many attendees to win arrangements and, in some cases, multiple arrangements.

The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.



Photos courtesy of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library Board Members Leslie Kleiman (president), Barbara Donnelly and Estes Carns sell raffle tickets and serve refreshments at the event.

### BRIEFS

#### Next MSD meeting to host Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker

The next meeting of the Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District (MSD) will be held Monday, April 8, at Our Lady of the Sea Catholic Church Cultural Center (545 A1A N, Ponte Vedra Beach). District 4 County Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker will be in attendance to give an update on important issues facing the county and will take questions from the public.

#### Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library to host biannual Book Sale April 9-13

The Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library will host their biannual Book Sale Tuesday, April 9, to Saturday, April 13. The event serves as a fundraiser for the library to buy new materials, host special programming and more. The Book Sale kicks off with a preview sale on April 9 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. for Friends of the Library (FOL) members. The Book Sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on April 10, and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on April 11 and 12. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 13. On this last day, attendees can buy a bag for \$10 and fill it to the brim with books.

#### Volunteers needed at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center

Volunteers are needed at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center to serve as coffee bar attendants on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m./noon; assist in the dining room on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays from 3 to 3:30/4 p.m.; and to assist the front desk receptionist on Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30/1 p.m. If interested, call Amy Leach at (904) 209-3686, or email aleach@stjohnscoa.com.

## SAVE GUANA NOW HOLDS GARAGE SALE FUNDRAISER

Nonprofit environmental advocacy group Save Guana Now held a garage sale fundraiser on Saturday at a home on Guana Lake with a view of the Outpost. The event included activities for kids, such as chalk drawing of animals of Guana, cornhole, limbo, bubbles and more. Save Guana Now is advocating for the preservation of the Outpost property, located at the end of Neck Road and adjacent to the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTM-NERR). Ponte Vedra Corporation, who owns the property, is proposing to rezone it from Open Rural to Planned Unit Development to build a 66-home subdivision there known as Vista Tranquila.

Photo by Susan Griffin



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*Richard Goldman is the president and CEO of the St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors & Convention Bureau (VCB). Goldman has lived in Ponte Vedra Beach since 1998 with his artist wife, Sharon. They have three grown daughters.*

## Richard Goldman

### Can you please briefly tell us about your background?

Prior to joining the Bureau in 2009, I served as the senior vice president and chief marketing officer for Amelia Island Plantation, where I managed a 13-member, in-house advertising and marketing operation. As chairman of VISIT FLORIDA's (VF) Board of Directors and with company executives, I facilitated the reorganization of VF into a more streamlined marketing company. I continue to serve on VISIT FLORIDA'S Marketing Committee and the Florida Tourism Council of Leaders. I am also past vice chair of the Florida Commission on Tourism and past chair of Florida's First Coast of Golf, a regional destination marketing organization. A graduate of the University of Florida, I started my career at Ogilvy & Mather advertising agency in New York and spent 17 years working for Ryder & Schild Advertising in Miami, including 10 years as the firm's vice president for marketing and research.

### What's the most rewarding part of your job?

Two things are particularly rewarding for me. The first is seeing that all of our stakeholders' employees are busy and earning enough to care for their families. That only happens when my dedicated team at the VCB successfully builds demand for Florida's Historic Coast® as a vacation and meetings destination. Second, when I see social media posts by past visitors sharing with their friends and relatives the amazing experiences they have had when visiting Ponte Vedra Beach or St. Augustine or Crescent Beach, it gives me a strong sense of pride. This destination has developed so positively in the last 10 years — even with the hurdles of two hurricanes in one year, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and, of course, the Great Recession — that I can't say enough about the work of my team and the business owners and entrepreneurs who have invested in Florida's Historic Coast.

### What's the state of the tourism industry in St. Johns County today?

Today, the industry remains strong even as some Florida destinations have begun to decline in visitation. Florida's Historic Coast now has a buzz that has put us on dozens of top 10 lists. From St. Augustine being named by National Geographic One of the World's Best Places to See Holiday Lights, to the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa being named a Top Ten Golf Resort in the U.S. by Travel + Leisure Magazine, our destination has earned the attention of the world and our employees deliver the kinds of experiences that keep visitors coming back for more. Last year, that attention helped to generate \$1.1 billion in direct spending by visitors to St. Johns County. And we have new hotels coming to St. Augustine and the Beaches after more than eight years without new properties. Those hotels will have parking for their guests, and that's something we have needed for some time.

### What are some of the challenges facing tourism today?

After the ever-increasing competition from other destinations and the need to raise the resources to compete, our biggest challenge is the perception of our business by residents. Tourism is an industry that has delivered such positive economic development and tax revenue for local and state government that residents don't have an income tax. What's more, tourism is a clean industry that generated \$2.4 billion in economic impact in St. Johns County last year. Visitors came, spent their hard-earned money and went home. Yet, we residents, in some cases, have blamed tourism for the rapid growth of our communities and congestion on our roads. Our industry must reach out to the communities in which we work to demonstrate the value of our visitors, and show that we can be good neighbors, sensitive to the needs of residents, and give back to our communities.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

### What's the future look like?

We will see continued improvement in the quality of dining, shopping and entertainment experiences around Ponte Vedra and all of Florida's Historic Coast because our visitors are becoming more sophisticated. They will demand better quality, and that means we residents will have more and better things to do and to brag about to our friends who live elsewhere.

### What do you enjoy most about living in the area?

I love that our kids could attend great schools and that Sharon, my wife, and I can now have a wonderful meal, view renowned artists or attend nationally acclaimed music events all in our own neighborhood. We don't have to spend hours driving to other towns for those experiences. We've loved living here for 20 years, but that wasn't always true about Ponte Vedra Beach.

### What do you like to do in your free time?

In our business, there isn't a lot of free time, but I have a vintage motorcycle that I can occasionally get Sharon out on for a ride in the country or a trip down to St. Augustine. I love fishing, whether it's for bass on one of our many lakes around Sawgrass or at the GTM where there are plenty of reds and trout in Guana Lake and out on the Tolomato/ICW. I also spend what Sharon thinks is too much time working in my yard, but I find it relaxing and a great diversion.

Edited by Jon Blauvelt

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Thursday, April 4	Friday, April 5	Saturday, April 6	Sunday, April 7
<p><b>Friends luncheon for the Family Opera Festival</b> Friends of First Coast Opera and Global Island Treasures invite all to a three-course luncheon at Terra &amp; Acqua in Sea Grove at 11:30 a.m. on April 4. Join for a fashion show by Donna Moody Gray of Global Island Treasures featuring her original pearl designs. All guests will receive a raffle ticket for gifts including wines from Tim's, located next door in Sea Grove. For questions and more information, call (904) 461-3561. For reservations, send checks for \$40 per person to Friends Of First Coast Opera, to 138 Herons Nest Ln. in St Augustine, Florida, 32080. This fundraiser will help with operatic programs next season. Terra &amp; Acqua is located at 134 Sea Grove Main St. in St. Augustine Beach.</p> <p><b>Intro series to power yoga</b> Intro Series is back in action. Big Fish Yoga's powerful Intro Series starts the yoga practice off right. Join the Big Fish teaching team and assistants in the classroom to learn the basics of yoga postures and why this practice works to create strength and flexibility in any body. Expect powerful results and clear understanding of the practice in this 10-class series meeting Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Price is \$125 for the 10-class series. Big Fish Yoga is located at 3852 3rd St. S. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>'Godspell' at Christ Episcopal Church</b> Christ Episcopal Church School of the Arts presents the Broadway classic rock musical "Godspell," based on the Gospel according to Matthew. Performances are at Christ Episcopal Church Ponte Vedra Beach. The show will feature 40 actors from all over Jacksonville, many who are from the Beaches. Premier party and opening night is Thursday, April 4. Party starts at 6:30 p.m. and showtime is at 7:30 p.m. with additional performances throughout the week until April 13. To purchase tickets or view showtimes, visit <a href="http://www.godspell.ticketleap.com">www.godspell.ticketleap.com</a>. Christ Episcopal Church is located at 400 San Juan Dr. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p>	<p><b>Ready to Roo Jacksonville: Cornhole tournament</b> Ready to Roo? The popular music festival, Bonnaroo, is hitting the road in April. Get a team of two together, RSVP to get added to bracket play, and bring some cornhole skills to Surfer the Bar on April 5 at 5 p.m. for a chance to win Bonnaroo tickets. Teams that RSVP will automatically be entered into the tournament. If RSVPs fill up, they will still be accepting a few teams day of, first come first served. Start the festivities with free stuff and complimentary drinks, quantities limited. Mark those calendars for fun games, chances to win tickets, drink specials, hangs with the Roo crew, and more. No matter if it's a 15-year Bonnarooer or new to the scene and interested in learning more, come join and start radiating positivity. Who knows, maybe go home with tickets to the festival. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.bonnaroo.com/ready-to-roo">www.bonnaroo.com/ready-to-roo</a>. Surfer the Bar is located at 200 First St. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Springing the Blues festival</b> Located at the Seawalk Pavilion in downtown Jacksonville Beach, the Springing the Blues festival will be hosted on April 5, 6 and 7 for three great days of blues on the beach. Springing the Blues is a free, outdoor blues music festival that celebrates America's indigenous musical form. The three-day oceanfront event features national, regional and local blues artists on two stages. Its energetic lineup, venue, food court, artisan marketplace and kids area attracts an estimated 125,000 fans each year, according to its official website. Festivities begin on Friday at 5 p.m. and lasts through the weekend until 8 p.m. Sunday. For more information or to purchase VIP tickets, visit the official website at <a href="http://www.springingtheblues.com">www.springingtheblues.com</a>. The Seawalk Pavilion is located at 75 First St N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Rhythm and Ribs festival</b> Voted St. Augustine's Best Food Festival by the readers of Folio Weekly 2019, the 24th annual Rhythm &amp; Ribs Festival returns on April 5, 6 and 7 at Francis Field. There will be award-winning BBQ, live music, arts &amp; crafts, vendors, children's games, rides, and more! The festival begins Friday at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Francis Field is located at 25 W Castillo Dr. in St. Augustine.</p>	<p><b>Springing the Blooms festival</b> The Beaches Museum is hosting the first annual Springing the Blooms festival on April 6 from 8 a.m. to noon. Taking place throughout the Museum's Pablo Historical Park, Springing the Blooms will feature horticultural exhibits, beekeeping demonstrations, honey tastings, family-friendly activities, educational lectures, face painting and live children's music on the historic Foreman's House front porch at the Beaches Museum. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Beaches Museum at (904) 241-5657. The Beaches Museum is located at 381 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Putting with Palms Golf Tournament</b> Palms Presbyterian Church announces its inaugural Putting with Palms Golf Tournament benefiting Palms' Youth on Saturday, April 6 from 1 to 7 p.m. at St. Johns Golf and Country Club. Whether it is golfing in the tournament, making a donation, becoming a tournament sponsor, spectator or coming and enjoying dinner, every donation matters and helps change lives. Cost is \$100 per golfer. For more information, contact Jimmy Steele at (904) 246-0594 ext. 113 or <a href="mailto:jimmy.steele@palmschurch.org">jimmy.steele@palmschurch.org</a>. This event is open to all members and guests. The St. Johns Golf and Country Club is located at 205 Saint Johns Golf Dr. in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>Victory Lutheran preschool open house</b> Join Victory Preschool for an open house to meet teachers, view the classrooms, and learn more about VLC's VPK program, "Coaching Children for Success," and the extended program. The open house is on April 6 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Stop by and enjoy some popcorn and goody bags. For more details, visit <a href="http://www.victorypreschool.org">www.victorypreschool.org</a>. Victory Preschool is located at 4651 Kernan Blvd S. in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Bach to Rock: Open house and camp registration</b> Bach to Rock will host an open house for its summer camp classes on April 6 from 10 a.m. to noon. Join for lesson demonstrations, tours, giveaways and more. Sign up for summer camp and score 10 percent off! Bach to Rock is located at 2280 3rd St. S. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>	<p><b>Sundays at Surfer the Bar</b> Every Sunday, join Big Fish Power Yoga for a free Music &amp; 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 <a href="http://bigfishpoweryoga.com">bigfishpoweryoga.com</a>. Surfer the Bar is located at 200 First St. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>Swing Dance Sundays</b> 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><b>Bank of America and Merrill Lynch present Museums on Us</b> The Cummer Museum of Art &amp; Gardens offers free admission on the first Sunday of the first full weekend of the month to all Bank of America or Merrill Lynch cardholders through the Museums on Us program. Each cardholder receives one free general admission to the Museum. For further information, please call (904) 899-6038. The Cummer Museum of Art &amp; Gardens is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Dolphin Paddle at Anastasia State Park</b> Join Anastasia Watersports and Marineland Dolphin Adventure at Anastasia State Park as they team up to offer a fun-filled interpretive paddle of Salt Run. On April 7 from 8 to 10 a.m., hop into a kayak, paddle onto Salt Run, and keep an eye for birds, turtles, manatees, and especially dolphins. Together the Anastasia Watersports staff and the Marineland educators will provide illuminating details about the ecosystem and its wildlife, with a special focus on bottlenose dolphins. The program is \$40 per person with boat rental included and \$25 for those bringing their own boat. The event will start with 30 minutes of classroom discussion, followed by 90 minutes of paddling. Come out and enjoy the real, undiscovered Florida. Anastasia Watersports at Anastasia State Park is located at 850 Anastasia Park Road in St. Augustine.</p>

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Monday, April 8	Tuesday, April 9	Wednesday, April 10	Thursday, April 11
<p><b>'Tales of a Vietnam POW'</b> The Palm Valley Community Association (PVCA) will host a special presentation, "Tales Of A Vietnam Prisoner Of War" with Charlie Zuhoski on April 8 at 7 p.m. Mr. Zuhoski was a Naval Aviator and an integral part of the American air campaign in Vietnam. In July 1967, his aircraft was hit by a surface to air missile, compelling him to eject in close vicinity of Hanoi, where he spent the next five years and eight months as a prisoner of war (POW). Mr. Zuhoski shares his life story and his time as a prisoner of war in a positive, informative way that all listeners will benefit from. The presentation, to be held at the Palm Valley Community Center, is open to the general public and supports recognition of the National Vietnam War Veterans Day, a U.S. holiday observed annually on March 29. The Palm Valley Community Center is located at 148 Canal Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Jewelry beading class</b> Join instructor Shirley Nacey at River House to make bracelets and necklaces with unique and intriguing beads to enhance one's style or as a gift to a family member or friend. Classes are held every Monday until April 29. Class hours are 1 to 3 p.m. Cost is \$40 for River House members and \$50 for non-members. Please call (904) 209-3655 to make a reservation. River House is located at 179 Marine St. in St. Augustine.</p> <p><b>The 'L' Word discussion group</b> The "L" Word is a peer-led discussion group that allows female/feminine and lesbian spectrum identified individuals to meet and discuss a wide range of topics on coming out, relationships, labels, family dynamics, etc. The discussion group is from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the UNF LGBT Resource Center. The discussion is open to all individuals falling on the female/feminine spectrum, including but not limited to nonbinary, gender nonconforming and trans, bisexual women, queer folks and questioning. Please note that The "L" Word is a peer group and that there is no mental health counselor or other accredited professional available at these events. The UNF LGBT Resource Center is located at 1 UNF Dr., Room 1111, Bldg 58E in Jacksonville.</p>	<p><b>Florida Blue free Tuesday at the Cummer featuring 'Kota Ezawa: The Crime of Art'</b> 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. This week in particular, enjoy the "Crime of Art." At 6 p.m., take a family-friendly interactive tour of "Kota Ezawa: The Crime of Art" through fun activities that incorporate close observation and group conversation. The tour will start at the entrance of the exhibition. Enjoy themed items in the Café and visit the Cummer Shop to find gifts for that favorite partner in crime. The Cummer Museum of Art &amp; Gardens is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Miriam's Seder with Beth El Sisterhood</b> Beth El The Beaches Synagogue Sisterhood invites the public to Miriam's Seder on April 9, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Miriam's Seder is an annual event where the Beth El Sisterhood celebrates the Passover story of Miriam. "Each year, it is a beautiful celebration with food, song and friends" said Bobby Adler, Sisterhood Co President. The special Passover event is shared with the women of Palms Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville Beach. "It adds to the special evening having women of a different religious background with us," said Vickie Kennedy, Sisterhood Co-President. "It opens up such a lively discussion and so much is learned." Both men and women are welcome to attend. Beth El The Beaches Synagogue is located at 288 N. Roscoe Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>First Coast Card Club playing date</b> The First Coast Card Club will host its playing date at the St. Augustine Main Library on April 9 at 1 p.m. The event is free to attend with walk-ins and guests welcome. Refreshments will be provided. Contact the club organizer at (904) 829-0643 to RSVP, for more information. The Main Library is located at 1960 N. Ponce De Leon Blvd. in St. Augustine.</p>	<p><b>Newcomers of the Beaches monthly luncheon</b> 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 on April 10 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 <a href="http://www.newcomersofthebeaches.com">www.newcomersofthebeaches.com</a>. The Sawgrass Beach Club is located at 9795 Summer Place in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p><b>Science on Tap</b> Join for this month's topic for the series of community science conversationson. The series occurs the second Wednesday of each month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Intuition Ale Works in downtown Jacksonville. This month's topic on April 10 is the "Geometry of Gerrymandering: Why redistricting is so difficult and how mathematics can help," featuring Dr. Erika Ward of Jacksonville University. Join for a brief mix 'n mingle at 6 p.m. with the presentation starting at 6:30 p.m, followed by a Q &amp; A session. The event is free and all are welcome to attend. Intuition Ale Works is located at 929 E. Bay St. in Jacksonville.</p> <p><b>Kayak fishing on Six Mile Creek</b> Join Park Naturalist AyoLane Halusky for a morning of freshwater kayak fishing on Six Mile Creek. Attendees will meet at the Palm Boat Ramp on April 10 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All attendees must bring their own boat, fishing license and fishing equipment. as well as weather-appropriate clothing, water and snacks. The event is open for all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Spots are limited and cost is \$20 for the program. For more information and to register, contact AyoLane Halusky at (904) 209-0348 or <a href="mailto:ahalusky@sjcfl.us">ahalusky@sjcfl.us</a>. The Palm Boat Ramp is located at 8698 Palm Fish Camp Road in St. Augustine.</p>	<p><b>Ponte Vedra Wellness Center third anniversary and community appreciation celebration</b> The Ponte Vedra Wellness Center will be hosting an anniversary party and community appreciation event at their Nocatee office to celebrate their third year of operation. The event, free and open to all, will be held on Thursday, April 11 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. The event has been designed to not only be a family-friendly afternoon, but also to showcase many Nocatee businesses and their particular services, along with a special offer or gift for all attending the event. The party will offer food, beverages, fitness demos and chair massages, as well as a children's area with activities and face painting courtesy of Sunshine Play + Learn. For more information, call the Ponte Vedra Wellness Center Nocatee office at (904) 834-2717. The Ponte Vedra Wellness Center Nocatee office is located at 205 Marketside Ave. in Nocatee.</p> <p><b>Intro to modern calligraphy</b> Always wanted to learn calligraphy, but didn't know where or how to begin? Join the Beaches Museum from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. for an evening of learning the basics of modern, pointed pen calligraphy. The class will cover basic practice strokes with a straight pen holder and nib, upper and lower case alphabet forms, and how to practice at home. Each student will receive a calligraphy kit with a straight pen holder and nibs, ink, paper, practice guides and a tote bag. Light refreshment will be provided. No experience is needed and all supplies are included in the cost. Space is limited, so sign up today. Cost for the class is \$120. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.calligraphybycami.com/">www.calligraphybycami.com/</a>. The Beaches Museum is located at 381 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p><b>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 Daniela@opcfla.com or call (904) 686-3939.</b></p>

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# St. Johns County receives top state rankings in health

For the eighth year in row, St. Johns County is ranked No. 1 in Florida in Health Outcomes (measures of today's health) and No. 1 in Health Factors (measures of tomorrow's health) in the national 2019 County Health Rankings Report.

"The rankings truly validate the long-standing efforts of working together across the public health system, making St. Johns County a healthy place to live, learn, work, age, and play," said Dr. Dawn Allicock, director and health officer with Florida Department of Health in St. Johns County. "Community partnerships are leveraged between clinical medicine and population health, to assure conditions for optimal health for people of all ages in St. Johns County."

The national study highlights the many factors that influence a community's health. "Health Outcomes" use length of life and quality of life as standard measurements to describe a community's health. "Health Factors" are indicators that help determine future health (i.e. factors that can ultimately make people sick or lead to an early death).

"The continued top ranking of St. Johns County in this report reflects the high priority the county places on health and human services, parks and recreation and other services that contribute to the exceptionally high quality of life in our community," said Paul Waldron, chair

of the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners.

The 2019 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps tool was released by the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The County Health Rankings use traditional, established data and vital statistics, much of which is ob-

tained through the Department's web-based community health assessment resource toolkit known as Florida Health CHARTS ([www.FLHealthCHARTS.com](http://www.FLHealthCHARTS.com)).

The Florida Department of Health in St. Johns County convenes and champions the St. Johns County Health Leadership Council. This nationally-recognized com-

munity collaborative consisting of over 20 engaged community partners is dedicated to improving the health of all people in St. Johns County. The annual Rankings report complement ongoing Community Health Assessment by the Council, and serve as a springboard for communitywide discussion for improving overall community health.

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## OBITUARIES

### Joan H. Collins

Joan H. Collins, 91, died peacefully on March 10, 2019, in Baltimore, Maryland, with her family at her bedside.

Born on Sept. 1, 1927, in Forest Hills, New York, to Joseph and Grace Higgins, she was in the first graduating class at the Greenwich campus of Convent of the Sacred Heart in 1946. She went on to earn an undergraduate degree in English from Manhattanville College in 1950. After receiving a Master of Teaching degree in 1978, she taught English and history at School of the Holy Child in Rye for 10 years, and history at St. Mary's School in Greenwich until she retired in 1992.

Joan Higgins married Paul D. Collins on June 28, 1952, in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. They lived first in Stuyvesant Town in New York City before moving to Eastchester in 1956 and then on to Rye in 1964 as their family grew.

It was in Rye that Mrs. Collins developed deep community roots, becoming an active member of the Resurrection St. Monica Mother's Club, as well as

the Twig organization, which benefited United Hospital, for 27 years. She was also the catalyst for the very active social life that she and her husband enjoyed throughout their lives, frequently organizing dinner parties, paddle tennis games, and bridge events. Many of her children would later remark, "Mom had a better social life than we did."

In the early 1990s, the Collinses moved to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, joining many of their friends from Rye and making many new friends. Mrs. Collins picked up right where she left off, with a social calendar that would exhaust most. She enjoyed all that her new community had to offer, including golf, the ocean and cultural events. She was active in the community, volunteering for Meals on Wheels and at the Ponte Vedra Library. She served in multiple capacities at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Her faith and social calendar took a backseat, however, to her love and devotion for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Neither she nor her husband ever missed a graduation, Holy Communion, Confirmation, or wedding.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 60 years, Paul D. Collins, and two brothers, Joseph Jr. and James Higgins.

Joan Collins is survived by her six children, Paul Jr., Candy Walsh (Tim), John (Monica), Stephen, Joan Mueller (Scott), and Kate Barron (Rob); as well as 17 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Her family would like to thank the lifelong friends who stayed in touch with their mother these past five years as she moved from Ponte Vedra Beach to Durham, North Carolina, and finally to Baltimore. "As our mom liked to say, she felt like a freshman with each move," they said.

A Mass of Life & Celebration was held at Resurrection Church in Rye on Saturday, March 30 at 11 a.m., followed by interment at Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx.

Donations in Joan Collins' memory may be made to Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Library, P.O. Box 744, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32004.

### Lyn Lavelle Derryberry

Lyn Lavelle Derryberry, 70, died on March 13, 2019, at her home in Starling at Nocatee. Lyn was born in Palmdale, California, but lived in the Jacksonville area for over 30 years. She was a retired administrator. She enjoyed her retirement, spending time with family, grandchildren and friends.

She is predeceased by her beloved husband, James N. Derryberry; sister, Lauren Ryan; father, John L. Mann; and mother, Billie June Mann. Survivors include her loving daughter, Splinter Vermeulen;



Lyn Lavelle Derryberry

son, James M. Derryberry; brother, John D. Mann; grandchildren, Elsa and Lilly Soderstrom and Noah Vermeulen.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 14, 2019, at Crosswater Community Church, 211 Davis Park Road, Ponte Vedra, Florida 32081.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials in Lyn Derryberry's name to Samaritan's Purse or Compassion International.

### Robert Charles Black

Robert Charles Black, 79, of Fleming Island, died March 29, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

### Thomas Scala Evans

Thomas Scala Evans, 29, of Jacksonville Beach, died March 28, 2019. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

### Alan R. Grant

Alan R. Grant, 60, of Jacksonville Beach, died on March 16, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

### L. Keith Hickey

L. Keith Hickey, 39, died March 22, 2019. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

### Francis Knowles

Francis Knowles, 88, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died March 30, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

### Christopher Ley

Christopher Ley, 48, died March 21, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz,

A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

### Harvey Lupu

Harvey Lupu, 84, died March 28, 2019. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

### Jessica Ann Moon

Jessica Ann Moon, 36, of Jacksonville Beach, died March 28, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

### Jacklyn Paulson

Jacklyn Paulson, 86, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died March 21, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

### Anna Theresa Pittman

Anna Theresa Pittman, 94, of Jacksonville, died March 25, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

### Inger S. Schaller

Inger S. Schaller, 85, of Jacksonville, died March 24, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

### Carol Shalla

Carol Shalla, 79, of Jacksonville, died March 29, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

### Rolando Pascual Vega

Rolando Pascual Vega, 79, died March 26, 2019. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

### Janet E. Peeler

Janet E. Peeler, 95, of Atlantic Beach, died March 17, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

### Lorraine Sacks

Lorraine Sacks, 89, died March 21, 2019. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravally.com

### William T. Voelker

William T. Voelker, 73, of Jacksonville, died March 17, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

### Michelle A. Wright

Michelle A. Wright, 55, of Jacksonville Beach, died March 20, 2019. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

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# 2019 KIDS Summer Fun Guide

April 4, 2019

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- First Coast Summer Camps
- Traditional Karate Studio to Move to Ponte Vedra
- Florida Film Academy Offers Classes in St. Augustine
- Entertaining Ways to Prevent Summer Learning Loss





## SPORTS AND ADVENTURE

### **Bud Beech Summer Camp**

Hosted at Ponte Vedra High School, Bud Beech Summer Camp offers a variety of sports and physical activities. Campers can enjoy basketball, dance, sports fitness and other fun and healthy activities. Lunch can either be brought from home or purchased for \$5. Camps will run from June 3 to Aug. 1 with the chance to choose which days to attend. Bud Beech offers half or full days from Monday through Thursday. For more registration, schedule and more information, visit [www.budbeech.com](http://www.budbeech.com) or call (904) 686-4075.

### **Jax Surf Camp**

Jax Surf Camp, run by Jax Surf & Paddle, is back in action and will host its surf and paddleboard camps in Atlantic Beach for kids ages 6 through 16 from June 3 to Aug. 9. The camps will include lessons on ocean safety, correct stance, proper paddling, standing up, what to do when falling and entering and exiting the ocean. Other activities will include paddle boarding, yoga, beach sports, races and more. All skill levels are welcome. After the first evaluation, students will be broken up into groups based on age and skill level to maximize the learning experience and fun. On the last day of camp, camp "graduates" will be rewarded with a pizza party and goody bag after a week of practice and hard work. Half- and full-day camps are available with lunch included for the full-day camp. Students must already know how to swim to attend these camps. For details and additional information, visit [www.jacksonvillesurfandpaddle.com](http://www.jacksonvillesurfandpaddle.com).

### **Tommy Hulihan Basketball All-Sports Summer Camp**

Located at St. Paul's Catholic School gym in Jacksonville Beach, the Tommy Hulihan All-Sports summer camp will run daily and weekly camps from June 10 to Aug. 9 with early drop-off and extended care available. Kids ages 5 through fifth grade will be able to partake in a variety of sports and activities, such as basketball, soccer, flag football, kickball, tag and more. Although lunch from home is required from Monday through Thursday, the camp will provide pizza and bowling at Beach Bowl every Friday. The camp also suggests kids to bring an extra snack if registering for extended care. For more details and registration, visit [www.tommyhulihanbasketball.com](http://www.tommyhulihanbasketball.com).



# Get prepared for summer camp season

Start gearing up now for summer camp plans to guarantee kids attend the camps they prefer.

Many people put off summer camp planning until it is too late. Parents should keep in mind that camps begin registration early in the year and have specific cut-off dates for enrollment. Parents who want to beat the crowds this year should consider the following to help plan a summer camp agenda.

■ **Attend an orientation seminar.** Take the time to visit prospective camps for a tour and use this open house as an opportunity to learn more about the programs offered. If available, find a camp employee to discuss your child's eligibility for enrollment. Some camps may offer webinars for convenience.

■ **Fill out the enrollment package completely.** Each camp has their own requirements for registration. Expect to submit some personal information, including a medical background and proof of insurance, names and numbers of emergency contacts, and any other pertinent information as it applies to the camper.



Photo courtesy of metrocreativeconnection.com

**Start gearing up now for summer camp plans to guarantee kids attend the camps they prefer.**

This may include allergies, fears, physical or mental disabilities, or even preferences in camp courses.

■ **Establish payment schedules.** Summer camps vary in price. The American

Camp Association says camp costs range from \$100 to more than \$1,500 per week. Many accredited camps, however, offer some sort of financial assistance for children from families with limited financial

means. If cost is a factor, be sure to broach the subject.

■ **Prepare children for the physical challenges a camp may present.** Summer camp activities may be rigorous, and campers may need to be cleared by a physician before starting. Be sure to schedule your child a physical and bring along any pertinent forms. Children also can increase their levels of physical activity compared to the often sedentary nature of winter. Such preparation can prevent injuries when engaging in outdoor and physical activities.

■ **Shop for supplies.** Camps are likely to provide a list of requirements with regard to clothing and other equipment campers will need. Make sure kids have enough shorts, T-shirts, socks, athletic shoes, swimsuits, toiletries and other camp necessities before they leave.

■ **Keep children in the loop.** Engage children in the planning process to help alleviate their fears and get them excited about summer camp.

Summer camp can foster lifelong memories. Parents can help kids prepare in advance for the fun that's soon to arrive.

## 2019 KIDS SUMMER FUN GUIDE

### CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

#### Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach will offer many camps and workshops throughout the summer for kids ranging in age. From Mini Creators (4-5 years old) to Youth Arts (6-8) and the Arts Academy (9+) to theater camp at the Alhambra (9-12 and 13-16), the local nonprofit is sure to have something of interest for your child. For more information, visit [ccpvb.org/arts-programs/youth-arts-camps-workshops](http://ccpvb.org/arts-programs/youth-arts-camps-workshops).

#### Bach to Rock Music Camps

The music school, Bach to Rock, will host several summer camps, each with a different musical theme. The Rock Band program, for ages 7 and up, will break children up into bands according to age and skill level and will teach them how to play in an ensemble while achieving their musical objectives. The Glee Club, for ages 7 and up, is an ensemble that focuses on reading music, intonation, listening skills, rhythm and vocal technique. The Glee Club allows students to embrace their inner stars while singing in harmony to choreographed songs. In Rock City World Tour, kids from preschool through first grade learn the basic concepts and movements associated with playing music, such as fast and slow, sound and silence, high and low and singing and playing major scales. Recording Arts: ProTools and Production, for ages 10 and up, gives campers the opportunity to "manipulate sound in an industry-level environment," according to the Bach to Rock website. Kids will use professional music equipment and technology to gain recording experience and create original music.

Bach to Rock has a location in Jacksonville Beach. For camp schedules and pricing, visit [www.jacksonvillebeach.b2rmusic.com/camps](http://www.jacksonvillebeach.b2rmusic.com/camps).

#### Jax Cooking Studio

For aspiring little chefs, Jax Cooking Studio will offer weekly half-day classes with a new cooking theme each week. From June through August, kids can learn basic cooking skills while working in a team-oriented environment. They'll also learn about kitchen hygiene and safety, food science and nutrition and the importance of sustainability and repurposing ingredients for new meals. At the end of each day, kids will be able to eat their own creations. Each Friday, children will cook their favorite recipe of the week or create their own dish from the knowledge acquired from that week. After this camp, the kids could even cook a family dinner at home! For more information about Jax Cooking Studio's weekly camps, visit [www.jaxcookingstudio.com](http://www.jaxcookingstudio.com).

### LEARNING AND LIFE SKILLS

#### MOSH Discovery Camps

From June 3 through Aug. 2, Jacksonville's Museum of Science and History (MOSH) will host Discovery Camps for children in kindergarten through eighth grade within the museum itself. Each weekly camp offers a unique theme relating back to science.

From the ocean and its inhabitants, to the inner workings of the human body, to even art and how it incorporates math and science, these little discoverers will learn what it takes to become architects, engineers, astronauts and more. Camps will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with extended care available. For registration and additional information, visit [www.themosh.org/educate/discoverycamps](http://www.themosh.org/educate/discoverycamps).

#### YMCA Super Summer Adventure Camp

First Coast YMCA's Super Summer Adventure Camp is back at it with more creative activities for kids to discover new skills for success, build self-confidence, make new friends and feel a sense of achievement. Campers will partake in activities involving arts and humanities, swimming, field trips and other outdoor adventures. Since the Y promotes the continuation of learning through the summer, the camps will also have a reading hour, as well as activities involving math and science. The camp will also incorporate the fundamentals of honesty, caring, respect and responsibility. Camps begin this summer depending on location. YMCA members will receive a 20 percent discount on summer day camp pricing. For locations, camp schedule and additional information, visit [www.fcmca.org/programs/camp/summer-camp/](http://www.fcmca.org/programs/camp/summer-camp/).

#### Girl Scouts Summer Camp

The Girl Scouts of Gateway Council will host their 2019 summer camp to girls entering first grade through 12th grade. Four types of camps are provided throughout the summer. Weekend camp is ideal for first-timers who can bring a parent to stay overnight. Sampler camp is designed for girls to "sample" the overnight experience with three days and four nights at either North Fork or Camp Kateri. Resident camp is the traditional Girl Scout experience. Six days and five nights at either Camp Kateri or North Fork will include field trips and off-camp adventures. Campers in seventh grade and up can take part in Camp on the Road, where girls can explore areas outside the Gateway Council. Not up for sleeping over? Day camp is offered at North Fork Leadership Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For camp schedules and registration, visit [www.girlscouts-gateway.org](http://www.girlscouts-gateway.org).



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- June 10-14: Sweet Baking
- June 17-21: Southern Comfort Foods
- June 24-28: Global Cuisine
- July 1, 2, 3 & 5 (no class 7/4) Culinary Bootcamp & Chocolate
- July 8-12: Sweet and Savory Baking
- July 15-19: Italian Cuisine
- July 22-26: Sweet Baking and Cake Decorating
- July 29-August 2: Culinary Bootcamp
- August 6-9: Southern Comfort Foods



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AGES 4-7 KIDS DANCE CAMPS  
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AGES 8-11

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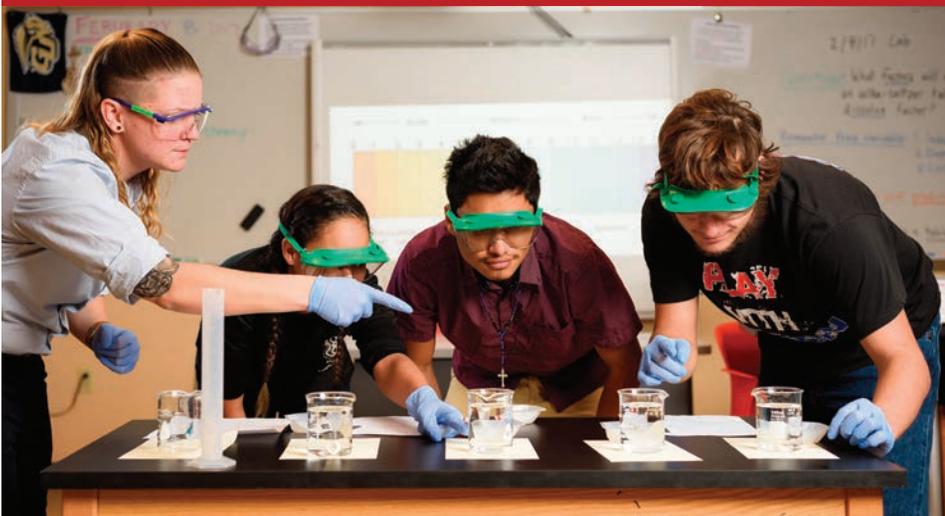
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Students and instructors at Shobukan Martial Arts Academy gather at their previous dojo in Jacksonville Beach. The academy is moving to Ponte Vedra Beach and opening April 10.

## Traditional martial arts academy moving to Ponte Vedra Beach

By Jon Blauvelt

A traditional martial arts academy that has been working with families in the Jacksonville area for more than 10 years is moving to Ponte Vedra Beach and opening in April.

Led by head instructors Richard Mustafa and Ray Peet, Shobukan Martial Arts Academy will be located at 110 Solana Road, Unit 104, after being in Jacksonville Beach for nearly four years and a few other Jacksonville locations beforehand. The official opening day for the new Ponte Vedra Beach dojo is Wednesday, April 10.

"I was looking for something in this locale for quite some time," said Mustafa, a sixth-degree black belt with 52 years of experience in martial arts. "I believe that it's an area that has a lot of good families. I think we can grow there very well and help a lot of different people."

Instructing people ranging in age from 6 years old to their mid-60s, the academy teaches styles and values that are rooted in the history and culture of Okinawa. The two disciplines they teach are Shobukan Goju Ryu (traditional Okinawan karate) and Matayoshi Kobudo (Okinawan weapons fighting system). Mustafa and Peet, a seventh-degree black belt, have been practicing Goju Ryu throughout their lives. Their respective ranks were awarded to them by their masters at their home dojo in Okinawa.

According to the academy's website, Goju Ryu is a close combat fighting



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

**Richard Mustafa works with a student at Shobukan Martial Arts Academy.**

system that comprises kicks, punches, takedowns, submissions, pressure point applications and strikes used to subdue an opponent, all while using the least amount of energy possible. It's highly effective as a self-defense system, as well as a close fighting technique.

"Traditional karate is taught for defense only," Mustafa said. "It's not an offensive martial art. ... I don't throw the first



**Head instructors Richard Mustafa and Ray Peet at Shobukan Martial Arts Academy**

punch. I try to talk my way out of it, (or) run away from it. Last means of defense, if I'm cornered, then I'll have to use all the means necessary to me to defend against an attack that is coming toward me."

Available to both children and adults, Matayoshi Kobudo uses an extensive array of weapons that include the Bo (staff), Sai, Tunfa (police baton), Nunchaku (nunchucks), Kama (sickles), Ueku (boat oar) and three-section staff, providing an extra line of defense in extreme situations.

Shobukan Martial Arts Academy pursues the virtues and characteristics found in the Bushido Code of Conduct, which includes justice, courage, benevolence,

courtesy, honor, temperance, wisdom and respect.

"Those are what we live by," Mustafa said. "Everybody who belongs to our dojo lives by this code."

Mustafa said students at the academy also learn self-respect, respect for others, discipline, self-confidence and self-esteem, which he noted are important skills and qualities for children, especially those who are being bullied.

Shobukan Martial Arts Academy currently works with 30 students on an ongoing basis, but that has been in their

**REVIEW**

‘Big: The Musical’ at Alhambra is reminder of how fun it was to be little

By Paris Moulden

“Big: The Musical” is currently playing at Alhambra Theatre & Dining and manages to hit all the highlight notes of the 1980s hit movie starring Tom Hanks.

The play follows the story of Josh Baskin, an almost 13-year-old boy who longs to be “big” after dealing with the daunting challenges of childhood, such as having to take out the trash, trying to talk to girls and being too small to ride a roller coaster at the local carnival. Disappointed and alone at the carnival, Josh stumbles upon a spooky Zoltar machine, which, for 25 cents, offers to grant Josh a wish.

The next morning, Josh wakes up in an adult body and is forced to run away from home after his mother, played by Katie Nettle, naturally refuses to believe the man in her kitchen is her 12-year-old son and calls the police.

Josh manages to convince his best friend Billy that he really is a middle-schooler trapped in an adult body and is forced to find a way to survive for a few weeks until Billy can track down the Zoltar machine. With Josh’s youthful exuberance, and particular knowledge of toys, he lands a job at MacMillan Toys, along with a company apartment.

The musical numbers work very well with the story, and there are a lot of fun, witty numbers such as “You’re a Big Boy Now” and “My Secretary is in Love.”

Josh, played by Ari Walz as a child, is played excellently by Rodney Holmes as the grown-up version, although, even as an adult, Josh still looks like he’d be quickly carded ordering a cocktail. But Holmes does a great job portraying Josh’s youthful mannerisms and wide-eyed innocence, especially when it comes to his early interactions with flirty office colleague Susan, played by Heather Kopp. Some of the best musical scenes are between Josh and Susan, particularly when a coy Susan and confused Josh perform “Let’s Not Move Too Fast,” after a first date, and when the pair perform “Stars,” after Josh introduces Susan to a world of make-believe in his apartment. Kopp does a great job making Susan appear tough and vulnerable, and her singing voice is beautiful.

Another fun aspect of the musical was the decision to stick to the 80s theme, from the wardrobe and hair, to the types of toys popular at the time. It definitely inspires a sense of nostalgia.

The musical version also maintains some



ABOVE: Rodney Holmes, as Josh (left), and Steven Flaa, as MacMillan, perform the popular piano scene in “Big: The Musical” at Alhambra.

LEFT: Josh and Susan, played by Heather Kopp, sing a duet in Josh’s “grown-up” apartment.

Photos courtesy of Alhambra Theatre & Dining



The young castmembers of “Big: The Musical,” including young Josh, played by Ari Walz (back row, right), and Billy, played by JonAshton Reid (back row, left)

of the best scenes from the Tom Hanks-starring original, including when Josh and MacMillan perform “Chopsticks” on the giant floor piano and Josh’s reaction to trying caviar for the first (and second) time.

Perhaps the biggest scene stealer of the play is JonAshton Reid, who plays Josh’s wisecracking best friend Billy, and delivers his lines with complete authenticity.

Alhambra’s performance, produced and directed by Tod Booth, makes the most of

its strong cast and multiple scene changes, and maintains the fun and heart of the original movie. After watching the performance, you may want to dig up the 1988 film and watch it again. Or you may just want to go outside and play.

“Big: The Musical” runs through May 5, followed by “Ain’t Misbehavin,’” which runs from May 8 to June 9. For more on Alhambra, go to [www.alhambrajax.com](http://www.alhambrajax.com).

For more *In the Arts*, go to page 33.

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# Shobukan

Continued from 18

Jacksonville Beach dojo, which is 1,100 square feet. The new dojo in Ponte Vedra Beach will be considerably larger at 2,500 to 2,600 square feet.

For those interested in joining, Mustafa said the academy allows prospective students to take a few introductory lessons free of charge. If they enjoy it, they can sign up and join, and don't have to sign a contract to do so. The dues will be changing at the new location and are to be determined. The academy helps students obtain a uniform and then guides them through the curriculum.

Mustafa said advancing through the curriculum requires serious dedication, noting that it typically takes about five years to get a black belt, and that's if the student is practicing at the dojo three times a week minimum, as well as at home.

"Karate is not just coming here and training," Mustafa said. "It's going home and using techniques in front of a mirror, so you can continue your training. It's all part of what you've taken through your heart as your art."

"It's an art you're going to learn the rest of your life," Mustafa added. "There's no end to learning in what we do."

For more information on Shobukan Martial Arts Academy, visit [shobukanmaa.com](http://shobukanmaa.com) or call (904) 612-7808.



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 July 22 - 26  
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<b>PAT METHENY</b> JAMES FRANCIES & NATE SMITH APRIL 9	<b>TINSLEY ELLIS</b> APRIL 19	<b>LAKE STREET DIVE</b> THE RAD TRADS JUNE 5
<b>RICHARD MARX</b> APRIL 11	<b>THE PSYCHEDELIC FURS</b> ROYSTON LANGDON APRIL 23	<b>STEVE EARLE &amp; THE DUKES</b> JUNE 6
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# Lights, camera, summer camp!

Florida Film Academy opens St. Augustine campus in time for summer fun

By Amber Lake

Perhaps you know a budding Scorsese, a little Meryl Streep or even a young Billy Wilder. No matter which side of the camera your kid adores, there's now a place ready to nurture their creativity and let their imaginations be the star of the show.

Recently, the Florida Film Academy (<https://ffilmacademy.com/>) opened a campus in St. Augustine, just in time for summer camp 2019. The Academy offers a variety of programs tailored to visual storytelling and open to students ages 7 to 12 and 13 to 18.

The camps welcome first-time students who may be interested in filmmaking, animation or acting. In addition, any students with prior experience can join higher-level camps. The programming includes, "The Wonderful World of Art & Animation," "DSLR for Teens," the "Art of Anime and Animation," "Lights, Action, Make a Movie!" a pre-college film, animation and visual effects camp hosted at Flagler college, as well as the classic "Make a Movie" camp.

Riley Chance, 12, has been to the camp for the past three years. She said that "Special Effects" week was her favorite, although she loved being able to learn all facets of the movie industry.

"My favorite aspect of camp is that it is so hands-on," Chance said. "I also love that you can try out different spots every time. One day you can do camera, then another you can do acting or editing. Every day is so interesting because we have different challenges or genres. I did a special effects week, which was my favorite week, and one of our challenges was to include a green screen."

Finding out what aspects of the industry they enjoy is one benefit to working together as a team to create a final product. Camp Director and co-owner Stefanie Robinson said there is an entire spectrum of life skills and applicable experiences that students can learn from participating in making a movie.

"They are certainly learning social skills above and beyond just the screen," Robinson said. "They are learning how to communicate, how to take responsibility, delegate and manage projects. It gives them a lot of confidence and it helps them be able to stand up for themselves at school, not just other students but with adults."

One of the original founders of the Academy, Kay Hill, found a "huge gap for creative kids" in programming after spending time in the U.S. producing episodes for a documentary series for National Geographic. The Academy soon opened a campus in Winter Garden, Florida, and currently provides summer programs around the U.S. and overseas. This summer in St. Augustine will be the first summer for youth education at the new campus.

Robinson said that the importance of filmmaking shouldn't be overlooked or understated.

"It's important to understand the importance and the value of telling a good story," Robinson said. "That is something that has been with us since the beginning of time. We've gone from oral storytelling from tribe to tribe to streaming everything on Netflix from our home. It's something that is at the core of the human experience."



Photos courtesy of Kay Hill

**The Florida Film Academy recently opened a campus in St. Augustine, which hosts summer camps designed to teach kids ages 7-12 and 13-18 the fundamentals of filmmaking.**





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**ABOVE:** Students from Beaches Episcopal School (BES) load more than 800 pounds of donated items to give to the Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) on March 29.



**LEFT:** Family members of BES students help with the project.

Photos courtesy of Beaches Episcopal School

# BES families give over 800 pounds of food to BEAM

On March 29, sixth-grade students from Beaches Episcopal School (BES) loaded more than 800 pounds of donated items from BES families to give to the Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry as part of the school's spring food drive.

"We consider it a privilege to be able to partner with such a wonderful organization who helps those less fortunate in our community," said Dallas Skornia, director of communications for BES, in an email to the Recorder. "Thank you, BES students, parents, and faculty for your generosity!"

BEAM is a 501(c)(3) community-based organization serving low income residents living in Jacksonville's beach communities. The nonprofit operates two food pantries and offers nutrition education, assistance with applications for SNAP benefits and Medicaid, and case management for single mothers working to break the cycle of poverty, among other services.

Visit [www.beachesepischool.org](http://www.beachesepischool.org) for more information on BES and [www.jaxbeam.org](http://www.jaxbeam.org) for more information on BEAM.



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# TAG! CHILDREN'S MUSEUM COMING SOON TO ST. AUGUSTINE



Rendering courtesy of PLACE Alliance

A rendering displays the plans for Tag! Children's Museum in St. Augustine, which is expected to be constructed later in 2019. To be located at 76 Dockside Drive, Suite 105, the Museum will provide an ever-changing array of playful, hands-on learning centered around science, technology, engineering, art, and math; environmental stewardship; history and culture; health and wellness; and citizenship and compassion. Find out more at [www.tagmuseum.org](http://www.tagmuseum.org). Do you want to get a jumpstart on the fun? Check out the Museum's workshops. The month of April is buzzing with Movers and Makers for preschoolers, a special family workshop exploring earth and space. Follow the Museum at [facebook.com/tagmuseum/](https://facebook.com/tagmuseum/) and find out about workshop tickets and information at [tagmuseum.eventbrite.com](http://tagmuseum.eventbrite.com).

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# Area residents enjoy Spring Fling at Nocatee Town Center

Several local residents visited the Nocatee Town Center on Saturday for the Spring Fling. The event was a free family and pet-friendly event featuring live music, a petting zoo, face painting, cookie decorating, food and beverage sampling and more.



Photos by Susan Griffin

# Fun 4 First Coast Kids hosts 4th annual Summer Camp Festival

Vendors in the categories of summer camps, schools, health resources and birthday party businesses came together on Sunday for Fun 4 First Coast Kids' fourth annual Summer Camp Festival at Above Athletics in Jacksonville. Attendees had the opportunity to engage with the vendors, sign up for camps and enjoy giveaways.



ABOVE: Fun 4 First Coast Kids owner Terri Mashour and her daughter enjoy the Summer Camp Festival at Above Athletics on March 31.

LEFT: Pamela Kennedy of Setzer, Cochran, Soares & Hubbard Pediatric Dentistry attends Fun 4 First Coast Kids' fourth annual Summer Camp Festival.

Photos by Susan Griffin

# Fireworks, theme nights headline Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp's 2019 promotional schedule

Affordable family fun is returning to the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville on Thursday, April 4, when the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp kick off their 2019 season with Opening Night.

Over the span of 70 fun-filled home dates, the Jumbo Shrimp have planned 22 fireworks dates, 13 giveaways, five free military appreciation nights and two specialty jersey auctions. The club also has a lineup of theme nights ranging from the World's Largest Outdoor Cocktail (Sauce) Party (May 31), where the Jumbo Shrimp will offer a #CrustaceanNation take on a Jacksonville tradition, to Ramen Noodle Night (June 22), when the team will celebrate the oldest anniversary in the history of Minor League Baseball with the 4,000th anniversary of the Ramen Noodle. On "Florida Man" Night (July 26), the Jumbo Shrimp and Jacksonville will break a weird Florida law in every single inning.

The Jumbo Shrimp will look to make history on July 30 for Dreams Come True (literal) 2 for Tuesday presented by Community First Credit Union. The club and Dreams Come True are partnering up as they welcome one Jacksonville Dreamer and a parent to be the only two people in the ballpark ... to set a Southern League attendance record of just two people. The Dreamer will throw out the first pitch and on Authentic Jersey Giveaway Night, those first two people through the gate will each receive an authentic Jumbo Shrimp jersey. Outside the ballpark on this



Logo courtesy of Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp

night, the club will hold a party beyond the Budweiser Tiki Terrace with a group singing of "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" to celebrate the Dreamer in style.

Halfway to Pumpkin Spice Night (April 27) will feature Pumpkin Spice Shrimp available at concession stands to a myriad of Pumpkin Spice prizes. The team will also give away 2,000 Jumbo Shrimp coffee tumblers to the first 2,000 fans to help celebrate the midway point in the calendar to pumpkin delight. In addition, the club will cel-

brate another mile marker on July 24 for National Drive Thru Day. The Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville will turn into the world's largest drive thru as cars come through each inning to grab their food from right field.

"Because of all the incredible support we have received in our first two years as the Jumbo Shrimp, we wanted to make sure our 2019 promotional calendar reflects our core values of affordable family fun," Jumbo Shrimp general manager Harold Crow said. "We have strived to expand many of our popular promotions, such as fireworks shows and giveaways, while offering new entertainment and fun for each fan who comes to the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville."

The Jumbo Shrimp's family fun is reflected in each of their weekly specials, leading off with up-close, memorable experiences for the youngest fans. These specials include Baptist Health Sunday Family FUNdays, Community First Credit Union Two For Tuesdays, NAPA Family Fireworks and Red Shirt Fridays, and Giveaway Saturdays, among others.

More details and a complete listing of the Jumbo Shrimp's 2019 promotional schedule is available at [www.jaxshrimp.com](http://www.jaxshrimp.com). Ticket packages including a 70-game Full Season, 35-game Weekender, 15-game Fireworks, 22-game Fireworks+Plus and Flex Plans in sets of a dozen or half dozen undated reserved seat vouchers are available now by calling the Jumbo Shrimp at (904) 358-2846.

## Entertaining ways to prevent summer learning loss

Summer vacation presents an opportunity for students to enjoy an extended break from the classroom. While this respite from routine may be a welcome change to youngsters, teachers frequently lament that valuable educational lessons seem to be forgotten each summer. Educators then face tougher hurdles when students return to school in the fall.

Such a phenomenon is dubbed "summer learning loss," but it can occur during any extended break from school. Scholars have realized for some time that students' rate of academic development declines during summer vacation. Oxford Learning, a tutoring and education training group, offers these eye-opening statistics.

- Over the summer, students tend to lose 2.6 months of math skills and two months of reading skills.

- Summer learning loss can be seen in students as young as 6.

- It can take up to two months from the first day of school to get students' brain development back on course.

Summer learning loss, sometimes called "brain drain," can be prevented. Proponents of year-round schooling at The National Association for Year-Round Education recommend a more balanced school year, where summer vacation lasts only 30 days and other school breaks are lengthened. In this scenario, the school

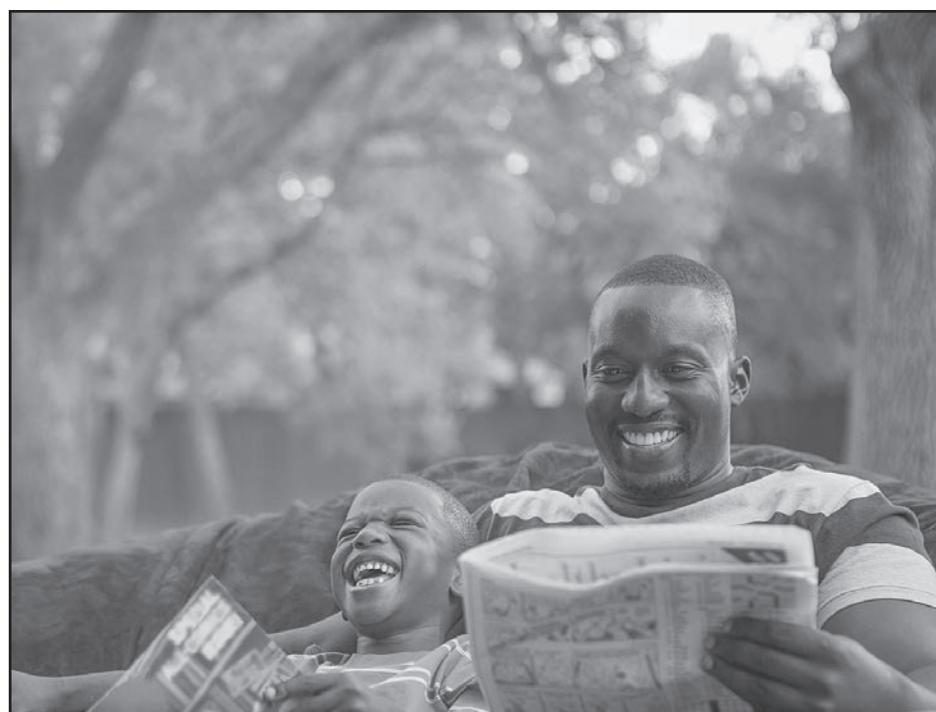


Photo courtesy of metrocreativeconnection.com

**Spending time doing a little summer reading is a good — and enjoyable — way to keep kids from losing reading skills over the school break.**

year would still last about 180 days, but without the lengthy breaks.

Parents may prefer the status quo, and those who do can take several steps to prevent summer learning loss from affecting their children.

- **Encourage more reading.** Schools recommend summer reading lists, but

students should also learn to read for pleasure. Research from the National Literacy Trust indicates reading for pleasure can improve reading attainment and writing, as well as one's general knowledge. Children can bring books to the beach that they can read between frolicking sessions in the waves.

- **Enjoy family game nights.** Games can be customized to highlight certain skills that require reinforcement. For example, math-centered games that require counting or addition can strengthen generalized math skills. Problem-solving board games may help children become better critical thinkers.

- **Make vacations educational.** Add travel to historical sites or other places of interest to help history come alive. When visiting new towns and cities, read the placards that explain important moments in history that took place in each town or city, making sure to include some thought-provoking areas of interest on your itinerary.

- **Look for science moments.** Trips to the seaside, parks and much more present myriad opportunities to learn about science. Children can stage their own experiments with items they find in nature, such as learning about tides, wind and water flow by sailing homemade boats.

- **Teach kids through daily tasks.** Barbecuing, making a cake, building a raised garden bed, seeding the lawn — each of these moments present educational opportunities for parents who want to keep their kids' minds sharp during summer.

Children need not fall victim to summer learning loss when their days are filled with educational but fun activities.



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# Business Weekly

Panera Bread to open  
in Nocatee Town Center  
later this year

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PAGE 29

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

Kris and Dr. Larry Moss gather with Sharon and Terry Fowler March 28 at a private reception at the Fowlers' home in Marsh Landing welcoming Moss as the new president and CEO of Nemours Children's Health System.

## New Nemours president, CEO welcomed at reception in Ponte Vedra

By Jon Blauvelt

A group of Nemours donors, executive team members and health care partners welcomed new Nemours President and CEO Dr. Larry Moss and his wife Kris to the community at a private reception in Ponte Vedra on Thursday, March 28.

Moss, a Jacksonville Beach resident, is a renowned pediatric surgeon, biomedical researcher, educator and health care system executive. He began his tenure at Nemours Children's Health System Oct. 1, 2018, succeeding Dr. David Bailey.

"It's been great," said Moss at the reception, which was hosted by Terry and Sharon Fowler at their home in Marsh Landing. "I love Jacksonville. I love the people. I love the community. Being part of Nemours is just something really special."



Reverly and Ryan Hart enjoy the reception for Dr. Moss.

Moss joined Nemours after serving seven years as surgeon-in-chief at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, and the E. Thomas Boles Jr. Professor of Surgery at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. Previously, Moss served as the inaugural chief of surgery at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital and Robert Pritzker Professor of Surgery at Yale University School of Medicine. He also served in leadership roles at Stanford University School of Medicine. He attended college at Stanford, medical school at the University of California, San Diego, and completed General Surgery Residency at Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle. He then moved to Chicago and completed Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO)/Critical Care and Pediatric Surgery fellowships at Northwestern University.

At Nemour's, Moss believes the organization is

NEMOURS continues on Page 30

## Boudreaux-Godwin, Blocker receive awards at St. Augustine Record's '40 Under Forty' banquet

By Jon Blauvelt

In addition to being included in the St. Augustine Record's inaugural "40 Under Forty" class, Ponte Vedra residents Toni Boudreaux-Godwin and Jeremiah Blocker received two awards at the March 28 banquet for the honorees.

Boudreaux-Godwin, the director of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, received the top award for Most Charitable Young Professional of the Year.

"I was honored to be recognized among such a phenomenal group of young professionals for the St. Augustine Record's inaugural '40 under Forty,'" Boudreaux-Godwin said. "It was so fun to see some of my fellow Leadership St. Johns classmates, friends and colleagues at the luncheon supporting recipients that they knew being recognized as well. However, receiving a top award for the 'Most Charitable Young Professional of the Year Award' is something I will not forget. Giving back to the community is very important to me and being recognized for that was truly a special moment."

Blocker, who serves as county commissioner for District 4, received the 2019 Young Local Government Officer of the Year award.

"I'm very appreciative and humbled," said Blocker, who provided credit to his family, friends, mentors and leaders,

AWARDS continues on Page 30



Photo by Susan Griffin

Toni Boudreaux-Godwin displays a plaque alongside her husband David after receiving the top award for Most Charitable Young Professional of the Year at the St. Augustine Record's inaugural "40 Under Forty" awards banquet March 28 at The Embassy Suites by Hilton in St. Augustine.

# Nemours

Continued from 29

uniquely positioned to profoundly influence the way America delivers care to children.

“What we’d like to see is a system that instead of getting paid for volume and complexity of treatment, we get paid for

health,” Moss said. “We’d like to flip that model and show the country that if we invest in the health of kids, we’re going to transform society.”

The Fowlers, who previously owned Havoline Xpress Lube, are one of many families who have been personally impacted by the work of Nemours. Their three grandsons spent considerable time there as a result of an extremely rare ge-

netic form of bone marrow failure called Dyskeratosis. Michael, the middle child, died at the age of 19, and Hunter died at 15. Matthew, said the Fowlers, continues to hang on at age 27. Throughout these struggles, the Fowlers said Nemours has been “awesome helping the boys.”

“Nemours is an amazing organization,” Terry Fowler said, “and it’s just a pleasure to give back to those they help.”



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

**Jeremiah Blocker received the 2019 Young Local Government Officer of the Year award at the St. Augustine Record’s inaugural “40 Under Forty” awards banquet.**

## Awards

Continued from 29

and the Lord. “You don’t accomplish things like that without great people investing in your life.”

Boudreaux-Godwin and Blocker were among 40 young professionals honored at the awards banquet held at The Embassy Suites by Hilton in St. Augustine. All nominees were reviewed by a panel of judges for the opportunity to be awarded specific category awards.

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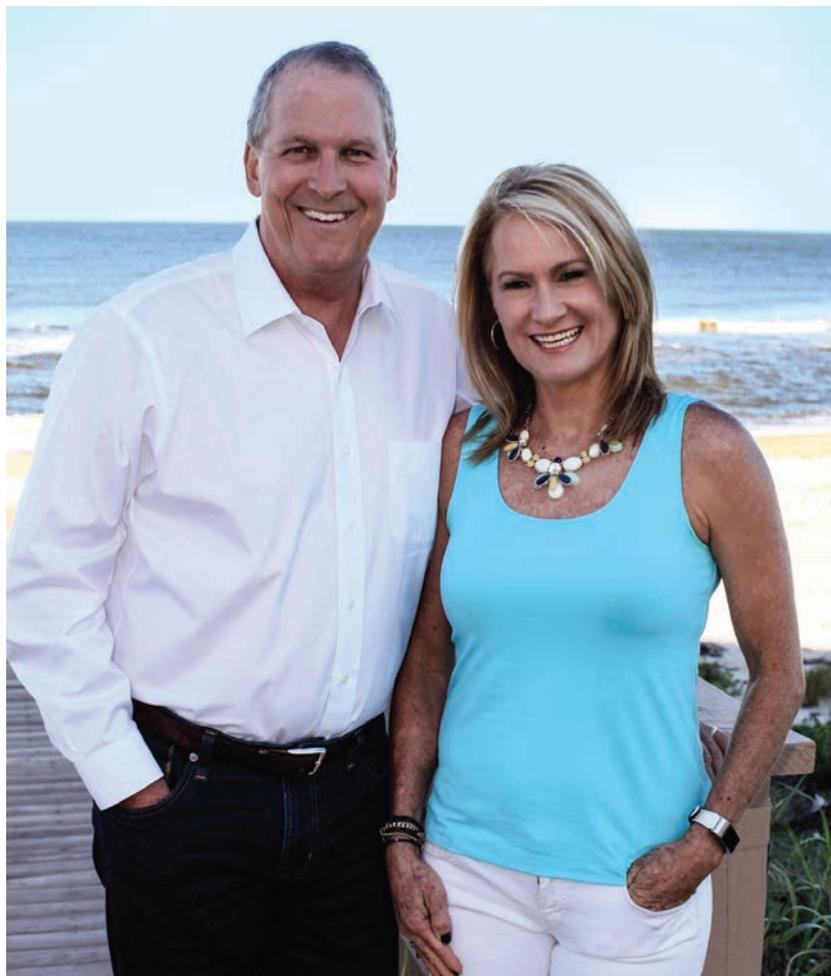
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# Ponte Vedra Wellness Center to celebrate 3rd anniversary in Nocatee

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center will host an Anniversary Party and Community Appreciation Event on Thursday, April 11, to celebrate their third year of operation in Nocatee.

Free and open to all, the event will be held from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the business' Nocatee office. The party has been designed to not only be a fun, family-friendly afternoon, but also to showcase many of Ponte Vedra Wellness Center's Nocatee business neighbors and the services they provide.

"The Nocatee community has been so welcoming and supportive of this practice over the past three years and it is so exciting to be able to celebrate how this practice has grown since we opened our Town Center office in 2016," practice owner Dr. Erika Hamer said. "The goal of this party is to say 'thank you' to all our patients and to the Nocatee residents who have been an integral part of our success. In addition, our desire is to help foster a strong business relationship with our Nocatee business neighbors."

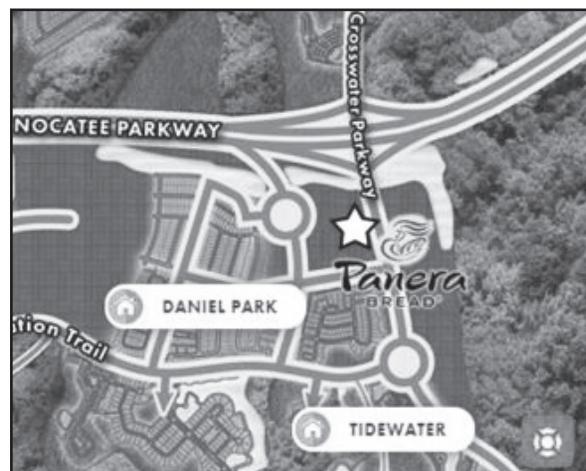
In addition to food, beverages, fitness demos and chair massages, the event will feature a special children's area with activities and face painting courtesy of Sunshine Play + Learn. Each participating Nocatee business will have a table or display set up to showcase their particular service, along with a special offer or gift for everyone coming to the event.

Also, each guest will receive a complimentary ticket for a Kona Ice treat, as well as a ticket to be entered into the raffle drawing. This year, many of the participating businesses have donated prizes, and the grand prize is a new beach cruiser. The first 50 people to arrive will also receive a gift bag.

Some of the businesses participating in this year's Anniversary Party/Community Appreciation Event are: Crosswater Dental Care, Barnhorst Eye & Laser Center, Dieticians of Palm Valley, Forever Vets, Little Crumb Cupcakes, NasCarts, Orangetheory Fitness, Pink Zebra, the Ponte Vedra Recorder, Ponte Vedra Training Company, Ponte Vedra Pediatric Dentistry, St Johns County Chamber of Commerce, Sunshine Play + Learn, Treylor Park and UF Health.

"This event is a great way to introduce people to the growing business community and great diversity of products and services now available," Hamer added. "We are thrilled to have so many new businesses joining us this year and we look forward to a great turnout in addition to a wonderful afternoon of celebration."

The event will be held outside Ponte Vedra Wellness Center, which is located in the heart of Nocatee Town Center at 205 Marketside Ave, next to Watson Realty, down the street from Publix. Call (904) 834-2717 for more information.



Panera Bread is opening in Nocatee in late 2019. The restaurant will be located north of Daily's and south of Nocatee Parkway.

Map courtesy of Nocatee Ponte Vedra www.nocatee.com

# Panera Bread to open in Nocatee late 2019

The PARC Group and Regency Centers announced on Friday the addition of Panera Bread to Nocatee Town Center's retail lineup.

Projected to open in late 2019, Panera Bread will be joining other businesses such as Treylor Park, Orangetheory Fitness and Timoti's Seafood Shak in the greater Nocatee Town Center community.

The new dining location will be opening in the heart of the Nocatee Town Center, directly north of Daily's and south of Nocatee Parkway (off Crosswater Parkway). It will also feature drive-thru capabilities.

"We are excited to sign the Panera Bread lease and add another high-quality restaurant to the Nocatee Town Center," said Patrick McKinley, vice president and market officer for Regency Centers. "The all-day café is a use that isn't currently offered in the community, and we are happy to have landed a best-in-breed operator. They are a leader in keeping their menu offerings fresh and using technology to make the ordering process and pickup seamless."

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Ashely Harper leads the disciples in the show-stopping "Bless the Lord" as Christ Episcopal Church presents "Godspell." The show opens Thursday, April 4 and runs through Saturday, April 13.

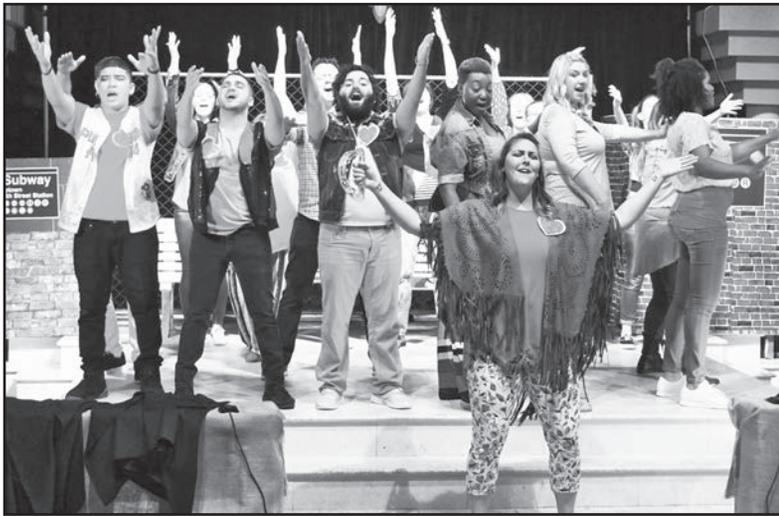


Photo courtesy of Christ Church

## Christ Church to present 'Godspell'

Christ Church School of the Arts will present Broadway classic rock musical "Godspell" starting Thursday, April 4, with performances through Saturday, April 13.

The play was the first major musical theatre offering from three-time Grammy and Academy Award winner, Stephen Schwartz ("Wicked," "Pippin" and "Children of Eden"). Based on the Gospel according to Matthew, the play follows Jesus Christ as he recruits a group of followers and teaches them various lessons. His messages of kindness, tolerance and love come vibrantly to life. Directed by Daniel Osofsky, the cast includes members of local theater groups, university theater programs and the Christ Church parish.

The premier party and opening night will be held Thursday, April 4. The party is at 6:30 p.m., with the show beginning at 7:30 p.m. Additional performances will be held April 5 and 6 at 8 p.m.; April 11 at 7:30 p.m.; April 12 at 8 p.m.; and April 13 at 3 and 8 p.m.

Purchase tickets at christepiscopalchurch.org. General admission is \$20 and preferred seating is \$25. The cost to attend the opening night party is \$40.

## PVHS drama department to perform 'Seussical The Musical'

Students at Ponte Vedra High School (PVHS) are bringing the magic of "Seussical The Musical" to the stage April 11-14.

To be held at the high school's auditorium, the show celebrates imagination by immersing characters and audience in the world of Dr. Seuss. This homegrown interpretation of the original Broadway play is directed by Jason Nettle, theater instructor at PVHS and Alhambra Theatre & Dining alum.

"In a society of standardized tests and constant stress about grade point averages, it's important to remember creativity," Nettle said. "Developing the creative part of our brains is just as important. Students need to keep believing it is alright to fail as well as succeed when they make strong attempts towards the unknown. Our world will continue to need innovators, and Dr. Seuss helps light that journey."

More than 100 students from the school's drama department will take part in bringing Dr. Seuss' world to

life. The show is open to the community, and \$10 tickets will be available at the door. Proceeds benefit PVHS' dramatic arts programs, including theater and singing productions that are open to the public throughout the year.

Running April 11-14, showtimes are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.; Saturday at 1 p.m.; and Sunday at 2 p.m.

"Seussical The Musical" is based on the children's stories of Dr. Seuss, with most of its plot based on "Horton Hears a Who!" and weaving in many other stories. A young character named Jojo uses "thinks" to fuel adventures that transport the audience to the Jungle of Nool, Circus McGurkus and Whoville.

The Broadway play was written by Tony Award winners Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty ("Ragtime") and is one of the most performed shows in the country. According to PVHS, it attracts children and adults with its memorable songs and visually engaging staging and characters.

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72						73				74			

### THEME: SPACE

**ACROSS**

- Not slouching
- However, poetically
- "Poor me!"
- Yo-Yo's instrument
- Read-only storage
- Clear the chalkboard
- Macho one
- Gobbled up
- Prepare for winter takeoff
- \*2001: A Space
- \*First man in space
- Rocketman's title
- Green gemstone
- Middle-earth creature
- Dharma teacher
- \*Like space
- Actress Gilbert
- Heartburn relief
- Parent, to a child
- All over again
- Pertaining to Os
- Rani's dress
- Great reviews
- 1,000 grams
- Moon pull
- \*NASA's human spaceflight program
- Major European river
- Huxley's choice
- Bookie's quote
- Two halves
- \*Robotic space explorer

**DOWN**

- \*Kennedy Space Center location
- Pleasant smell
- Be indisposed
- "\_\_\_ death do us part"
- Manicurist's office
- Court
- Underwater breathing organs
- Benevolent fellows
- Car nut
- Conversation starter
- Acoustic phenomenon
- Lou of The Velvet Underground
- Abounding with elms
- Teacher's audience
- Throat lymph node
- Carhop's carrier
- \*Like Venus
- \*\_\_\_ Centauri or \_\_\_ Nebula
- \*\_\_\_ 51
- Bear's den
- Fungal spore sacs
- "As \_\_\_ on TV"
- Push one's way into
- One of the Muses
- Internet pop-ups
- Comfy nightwear
- City in Japan
- Piled up, as in debt
- Words to live by

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- \*Falcon Heavy entrepreneur
- \*Kind of frontier?
- 21st century letter
- Smart candy?
- \_\_\_-and-true
- Military no-show
- Place for a house plant
- Business-oriented programming language
- Use a cat o' nine tails
- As much as necessary
- A southern \_\_\_
- Bert's partner
- Bud holder
- Instead of written
- Part of an egg
- Singer-songwriter Tori
- Popular pickling herb
- Promise to pay

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# Sports

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## Nease hires Collin Drafts as new head football coach

By Jon Blauvelt

Nease High School announced on Friday the hiring of Collin Drafts as the Panthers' next head football coach.

Drafts, a 33-year-old native of Beaufort, South Carolina, replaces Tim Krause, who left Nease for the head coaching position at Bishop Kenny High School.

"I'm just excited to get down there and get to work right away," Drafts told the Recorder. "Nease is a special place, and I'm just looking forward to getting the football program moving in one direction together and building a family feel there."

Drafts previously was the head coach of AC Flora High School in Columbia, South Carolina. There, he led the Falcons to a 9-3 record in 2018 after they went 0-10 in his first season in 2017. AC Flora kicked off the 2018 season 0-2, extending the 10-game losing streak to 12. But the Falcons persevered and won nine games in a row, breaking a record for the longest winning streak in school history. Drafts ultimately led AC Flora to the district championship and second round of the playoffs. He was named Coach of the Year in 4A Lower State as a result of the turnaround.

Drafts constructed a similar transformation in his first head coaching position at East River High School (7A) in Orlando, where he spent one season before moving to Columbia. At East River, where Drafts



Photo courtesy of Collin Drafts

**Collin Drafts is the next head coach of Nease football. Drafts previously was the head coach of AC Flora High School in Columbia, South Carolina.**

said the school had won eight games in four years, he transformed a 1-9 team in 2015 into a 6-5 playoff team in 2016.

Before East River, Drafts was the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at West Orange High School (8A) in Orlando under head coach Bob Head. Again, Drafts was part of a rebuild, as the Warriors won 32 games in the three years he worked on staff, after previously not making the playoffs in 15 years.

"He's (Draft) been involved in a couple

programs and taken them from places where things weren't the best and then able to climb the mountain and do it the right way and teaching them to understand to deal with adversity," Nease athletic director Matt McCool said.

While at West Orange, Drafts coached quarterback Woody Barrett, who is now the starting quarterback at Kent State after a stint in junior college and initial start at Auburn. He coached another talented quarterback, former Florida State starter Deondre Francois, as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Olympia High School (8A) in Orlando, where Drafts spent two years.

Drafts' success with quarterbacks shouldn't come as a surprise, as he played the position himself for seven years in the Arena Football League. He most recently played for the Orlando Predators, as well as the Jacksonville Sharks, Dallas Vigilantes, Amarillo Dusters, Green Bay Blizzard, Tri-Cities Fever and Manchester Wolves.

Drafts played college football at Charleston Southern University (CSU), where he was the 2005 Big South Offensive Player of the Year, leading the Buccaneers to their first-ever Big South Championship in that season. Playing for the Bucs from 2003 to 2006, Drafts is CSU's all-time leader in rushing attempts, touchdowns, pass attempts (BSC record), pass completions (BSC record), passing yardage, passing

touchdowns (BSC record), completions percentage (BSC record), total offensive yards (BSC record) and total offensive touchdowns (BSC record).

After his college career, Drafts was a graduate assistant at CSU and high school football coach in the Charleston area.

Drafts doesn't plan to move full-time to Florida until he fulfills his teaching contract in South Carolina, which ends in early June. Until then, he'll be "burning up the road," he said, taking trips down to Ponte Vedra to organize a staff and make the most of spring football.

Drafts has already had reason to get down to Jacksonville before the Nease job came to fruition. He has two children in the area, and moving to be closer to them was the "ultimate motivating factor" for him, he said.

Not to mention, he believes in the potential of Nease football. The Panthers went 3-7 in 2018, 5-5 in 2017 and 3-6 in 2016, so Drafts acknowledges the challenge that is ahead, especially with the Panthers bumping up to Class 8A. But, considering his track record, a challenge has not deterred Drafts before.

"I'm looking forward to build and do something special and be at Nease long-term," Drafts said. "I think it's got all of the pieces of the puzzle, and I'm excited to get down there and get to work as soon as possible."

## NEASE CENTER PRESENTED WITH MISS BASKETBALL AWARD

Nease senior center Camille Hobby poses with her team after she was presented with the 2019 Florida Dairy Farmers Miss Basketball Award during a ceremony Wednesday, April 3, at Nease High School. Hobby, an N.C. State signee, is only the fifth player from the Northeast Florida to be named Miss Basketball in the 27 years the honor has been awarded. Hobby averaged 18 points, 11 rebounds and 2.2 blocks per game, helping lead the Lady Panthers to a 30-2 record and runner-up finish in the state tournament.

Photo by Amber Lake



## PVHS names Joe Conroy interim head football coach

Ponte Vedra High School (PVHS) has named Joe Conroy interim head coach for the football team, according to the team's Twitter page.

Conroy was the offensive coordinator at Ponte Vedra.

The Sharks are looking to replace Matt Toblin, who left PVHS after five seasons to take over the head coaching job at Bolles.

PVHS Athletic Director Eric Frank said last week the school is not in a rush to fill the position and just wants to make sure they have the right person in place to continue Toblin's success and to elevate the program even further.

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# Tim Tebow Foundation hosts 2019 Celebrity Golf Classic at TPC Sawgrass

By Daniela Toporek

Blue skies and sunshine poured over TPC Sawgrass on Saturday as Ponte Vedra native and former Gators quarterback Tim Tebow hosted his foundation's 2019 Celebrity Golf Classic.

Celebrities and athletes such as Chip Gaines from HGTV's "Fixer Upper," "Duck Dynasty's" John Luke Robertson, former MLB star Johnny Damon and former Jaguars players Rashean Mathis and Josh Scobee, came together to contribute to the foundation while enjoying some friendly competition. Those in attendance enjoyed a celebrity gala the previous evening at the TPC Clubhouse.

Food trucks from local staples such as TacoLu, Auntie Anne's and 4 Rivers Smokehouse parked outside the 14th hole surrounded by entertainment including corn hole, giant Jenga, the Tim Tebow Foundation merchandise tent and more.

FanZones were set up at the 16th, 17th and 18th holes to watch the players participate in mini-competitions, such as a free throw challenge on the 16th, the party game app, Heads Up, on the 17th and a spectator putt from the gallery on the 18th. Fans also took photos and engaged with the celebrities in those areas before they moved on to the next hole.

The event ended with success as Tebow came out to shoot his final shot at the



Former MLB star Johnny Damon engages with fans at the tournament.

17th Island Green and thanked everyone for contributing and attending the event. But that wasn't before playing a round of Heads Up with his team, throwing his hat in friendly frustration and having a laugh.

The Tim Tebow Foundation is divided into five ministries that help underprivileged children from around the world, ranging from awarding adoption grants to families adopting children with special needs, to Timmy's Playrooms, which are created in hospitals for children to "take their minds off medical treatment and just be kids again."

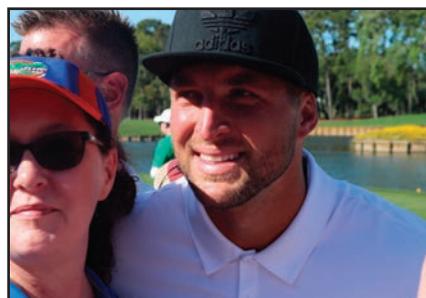


ABOVE: Tim Tebow and his team compete for the top score of Heads Up at his foundation's golf classic on March 30 at TPC Sawgrass.



LEFT: Former Florida and Ohio State coach Urban Meyer takes a photo with attendees of the event.

Photos by Daniela Toporek



ABOVE: Tebow poses for photos with fans.



RIGHT: Tebow playfully throws his hat in "frustration" after the Heads Up match.

Look for more coverage of the celebrity gala and golf classic in the next First Coast Register, which hits the streets April 18.

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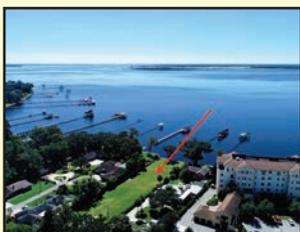
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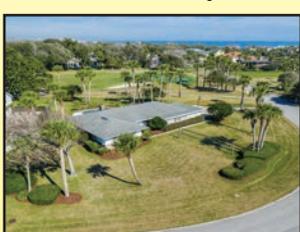
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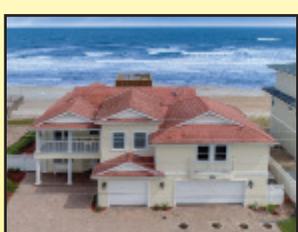
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