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June - July 2019

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



Most Desired Oceanfront Location in NE Florida
This first-floor unit was totally renovated with the finest finishes & craftsmanship. Includes an office, staurnia floors, mahogany doors & built-in custom cabinetry. **2 bedrooms & 2 bathrooms + powder room \$1,650,000**



The Perfect Beach Escape
Located between The Lodge and the Cabana Beach Club, this second-story condo gives elevated views of the beach while maintaining the unit's privacy and security. Includes a large covered balcony and ground floor storage. **3 bedrooms & 3 bathrooms \$1,625,000**



Sophisticated Oceanfront Retreat
Designed by Residential Designs by Kevin Gray, Inc. and built by Elwood Collier, this oceanfront home reflects the merging of beach living and architecture! Featuring **4 bedrooms, 5 full and 3 half baths. 7,995,000.**



Oceanfront Oasis
Stunning 210 ft oceanfront estate on private gated 2-acre lot with 27 ft elevation. Impeccable, quality home with spectacular views throughout. **5 bedrooms, 6 full / 2 half baths \$5,250,000**



Build your dream home on Ponte Vedra Blvd!
One of the last remaining 150 ft pristine oceanfront lots in the sought after estate section of Ponte Vedra Blvd. This incredible lot sits comfortably protected at 27 ft elevation and a perfect distance from the shoreline. **\$2,500,000**



Furnished Coastal Cottage
With direct beach access and an open floor plan this is the ideal vacation home or rental property. Features new roof, 2 new AC units, no HOA, and is being sold furnished. **5 bedrooms, 4 baths \$1,175,000**



Waterfront Retreat
Located on a freshwater lagoon this home offers the best of both indoor and outdoor living. Designed for entertaining and enjoying the Florida weather, the backyard features a summer kitchen, two fire pits, and pool. **4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths \$1,175,000**



Spectacular Water to Golf Views
Sited on over half acre this gorgeous home in The Plantation offers stunning water to golf views. The home features a newly renovated kitchen, spa-like master bath, and saltwater pool. **4 bedrooms, 4 baths \$1,190,000**



Design Oceanfront Oasis
With over 230 ft. of ocean frontage, this lush property will inspire your inner visionary and designer. Whether you are looking to build your dream home or renovate, this 1.6-acre estate makes for the ideal place to call home. **4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths \$3,900,000**



Guana and Ocean Views
With the Guana River to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east, this oceanfront home offers stunning panoramic views. Built with top engineering designs, this home thoughtfully merges comfort with sustainability. The ideal beach retreat. **7 bedrooms, 7.5 baths \$2,950,000**



ELIZABETH
HUDGINS



Elizabeth Hudgins, REALTOR®
904.553.2032 cell
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elizabeth@elizabethhudgins.com
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About this magazine

The First Coast Register is a bimonthly general interest magazine published by The Ponte Vedra Recorder and OPC News, LLC. The magazine can be found throughout the upscale areas of greater Jacksonville. For advertising inquiries call 904.285.8831.

- Hugh Osteen, *Florida Market Manager*
- Susan Griffin, *Publisher*
- Christine Rodenbaugh, *Editor*
- Paris Moulden, *Publication Designer/Staff Writer*
- Amber Lake, *Staff Writer*
- Daniela Toporov, *Staff Writer*
- Ed Johnson, *Senior Account Executive*
- Kristin Flanagan, *Account Executive*
- April Snyder, *Sales Assistant*
- Bob Bueno, *Circulation Manager*

FIRST COAST REGISTER
 1102 A1A N., Unit 108,
 Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
 904.285.8831



on the cover

The cover of this Register features a collage of photos of things to do on the water on the First Coast, including kayaking, paddleboarding, dining and living. Photos were provided by AmeliaslandKayak.com, Jon Blauvelt and Elizabeth Hudgins

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COASTAL BEAUTY



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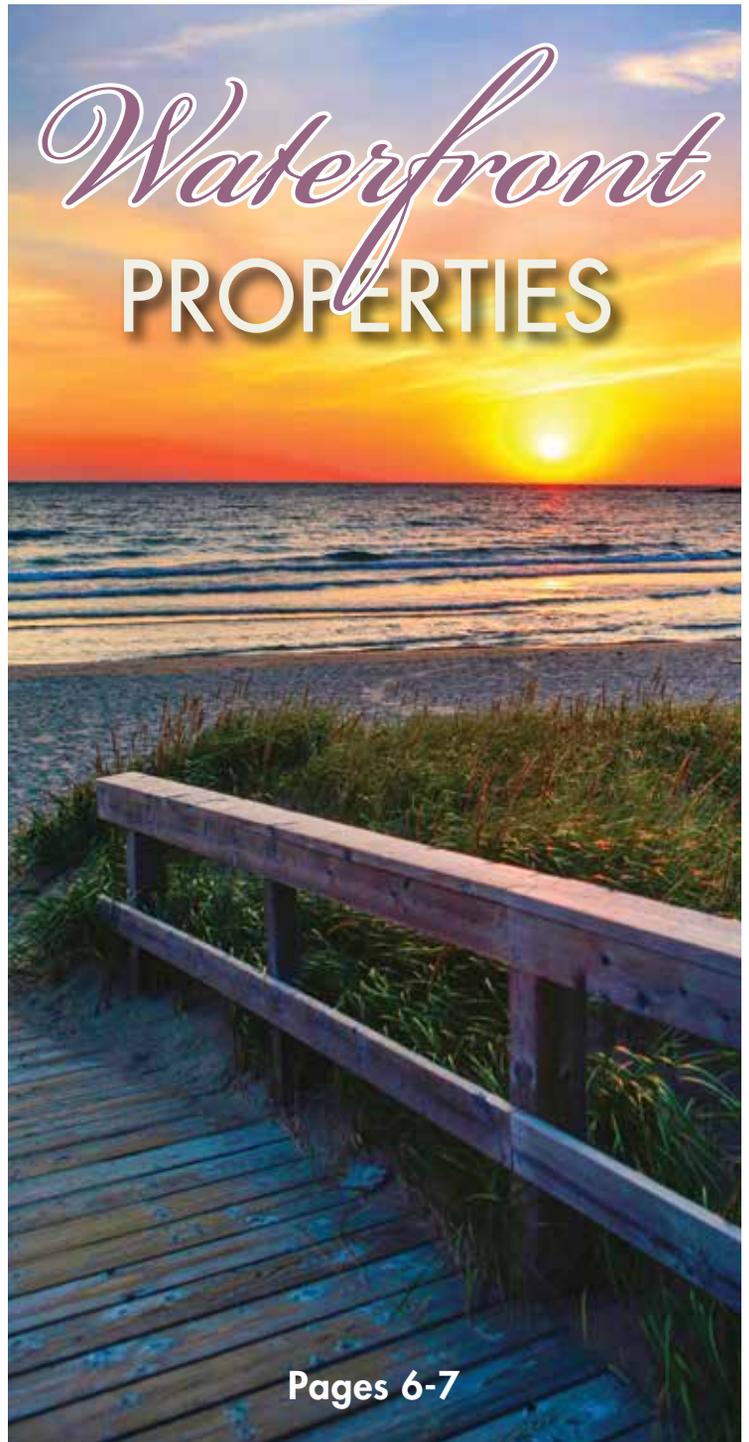
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Waterfront PROPERTIES

Pages 6-7

Gorgeous Waterway Views



Custom built 4BR/3BA, 2868 sf home on the Intracoastal Waterway. 2 stories w/ soaring ceilings, gourmet kitchen, heat/cooled Florida room, 2 car garage w/ workshop. **\$830,000**



Janet Palmer
 Broker Associate
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200 feet of oceanfront in gated community of Calle Del Sur in Hammock Dunes
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Sunrises over the ocean and Sunsets over the lake

One of Us!

photo by JON BLAUVELT

SCOTT GRANT

Scott Grant is the founder of Standfast Asset Management in Ponte Vedra Beach and chairman of the Advancement Committee for the nonprofit Aqua Jax, which is working to bring a large-scale aquarium to downtown Jacksonville.

Can you please briefly tell us about your background?

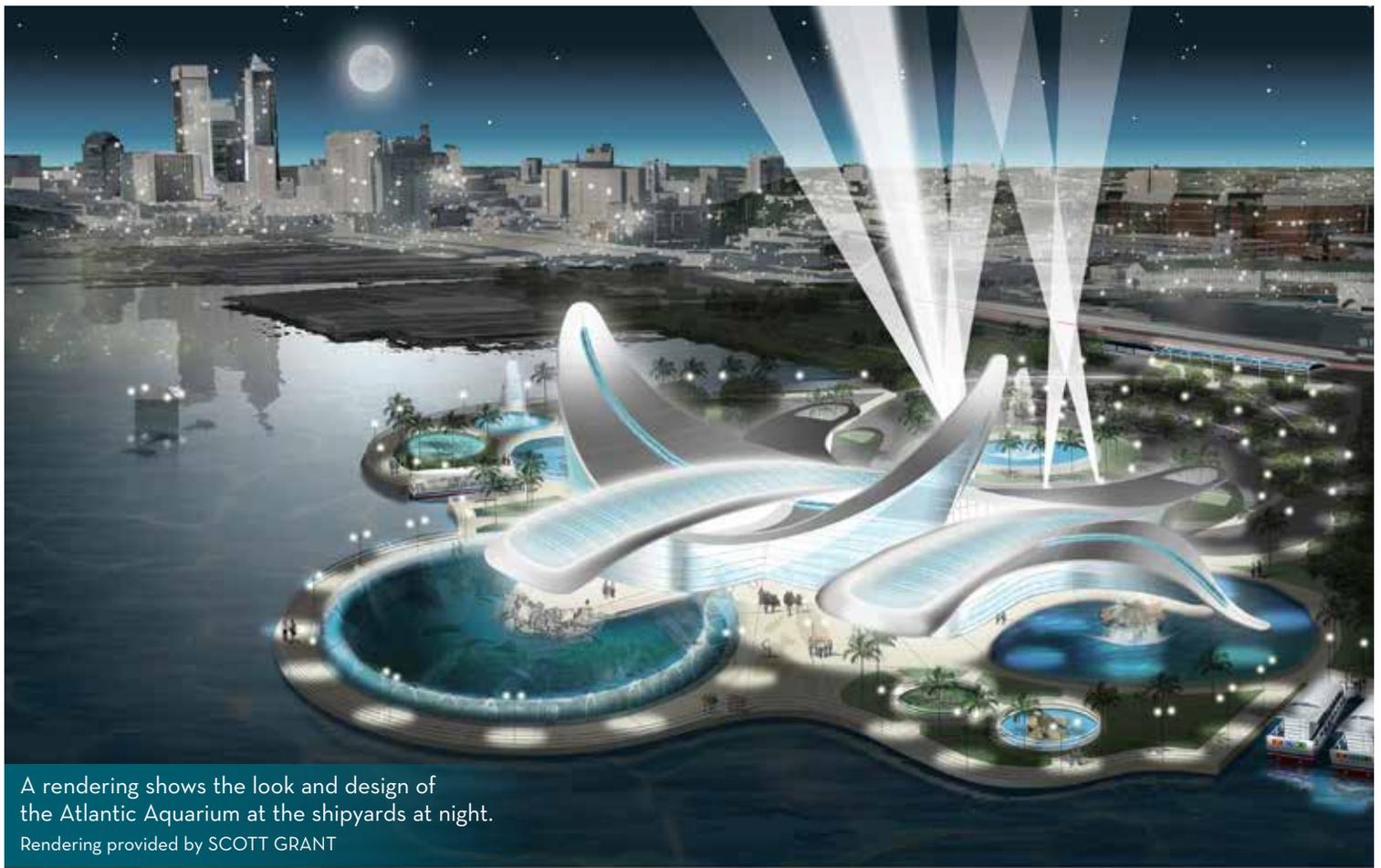
I was born in Scotland. My parents were from New Jersey. I grew up in Indianapolis and then Elmira, New York. We moved there when my Dad became president of Elmira College. Growing up I was pretty much of a geek. I was a minor chess prodigy and won my first tournament at the age of 10. Later on, I got good at sports and I was still a geek, but being good at sports made it less obvious. I am a graduate of Cornell University and the Rutgers School of Law. For most of my adult life, I have been in the investment business. My first real job was at EF Hutton & Co. They are remembered for a very popular commercial about how when EF Hutton talks, people listen. Before moving to Ponte Vedra 14 years ago, I ran a brokerage division for a large credit union in New Jersey. My lovely wife Sharon and I fell in love with Ponte Vedra while on vacation here. We moved here with our daughter Austin in 2005. Almost immediately after getting here, we got pregnant. Our son, Alexander, was born here in 2006, so he is a real Florida boy. When I came here, I founded Standfast Asset Management. This gave me the opportunity to invest money for people who had placed their trust in me in the manner that I thought was most prudent.

What's the story of the aquarium project?

The Atlantic Aquarium, downtown on the St. Johns River, is the brainchild of both scientists and academics, and businesspeople interested in the economic benefits. The idea is to build an iconic structure downtown that will be a tourist destination as well as a first-class research and educational facility. We plan to drive a downtown renaissance, similar to what occurred in Chattanooga when they built their highly successful Tennessee Aquarium.



An artist rendering shows the proposed design of the Atlantic Aquarium at the shipyards
Rendering provided by SCOTT GRANT



A rendering shows the look and design of the Atlantic Aquarium at the shipyards at night. Rendering provided by SCOTT GRANT

What's the vision? What would it include/feature?

We have a unique opportunity here in Jacksonville for studying different types of water. We have access to salt, fresh and brackish water. That gives us the opportunity to study diverse ecosystems. The Aquarium will be solar powered and environmentally friendly. We have a number of endangered species in our area and we will be leaders in saving manatees and other threatened marine life. It will also be very cool. It has to be. For this to work, this has to be the coolest thing many people have ever seen in their life. We plan on having symphony concerts and weddings and other events. There will be at least one Airbnb room where you will be able to literally sleep with the fishes in a glass room under the water.

How did you become involved with the project?

The people at AquaJax, a nonprofit dedicated to building a world-class aquarium on the St. Johns River, saw the success we had installing the memorial to the Gulfamerica victims in Jacksonville Beach and they asked me if I thought I could do the same for them. I said "YES, we can build this!" They were attracted to my confidence. I originally fell in love with



Grant with his daughter Austin and son Alexander

the renderings. If you have not seen them yet, it is going to be a gorgeous structure. I started doing research and the more I read about how successful these things have been in revitalizing other cities, the more I realized that the aquarium made sense for a whole lot of people, including government, civic leaders and industrialists — not to mention the entire population of the second-largest city on the East Coast.

You have 30 seconds to give your elevator pitch for the aquarium. What do you say?

We plan on building a modern wonder of the world on the banks of the St. Johns River in downtown Jacksonville. This iconic, winged structure will become the enduring symbol of our revitalized city. People will travel from all over the world just to have their picture taken in front of the Atlantic Aquarium and then, they will go inside. Once it is built, the land around it will become instantly more valuable and will soon be surrounded by hotels, restaurants, office buildings, law firms, accountants, engineers, shops and other amenities. This is exactly what happened in Baltimore and Chattanooga. The aquarium will be a solar-powered center for education and research, but it will also be an economic driver. Our feasibility study estimates a billion dollars of economic benefits over the first 10 years.

A LOOK AT THE RIVERSIDE AVONDALE PRESERVATION'S

2019 Spring Home Tour



Guests of the tour mingle into a home on Rensselaer Avenue.

With winter finally shedding its last days of chilly weather, the Riverside Avondale Preservation hosted its 45th Annual Spring Home Tour on the weekend of April 27 and 28.

Tucked away just outside of downtown Jacksonville is the historic, Riverside-Avondale area, filled with tall, elder trees and a blossoming market for local business owners and neighbors. Community members and business owners opened their doors and welcomed guests into Jacksonville's historic district, filled with all the history and beauty the area has to offer.

The celebration began with a twilight party on April 25 for a night of "celebrating historic preservation," according to RAP. The party featured snacks and refreshments from Biscottis, a local restaurant, live music by Darren Ronan and a presentation by Avondale resident, Dr. James P. Delgado.

The actual tour kicked off on April 27, where guests were able to take a pleasant bike tour around the area to visit 11 preserved, historic houses and a historic office building that took everyone, according to RAP, "on a trip down memory lane."



Bikes are parked at the next home to tour on Herschel Street.



LEFT: The RAP 2019 Spring Home Tour offered a look into the historic district of Riverside and Avondale.

RIGHT: The Home Tour not only shows the beauty and preservation of the outside of these homes, but also what current homeowners are doing to preserve what's inside.

Photos by
SUSAN GRIFFIN



Summer Fun

ON THE WATER

Pages 11-17





Wet Cat APB boat rentals sells a St. Johns River

ADVENTURE

by AMBER LAKE

The St. Johns River, the longest river in Florida, originates in Brevard county southwest of Melbourne, then meanders north some 300 miles to meet the Atlantic Ocean at Jacksonville. The state's history has ebbed and flowed among its waters, making a home for the Timucua and Seminole tribes.

It has been the subject of Harriet Beecher Stowe's letters home, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' books and William Bartram's journals. It is a natural resource and primary community bellwether of the First Coast. One could say that if downtown Jacksonville is the heart of metropolitan North Florida, the St. Johns River is the blood that keeps it beating.

It is the opinion of more than a few residents of the area that currently, however, the river is underutilized, and frankly, underappreciated.

Mark Green, owner of Wet Cat APB is looking to change that. Not only is he interested in making the river fun and approachable, he wants to make the river accessible for everyone, and not just the people that live on it.

"I was living in such close proximity to the St Johns River," Green said. "I have a boat and have a lot of fun (on it) but I started looking at all the rental companies and it was a \$400 or \$500 venture to get out on the water for a few hours."

Wet Cat APB rents a variety of "adventure performance"



boats for customers to explore and discover the beauty of the St. Johns River. In addition to providing affordable boat rentals, Wet Cat has a few exclusive rental options for a truly unique aquatic expedition.

Currently, the rental company offers the country's only Aquanami Jet-Powered Kayak, featured in both single and two-seater designs, which go up to 30 mph.

"We have a rice creek that's about a mile north of us," Green said. "You get out on it, go down there explore and you can seeigators and manatees and all kinds of wildlife."

The company also offers pontoon boats and CraigCat Outboard



Wet Cat APB offers exclusive CraigCat boat and Aquanami Jet Kayak rentals in Palatka.

Photos provided by WET CAT APB

boats, which Green refers to as their “flagship” rental.

“It’s kind of a cross between a jet ski and an airboat with a 25- or-30-horsepower motor on it,” Green said. “It’s very quick and goes up to 30 mph and when you hit a corner, it kind of slides across the water like an airboat so you can have a ton of fun with it.”

Both rentals come priced affordably, with 1-hour rentals at \$75 and up to four hours for \$140. Green said, in fact, most of his customer aren’t tourists but locals looking to expand their fun on the St. Johns River.

“I get people that pull up on one of their boats and hop on one of my CraigCats because it’s such a unique experience,” he said.

Wet Cat APB is located at the Crystal Cove Riverfront Resort in Palatka. For more information visit www.wetcatboats.com.



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121 Crystal Cove Drive
Palatka, FL

Things to do On the Water

Summers on the First Coast are rarely ever “just around the corner.” Summer barely even leaves the state, even when it’s clearly not its time. It backs off for a few days of “winter” break and then BAM, back to the smoldering heat and oppressive humidity. Luckily, the First Coast Register knows exactly where to go near the water to catch a break from the sun.



SEA SERPENT TOURS INC.

6550 State Road 13, St. Augustine, FL 32092
(904) 495-4200 • www.seaserpenttours.com

Sea Serpent Tours Inc. aims to provide historical and ecological tours of St. Augustine from the inland waterways for both residents and tourists, alike. The tours offer a unique perspective to the historic Matanzas River, Tolomato River, St. Johns River and surrounding tidal creeks of the “Ancient City.” Sea Serpent Tours offers a wide variety of adventures, such as paddle boarding, kayaking, hydrobiking, bass boats, pontoons and even a sea dragon airboat safari that can hold up to 15 passengers. Book online and experience St. Augustine like you’ve never seen it before!

EXTREME WATER ADVENTURES

3070 Harbor Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 945-6576 • www.extremewateradventures.com

Extreme Water Adventures is Florida’s premier flyboarding destination. Flyboarding lets you surf the sky with water rockets strapped to your feet in the ocean. Extreme Water Adventures is offers an amazing experience and view while surfing the sea and sky and is the only flyboarding company in North Florida that carries insurance, making their business a safe and secure environment for the family. The more comfortable you get in the sky, the higher you’ll be able to fly! Extreme Water Adventures wants guests to have the best experience, both in the water and up in the air.



NORTH GUANA OUTPOST

4415 Mickler Road, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
(904) 373-0306 • www.northguanaoutpost.com

From paddleboards to kayaks, North Guana Outpost has a variety of water-related sporting goods to create an ideal summer experience. This outfitters store carries top-notch brands for paddleboarding, bait & tackle, beach essentials and apparel, such as BOTE boards, Indigo SUP, Surftech, YETI, Costa Del Mar, Sun Bum and more. They even offer paddleboard and kayak rentals for those wanting to explore the Guana Preserve right in North Guana Outpost’s backyard. Feeling hungry after venturing out on the water? NGO even sells Hyppo popsicles to keep guests cool and refreshed.



ADVENTURE LANDING WATER PARK

1944 Beach Blvd. Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

(904) 246-4386 • www.adventurelanding.com

If you're looking for a little thrill, visit the Adventure Landing Water Park located just over the bridge in Jacksonville Beach.



Tackle the giant waterslides, like the Hydro Halfpipe or the giant waves of Adventure Landing's wave pool. Either way, the park is sure to satisfy the need for thrill and refreshing fun in the sun. Looking for relaxation rather than thrill? No worries, just float around the Lazy River in one of Adventure Landing's donut floats for some refreshing

R&R. Just watch out for the water falls above!

JAX JET SKI RENTALS

3326 Lakeshore Blvd. Suite #6, Jacksonville, FL 32210

www.jaxjetskirentals.com

Within the Lakeshore Dry Storage and Marina, Jax Jet Ski Rentals offers easy water access and private jet ski docks from calm, flat protected areas in the waterways. Jax Jet Ski Rentals bring convenient and afford-

able jet skiing experiences to the area, along with dolphin tours where guests can have up-close encounters with dolphins and even an island hop tour. Jet Skis are only rented by the hour. They do not offer full-day or half-day rentals.



JAX SURF & PADDLE

241 Atlantic Blvd #102, Neptune Beach, FL 32266

(904) 372-9083 • www.jacksonvillesurfandpaddle.com

Jacksonville Surf & Paddle is North Florida's premier surf and stand-up paddleboard school, surf camp, and beach rental provider. They offer a wide variety of surf, stand-up paddleboard (SUP) and fitness classes specifically designed to meet individual needs. Situated in Neptune Beach, Jax Surf & Paddle has easy access to both the beach for surf lessons and the Intracoastal Waterway for SUP. As they like to say, they offer lessons for "any age and any stage." Check out their online shop, too, for fun surf and water-related apparel.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16 ■

Amelia Island Kayak Excursions
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■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

KATHRYN ABBEY HANNA PARK

**500 Wonderwood Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32233
(904) 249-4700 • www.coj.net**

For a more private beach location filled with lots of recreational activities and trails, Hanna Park is the place to go. Hanna Park offers tent and RV campins, as well as cabins for those wanting to camp in style. The park also has beach access, a 60-acre freshwater lake, a kids splash park and picnic and cookout facilities for group activities and events. They offer biking and hiking trails, as well as the Dolphin Plaza, an ideal oceanfront location for reunions, wedding receptions and corporate outings. Entry fees are required for entry, but prices are cheap and worth it to preserve this fun little gem in Jacksonville. Search Hanna Park in the City of Jacksonville website for more information.

FINTASTIC DIVING ADVENTURES

**8137 Mount Ranier Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32256
904-998-3635 • www.fintasticdiving.com**

Hidden off the beaten path near Baymeadows Road is Fintastic Diving Adventures, a scuba diving company specializing in scuba for the family. Scuba diving classes are available during the summer for anyone wanting to explore life underwater. Fintastic Diving Adventures also schedules fun scuba trips around the world, such as the Bahamas, Panama City Beach and even Fiji this June. For more information on their scuba schedules this summer, call their main line or visit their official website.



AMELIA BOAT CLUB & RENTALS

**251 Creekside Drive, Amelia Island, FL 32034
(904) 277-4615 • www.ameliaboatclub.com**

Located at the Amelia Island Marina in Fernandina Beach, Amelia Island Boat Club is a local business that offers a hassle-free and convenient alternative to boating. They offer a variety of boats, gear and accessories to choose from so that members and rental clients can maximize their time on the water. Choose the boat that best suits your needs, and anything else to explore the First Coast marine life. Not only do they provide the vessel, they also prepare everything for the voyage and handle the boat's maintenance upon return. Just leave your cares on shore.



AMELIA ISLAND KAYAK EXCURSIONS

(904) 557-5307 • www.ameliaislandkayak.com

Ranked as the top tour in Fernandina Beach by Tripadvisor, along with Bold City's best water sport business in 2017, Amelia Island Kayak Excursions offers family-fun outings, nature tours and team building groups for all ages. AIKE's main goal is to help create memorable and enjoyable experiences while exploring the scenic inland waters of Fernandina. They offer 2-hour, 3-hour and 5-hour local guided tours and even overnight excursions. First time kayaking? No problem! AIKE provides class III personal floatation devices, quality kayaks and paddles that fit anyone's needs. They even offer kids kayak camps in the summer to help teach the "next generation of kayakers."



Photos by the PONTE VEDRA RECORDER and provided by EXTREME WATER ADVENTURES, ADVENTURE LANDING, AMELIAISLANDKAYAK.COM AND METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION



Annual BEACHFEST 5K/10K Run Fundraiser

hosted on Jacksonville Beach



Jacksonville Beach Lifeguard Competition Team hosted the annual BeachFest 5K/10K Run Fundraiser on May 11. The race took place at Jacksonville Beach in front of the Lifeguard Station, with participants running up and down the beach along the shoreline during low tide. The annual event helps to support the Competition Team's travel and equipment cost.

The annual BeachFest 5k/10k was held in front of the Lifeguard Station on May 11. Photos provided by the JACKSONVILLE BEACH COMPETITION TEAM

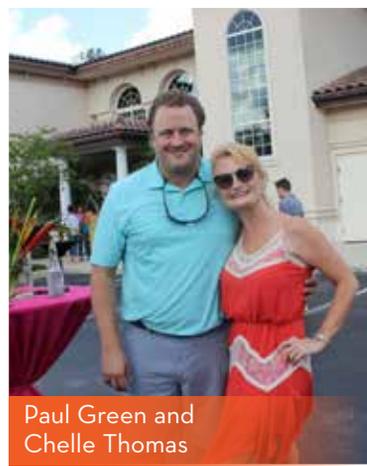


PONTE VEDRA PLASTIC SURGERY HOSTS Luau

Guests at the luau enjoyed tropical fusion cuisine, refreshing beverages, live music and an educational patient appreciation event. Demonstrations included injectables, Crisalex, Kybella and HydraFacial. The event also included a raffle.



Rikki Taylor and Katalin Hella



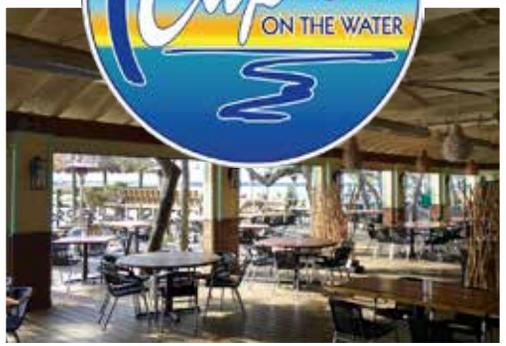
Paul Green and Chelle Thomas



Dr. Robert Burk and Dr. Cayce Rumsey enjoy the luau at Ponte Vedra Plastic Surgery on April 26. Photos by SUSAN GRIFFIN



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Wining & Dining

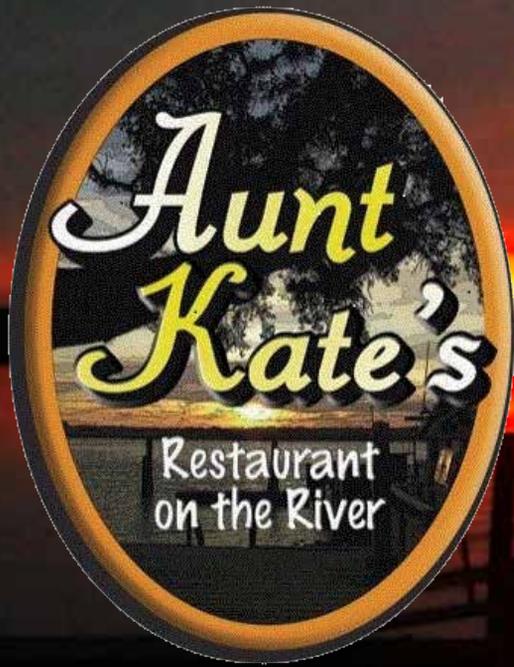
ON THE FIRST COAST

Pages 18-22



including waterfront dining





On A1A between St. Augustine and Ponte Vedra Beach on the Intracoastal 2 blocks south of the castle in North Beach



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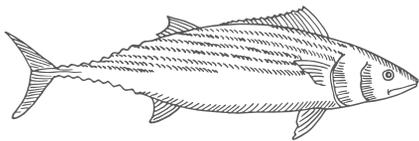
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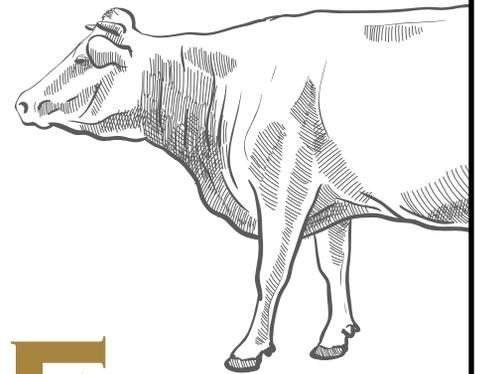
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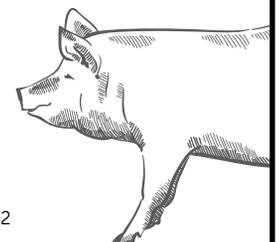
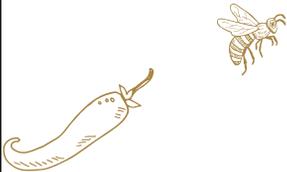
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Taste of St. Augustine award winners Chef Bob Henle of The Reef, Chef DeeAnn Hobbs of Villagio, Chef Joe Ronan of Santiago's and Chef Kris Baldwin of Meehan's (not pictured: The Hyppo)

Photo by COLIN GOODMAN



Lorna MacDonald, Candice Shave, Valerie Logan, Steve Carlson, Shayna Carlson and Chris Cantabene of Raintree Restaurant

Photos by JON BLAUVELT



Kevon Fletcher, Cindy Taylor, Monique Bangoura, Laney Brittingham and David Berry of Chicken Salad Chick

A Taste OF ST. AUGUTINE

by JON BLAUVELT

Good food, good music and a good cause. That's been the mission of "The Taste of St. Augustine" year after year, and the 23rd annual event, held April 28, did not stray away from that undertaking.

Hosted at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre, "The Taste" featured samples from some of St. Augustine's most well-known restaurants, as well as some newcomers to the scene. Pellicer Creek Band and Chillula jammed throughout the afternoon at the Amphitheatre's Front Porch. And once again, proceeds from the event — over \$60,000 this year — benefited Epic Behavioral Healthcare, a nonprofit organization providing substance abuse prevention and treatment and mental health counseling.

"We like to consider it one of the pre-

mier food festivals here in town," said Teresa Andrews, director of development for Epic Behavioral Healthcare. "People get to come in and try out new restaurants maybe they haven't tried before, or go to a favorite and see new dishes they're trying to serve, and enjoy live music."

Per annual tradition, restaurants at the event competed for a number of awards at the event. The Reef ultimately won the award for Best Family Dining with their Datil Lime Scallops and Grits. Meehan's Irish Pub took home the honors for Best Ethnic Taste with their Irish Cuban Sandwich. Best Upscale Taste went to Villagio's/World Golf Village Renaissance Resort, which sampled a Seared Scallop with Apple Salad and Watercress Pesto. The Hyppo received the award for Best

Dessert, after wowing event attendees with their Orange Cream Ice Pop. The People's Choice award went to Santiago's at Guy Harvey Oceanfront Resort, which presented their Bahamian Conch and Ciderhouse Bacon Encrusted Gulf Shrimp with Datil Pepper Orange Blossom Honey.

For the 10th year, the event kicked off with "The Race to the Taste," a 5K run/walk starting and ending at the Amphitheatre, going through Anastasia State Park and surrounding neighborhoods. Event attendees also enjoyed a free children's activity area featuring crafts, face painting and other activities.

Established in 1973, Epic Behavioral Healthcare serves over 5,000 people a year. Visit www.epicbh.org for more.



A chef from World Plate Walkup Eatery prepares a plate.



Cupcakes from Gimme Some Sugar



A chef from Uptown Scratch Kitchen prepares a plate.

TOM COUGHLIN JAY FUND CELEBRITY GOLF CLASSIC

Swings

INTO ITS 24TH YEAR

by AMBER LAKE

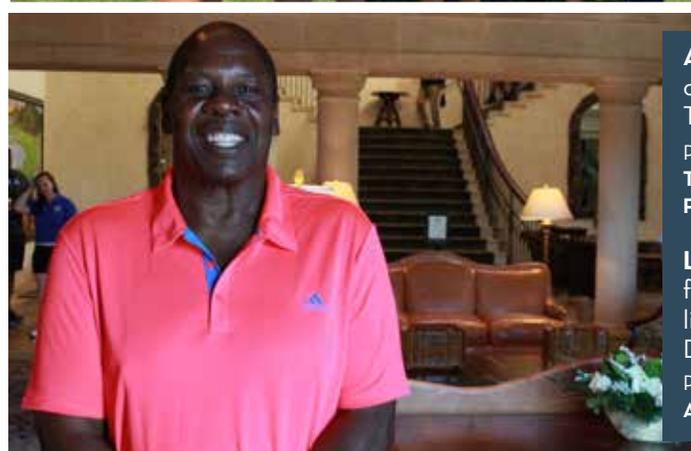


The Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Celebrity Golf Classic tee'd off May 19-20 at TPC Sawgrass. The event, which is now in its 24th year, supports the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund and features dozens of sports and entertainment stars for a special round of golf. This year's event managed to raise \$540,000, which will be available to assist local families with the financial toll of battling a cancer diagnosis.

The event kicked off Sunday evening with the celebrity dinner, auction and opportunity to hear from individuals who have benefited from the foundation.

Tom Jackson, former NFL linebacker for the Denver Broncos, said that most of the attendees come back year after year partly because of the dedication of Tom Coughlin himself.

"The thing is that people have been so committed to this cause, I believe because of the man that's in charge of it," Jackson said. "Him and his wife, the Coughlins, have provided a stability for the Jay Fund Foundation that you seldom see, especially when you consider the fact that Tom has been somewhere else for part of his career. (He was) working out of New York and attached to the Giants but still extremely attached to Jacksonville and the Jay Fund Foundation, which he refused to let go of."



ABOVE: The family of Jay McGillis with Tom Coughlin

Photo provided by the
**TOM COUGHLIN JAY
FUND FOUNDATION**

LEFT: Tom Jackson, former NFL linebacker for the Denver Broncos

Photo by
AMBER LAKE



Former Jaguars players Tony Boselli (left), with wife Angi, and Mark Brunell (right), with wife Stacy, pose with Tom Coughlin at the evening dinner for the Celebrity Golf Classic on May 19.

Photo provided by the **TOM COUGHLIN JAY FUND FOUNDATION**

RIGHT:

Chris Mortensen,
ESPN journalist

BELOW & TOP

LEFT: Celebrities practice their shots before the 24th annual Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Celebrity Golf Classic at TPC Sawgrass.

Photos by **AMBER LAKE**



When the Celebrity Golf Classic tradition began in 1996, the foundation was still in its formative years. Initially, Tom Coughlin started the Jay Foundation to honor the life of Jay McGillis, a young player he met while coaching the Boston College's team, who eventually lost a battle fighting leukemia. The first year of the Golf Classic that year brought in \$51,600 of funding dedicated to families like McGillis' who are struggling to make ends meet in chaos and tragedy of a cancer battle. Throughout the years since, many participants of the event have become all too aware of the struggle the diagnoses can bring.

"My own cancer battle began January 2016 and I can remember (being in the) MD Anderson in Houston Cancer Center waiting for another radiation treatment," said Chris Mortensen, ESPN journalist. "All of a sudden in comes a gurney and there is a man in jeans and work boots checking the gurney. I realized he was holding in his arms his 3-year-old son. It affects me to even talk about it. He was there for his son taking the day off from work just to give his son a sense of security."

Mortensen said that incidents like the one he witnessed bring out the "heart and humanity" in a person and it's one reason he makes sure to show up for the annual event.

"Immediately, at that moment, I thought of the Jay Fund," he said. "That's what the Jay Fund is all about and that will stick with you forever."



Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival

is a Florida tradition



Photos by SUSAN GRIFFIN



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The 56th annual Isle of Eight Flags Shrimp Festival was held May 3 through 5 in downtown Fernandina Beach on Amelia Island, just 45 minutes north of Jacksonville. The event is one of the premier festivals in the southeast, combining the love of shrimp and seafood with some of the best local arts and entertainment.

The family-friendly Pirate Parade launched the festivities on May 2, the eve before the festival. Other fun activities included a Miss Shrimp Festival Pageant, a kids' fun zone and a Shrimp Run sponsored by the YMCA. The festival also included arts and crafts, antique vendors, fireworks and live music and entertainment.

From shrimp tacos to shrimp pie, unique seafood and shrimp dishes were featured, honoring and celebrating the fresh, delicious and local seafood provided on the island.

Fernandina Beach, Amelia Island's historic town and seaport, was the birthplace of the modern shrimping industry and was once the shrimping capital of the world. For more than six decades, nearly 100 shrimp boats docked in Fernandina Beach. The shrimp festival is named for Amelia Island's storied past and unique status as the only place in the United States to have flown eight different flags of dominion over the past five centuries.



TOP LEFT: Guests of the festival jammed out to live musical performances throughout the weekend.

TOP RIGHT: Festival merchandise, arts and crafts, and other good were available at the annual festival.

FAR LEFT: Guests walked along the streets of downtown Fernandina to see all the vendors and arts and crafts.

LEFT: Shrimp pies were a hit at the event.

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Anne Fallon (from left), Carolyn Houston, Shelley Lenhart, Stacy Hanson with daughter Lucy, Michael Bachman, Amy Koons, Peggy Campbell and Rachel Barksdale.
Photos by DANIELA TOPOROY



American Cancer Society volunteer Christopher Brown said he enjoyed the good music and good people at the Party with a Purpose fundraiser.



Party with a Purpose was held on Cinco de Mayo 2019 for Stacy Hanson's birthday to raise money for the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk.



Lucy's teacher, Shelly Lenhart, poses with a sombrero while enjoying the Cinco de Mayo fiesta and birthday fundraiser.



Stacy Hanson makes a speech alongside her daughter, Lucy in the red dress.



Guest Katherine Weatherspoon awaits the auction and raffle drawing.



Party



with a

purpose



by DANIELA TOPOROV

In 2017, Stacy Hanson was diagnosed with stage IV triple negative metastatic breast cancer with five to 24 months left to live. More than 30 months later, Hanson celebrated her 50th birthday with a Cinco de Mayo party and fundraiser for the American Cancer Society at the Royal Palm Village Wine & Tapas in Atlantic Beach.

The fundraiser is to support the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk, a non-competitive 5K that will be held Oct. 19 at TIAA Bank Field in downtown Jacksonville. All funds go to the American Cancer Society to help with research and those struggling with breast cancer.

Guests mingled in and out of the Royal Palm to enjoy Mexican food and margaritas and had chances at raffle prizes ranging from custom coolers to Tiffany jewelry. A children's area was prepared in the corner to ensure guests enjoyed themselves, no matter the age.

"We got an amazing turn out despite the rain and I thank everybody for being here," Stacy Hanson said outside the Royal Palm. Rain drizzled over the restaurant, but that didn't stop Hanson's supporters from coming out.

According to Hanson and the Center of Disease Control, 40,000 women die from breast cancer every year and that number hasn't changed since 1997. When Hanson was diagnosed, she not only discovered she had breast cancer, but that she also carried the BRCA 1 gene mutation that often leads to genetic alterations that cause cancer, according to Cancer.gov.

When Hanson was initially tested for the gene, doctors said not to worry. Her father's side had a history of cancer, but it wasn't breast cancer and the BRCA 1 gene couldn't pass through the paternal line. However, this is not true. Cancer.gov states the gene can certainly pass through the paternal line, and in Hanson's case, it did.

One of the three reasons for hosting the fundraiser was to spread awareness about getting tested for the BRCA 1 gene, which also has a 1 in 2 chance of being passed down to the next generation if a parent carries it.

"My 6-year-old daughter, Lucy has a 50/50 chance," Hanson explained. "I want to be there to help her because you have to make very serious decisions about your body when you're very young."

Hanson learned that many who carry the BRCA 1 gene call themselves "previvors" because of all the preventative care they go through before they're even at risk.

"They take out their ovaries and tubes, they freeze their eggs, they do everything they can to prevent cancer," she said. "Previvors' have a 70% chance of getting cancer in their lifetime."

Hanson's other two reasons to throw this event go hand-in-hand. She believes funding for cancer research is imperative for finding a cure, and doctors can't find new medicine for a cure without clinical trials.

"For whatever reason, people are scared of them," she said. "They think they're like guinea pigs, but real clinical trials are different. We need real education of people on clinical trials."

Hanson said that if she had chosen the regular standard of care, her chances of survival were 60%, not very convincing. When she chose to "venture the unknown," not only did she gain access to cutting edge drugs, but was also looked after more closely as patient.

Her cancer reduced to nothing and is currently noted with no evidence of disease. As Hanson looks back on her journey, she would choose clinical trials all over again.

"It's completely worth the risk," she said. "It sucks, but you have to do your own research and ask your doctors the hard questions. I would do every clinical trial that is available to me before I would go standard of care."

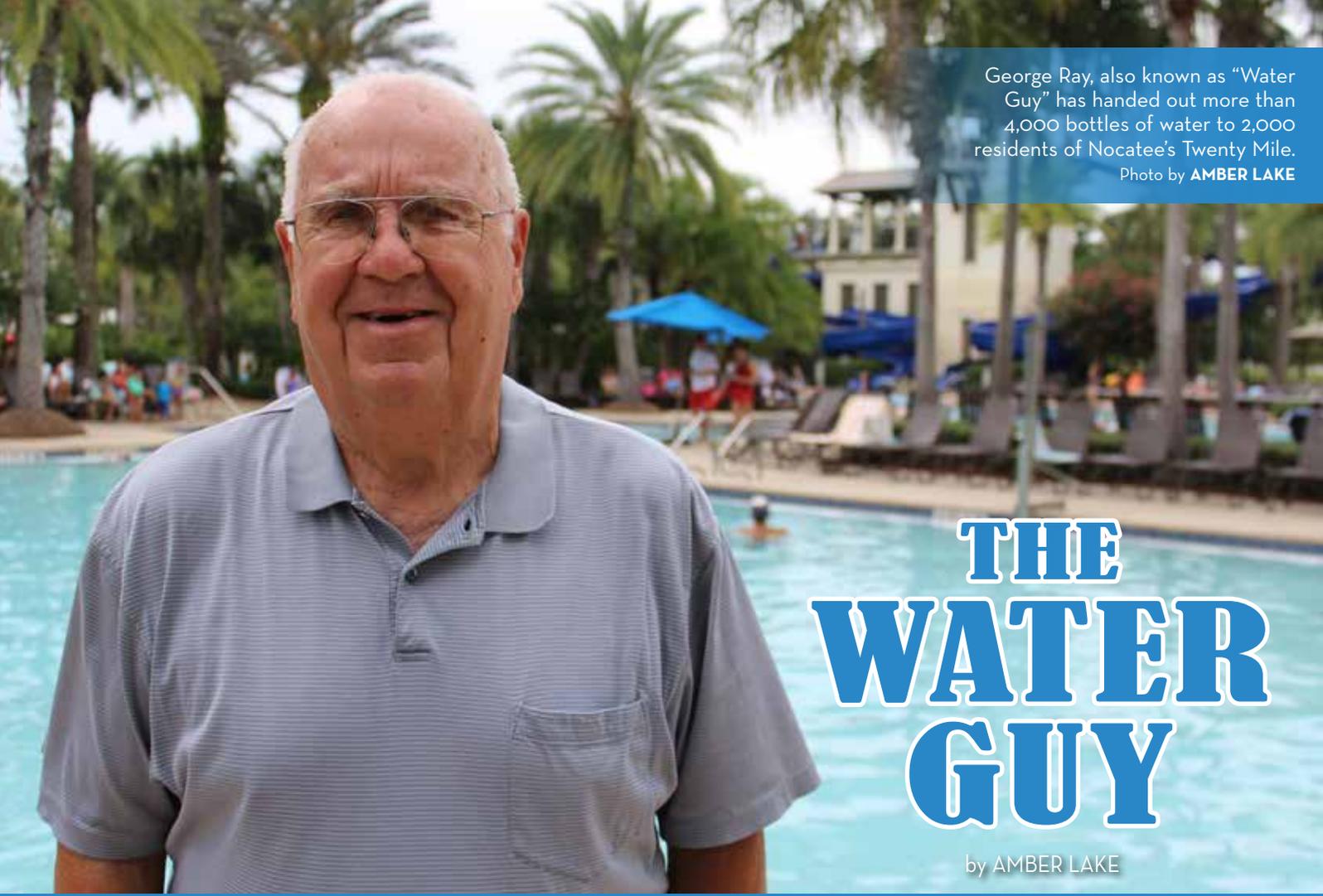
Hanson admires the American Cancer Society because it funds research for clinical trials, grants for those finding a cure and access to care for patients who can't afford it. The ACS is also building a Hope Lodge in Jacksonville's Mayo Clinic for patients who can't afford a hospital stay.

Last year's Making Strides walk by the ACS raised \$570,000 and more than 12,000 people came out in support.

"This walk is a damn good event," she said. "People are interested, or else we would not have had 12,000 walkers and 200 people at this random event today, you know? We sold 250 tickets at this event!"

And it shows. Walking back into the Royal Palm was a challenge in itself. A sea of supporters overflowed the restaurant. Hanson is beyond thankful for everyone who attended and believes that with enough help and support, a cure for cancer can finally be reached.

"It's 2019," she said. "We need a cure."



George Ray, also known as “Water Guy” has handed out more than 4,000 bottles of water to 2,000 residents of Nocatee’s Twenty Mile.

Photo by AMBER LAKE

THE WATER GUY

by AMBER LAKE

Nocatee resident heads up solo campaign to quench neighbors’ thirst

Water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink — unless you live in Nocatee’s Twenty Mile neighborhood and you spot resident George Ray coming your way.

The 84-year-old “Water Guy” has made it his personal mission to keep his community hydrated, volunteering his time to canvas the streets and parks for possible thirsty residents on hot summer days, handing them free bottles of water. His dedication to the cause has since made him a local celebrity of sorts in the densely populated community, earning him more than a few “Hey, Ray!” greetings from neighbors he knows he met but can’t quite remember their names.

“I would say there’s 2,000 people that know me by name,” Ray said as modestly as possible.

As it turns out, being a very pleasant person does well to earn you social status as not many people would argue that Ray is the most popular person in his community. To date, Ray guesses that in the three years he has been giving out water, he has probably served more than 4,000 bottles to rehydrated residents.

Before he became the “Water Guy,” Ray was a devoted and

loving husband, as well as his wife’s primary caregiver.

“She was in very bad shape. When she was 39 years old the doctors gave her no chance to live,” Raid said. “She lasted 37 more years.”

Before she died, Ray tended to her, making sure she was comfortable and in as little pain as possible. For short periods of time he would sell seashells at the local farmers market, but he would always make sure to go straight home and be by her side. His wife died eight years ago in July.

When he moved to Twenty Mile in 2015, he was the very first resident. He was also lonely and looking to find something to fill the long days that used to be devoted to his wife. So, he had a thought.

“I’ll bet you there’s a lot of people here that are walking that I’ve never seen before and would probably enjoy water,” he said.

And so, for the next four years he found himself dedicating his time to his own small humanitarian niche, one based on the simplicity of providing the most basic need to basically whoever crossed his path.



ABOVE: Sarah Small, Gate Hospitality's VP of Marketing and Membership, with George Ray.



RIGHT: Gate Hospitality donated 8,000 bottles of water to Ray.

Photos provided by
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It is a small philanthropic endeavor made huge by the sheer devotion he pays to it.

Ray said he doesn't give out water for the fame, or even for a passion fighting against cottonmouth. He said he just likes to see the look on someone's face when he hands them something they need. The water is just a means to that end.

"There was just that reaction from the first group of people that I gave it to," he said. "They were so happy — so happy to get (the water) that I just figured this is a good thing to do."

One of those previously parched individuals happened to be Gate Hospitality's Vice President of Marketing and Membership, Sarah Small. Small happened to be in the community exploring with her family one sunny day. While playing in one of the Nocatee parks, Ray spotted the small group of possible thirsties and beelined toward her direction. She was so touched by the generosity and community-mindedness of Ray, she decided to give him a hand to keep helping.

On May 21, a Gate Hospitality truck plodded down Twenty Mile.

In it was 8,000 bottles of water, enough to keep George "the Water Guy" Ray busy distributing for the next two years. Pulling up to his house with pallet after pallet of bottled water, Ray couldn't believe how much water they were giving him. Floor to ceiling, water lined his garage, their plastic sides crinkling softly under their own weight as they were loaded up.

For someone who regularly spends his time handing out charitable water bottles, however, Ray was floored anyone would turn around and hand him one.

"I guess I don't need to go to Costco for a while," he said.

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Breakfast kicks off **Wi\$E MONEY WEEK**



Family Foundations President and CEO Bill Haley



Breakfast keynote speaker Co'Relous Bryant



Essay contest winner Shi-Ann Peterson

by JON BLAUVELT

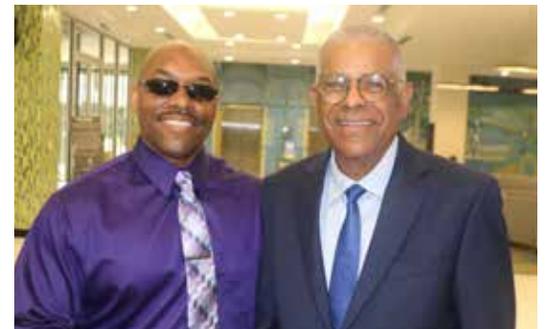
Family Foundations, a local nonprofit organization that helps families and individuals achieve financial and emotional strength, organized its eighth annual Jacksonville Wi\$e Money Week May 12-18.

One of the first events of the week was a breakfast the morning of May 13 at the Jessie Ball duPont Center in downtown Jacksonville. Attended by Family Foundation's board of directors and staff, partners at Junior Achievement, local banks and corporations, civic volunteers, and others, the breakfast set in motion a series of events designed to teach responsible money management and other important life skills to individuals of varying ages and income levels.

Co'Relous Bryant, a partnership development manager at Rethreaded

and Jacksonville native, served as the keynote speaker at the breakfast. Bryant reflected on his childhood and the wise money management of his mother, who worked at Kentucky Fried Chicken and imparted in him the importance of saving, discipline, planning and making the best of your resources.

Based on his life experiences, he also shared three F's that shape his financial thinking, including foundation, freedom and future. Lastly, he spoke about Rethreaded, an organization that supports survivors of human trafficking locally and globally through business. Many of the survivors, Bryant said, have never made a budget or had a debit card or banking account. When provided with basic financial tools and the knowledge that an organization such as Family Foundations can impart, he said the transformation is significant.



Darius Drake and Vernon Washington



Essay contest winner Silas Turner



ABOVE: Haley and manager of Financial Wellness Sonya Fleshman with LaTasha Jackson, winner of the 1st Time Homebuyer award.

RIGHT: Haley and Fleshman with Leandra Members, winner of the Asset Builder award.

Photos by
JON BLAUVELT



In addition to Bryan's address, the breakfast featured an awards presentation for a kids' essay contest that focused on the correlation between financial strength and positive quality of life. Sixth-grade student Silas Turner of James Weldon Johnson College Preparatory Middle School and eighth-grade student Shi-Ann Peterson of Arlington Middle School received the two awards for the contest.

The breakfast concluded with the presentation of three other awards. LaTasha Jackson received the 1st Time Homebuyer award after working with Family Foundations to ultimately persevere through financial difficulty and realize her dream of home ownership. Leandra Members received the Asset Builder award after working with Steps 2 Success, Florida's first financial opportunity center, to address a longstanding debt and attain stable employment with a possible move to a management position. Steps 2 Success received the Wi\$e Money Corporate Award.

Following the breakfast and throughout the week, volunteers fanned out across the community to offer a variety of financial education programs, classes and activities, all structured to reach individual age groups and income levels. Partnering with Junior Achievement, Wi\$e Money Week included instruction in 17 area schools. The sessions throughout the week were free of charge and open to all.

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CYPRESS TRUST COMPANY

celebrates new office in San Marco

by JON BLAUVELT

Cypress Trust Company hosted an open house May 2 to showcase its new office in the San Marco neighborhood of Jacksonville.

Previously located in Riverside, the firm's new location is 1910 San Marco Blvd., joining the bustling businesses and storefronts that comprise the popular San Marco Square.

Attendees of the open house enjoyed the opportunity to tour the office, which had been the headquarters for a charitable foundation and a private residence before that. Guests also interacted with the Cypress Trust Company team, including CEO Donald G. Kempf Jr., who visited the office and Jacksonville for the first time.

"I think it's a really wonderful community," said Kempf, who is based in Palm Beach. "I like our team here, and I expect them to be a value-added corporate citizen here. I'm looking forward to working with them and the Jacksonville community."

Kempf noted that the firm's Jacksonville team served as the trust department for CenterState Bank before being acquired by



Mac Hulbert, Allen Reid and Arthur Stern

Cypress Trust Company in December 2017. The new owner decided a different location was needed for the team to establish a new identity. They ultimately settled on the location in San Marco and moved there in January.

Founded 23 years ago in Palm Beach, Cypress Trust Company is a traditional trust business that mainly focuses on the estates of modestly wealthy to high net worth people, Kempf said. The hallmark of the

business, he added, is a hands-on, individualized approach.

Kempf served on the board of the company for about 10 years before completing a stint in 2017-2018 as deputy assistant attorney general of the United States. Upon returning to the private sector in August 2018, he rejoined the Cypress Trust Company board. Soon after, the previous CEO left the company, and the board asked Kempf to take the reins.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed it," Kempf said. "It's a wonderful organization. My predecessor had a vision of growing a strong, financially sound customer-oriented team. He did so, and I intend to continue on that path."



Clay Toussey III, Shelley Morgan, Danya Crescimanno, Donna Guzzo and Angela DeGregory

TOP LEFT: Becky Belt, Christine Bell, Beverly Flanagan, Donald Kempf and Patrick Dillon



RIGHT: Bill Nicholson and Victoria Smith

Photos by JON BLAUVELT

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Criminal Defense Attorney



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

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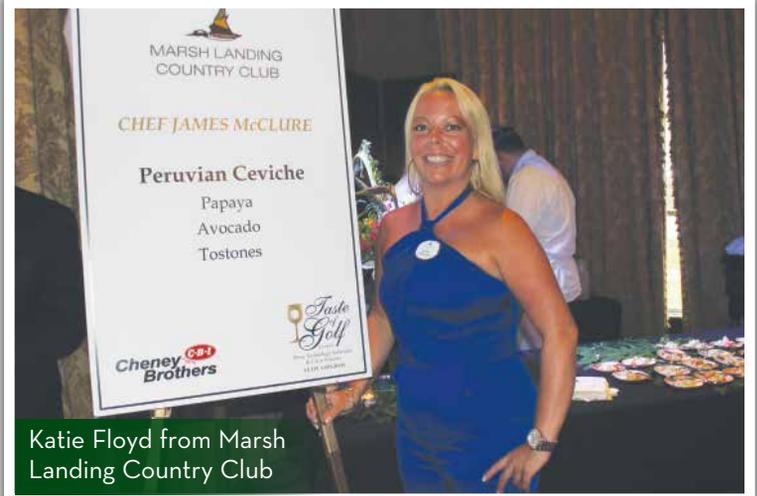
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by PARIS MOULDEN



Mel Cox, Kim and James Sole and Felicia Cox



Pong Mattiace, Darlene Deo and Lori Adams



Marti Tyrrel and Tangee Huger



The Hit Parade performed at the event



Kerri Dufour and Megan Kennedy

Good food and golf — what a great combination. Especially, when it also benefits area children.

That's the goal of Taste of Golf, which celebrated its 14th annual event on June 6 at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse in Ponte Vedra Beach.

The event brings together chefs from private golf clubs and resorts on the First Coast to showcase some of their popular dishes. During the event, a “Judge’s Choice” and “Chef’s Choice” winner is crowned.

The event has been held at TPC Sawgrass since 2013, and will likely be there for the foreseeable future

“We don’t plan on leaving because of the magnitude of the event,” said Jeff Willoughby, Executive Director of The First Tee of North Florida. “It’s been a great setting for us.”

Taste of Golf has grown in popularity over the years, and this year’s event featured a 10-by-20-foot artificial putting green, music by The Hit Parade and a box pull for several thousand dollars’ worth of diamonds.

“It’s a cool event,” Willoughby said. “If you haven’t been before, it’s definitely something to come see.”

While the event is a time for fun and food, the main focus is on raising funds for the First Tee of North Florida.

The nonprofit works with children ages 5-17 around the First Coast, and uses golf to teach sportsmanship, social skills and core values. First Tee works closely with area schools and other youth organizations to reach children from all demographics with a variety of skill levels.

“Our intent is not to create the next college golfer, but to show them golf is truly a lifetime sport,” Willoughby said.

First Tee has seen support growing, especially among the local golf community.

“Golfers in the area are some of our biggest donors,” Willoughby said. “This [Taste of Golf] is one way clubs can come out and support First Tee.”

The 14th annual Taste of Golf, which was presented by Pivot Technology Solutions and Cisco Systems, featured chefs from 2 Palms Grille at Oak Bridge, Sawgrass Country Club, Atlantic Beach Country Club, Deerwood Country Club, Hidden Hills Golf Club, Jacksonville Golf and Country Club, Marsh Landing Country Club, Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and The Lodge & Club, The River Club and Epping Forest Yacht Club, San Jose Golf Club, TPC Sawgrass and World Golf Village.

Every dollar from Taste of Golf goes to benefit First Tee, which aims to reach all children in the targeted age group along the First Coast and spread the love and appreciation of golf, while having fun and developing life skills.

“It’s not only a way to grow the game, but also to help support the children in the area,” Willoughby said.

NTE ENERGY MARKS 10th ANNIVERSARY

Company unveils
new logo
in conjunction
with celebration

NTE Energy marked its 10th anniversary April 22 with a celebratory dinner and the debut of a new logo.

Held at The Treasury on the Plaza in St. Augustine, the celebration featured cocktails, dinner, entertainment and the presentation of the new logo as the company expands its presence and impact as an independent power producer.

“NTE has come a long way since we began in 2009,” said founder and CEO Seth Shortlidge, noting that the company began in a small office on Anastasia Island furnished with a desk bought at Goodwill. “As we mark our 10th anniversary, we thought this was the time to update our brand identity with a bright, modern logo that reflects how NTE’s natural gas and solar power offerings complement one another, contributing to a cleaner, greener environment.”

MARKING 10 YEARS

With offices in Boston and Charlotte and headquarters in St. Augustine, NTE Energy develops strategically located electric generation facilities within North America.

According to a press release from the firm, NTE celebrates its 10th anniversary coming off a year that saw the company open two natural gas-fired power plants — Middletown (Ohio) Energy Center and Kings Mountain (North Carolina) Energy Center — and increase its customer base, particularly in the Carolinas, where NTE recently opened a Charlotte office.

NTE currently has two additional electric generating projects underway — the Reidsville (North Carolina) Energy Center and the Killingly (Connecticut) Energy Center — with several other projects in various stages of development, including the Fayetteville Solar Energy Center.

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Brandy Boulette and NTE Energy CEO Seth Shortlidge gather at the company's 10th anniversary celebration April 22 at The Treasury in St. Augustine. Photo provided by NTE ENERGY

The company has ranked on INC's list of fastest-growing private companies for four consecutive years.

"NTE has been transforming the energy industry for the past 10 years," Shortlidge told attendees, raising a glass of champagne in a celebratory toast. "We thank you for your support and look forward to building on our achievements in the decade to come."

For information, go to www.nteenergy.com.



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Ronald McDonald House of Jacksonville staff pose for a photo during the McGala.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF JACKSONVILLE BREAKS FUNDRAISING RECORD DURING

McGala

Nearly 500 supporters from the community came together to raise a record setting \$450,000 to support Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville Saturday, May 18 at Sawgrass Marriott Resort. The McGala 2019 fundraising event, presented by Joe and Nan Ferrara, was themed “The Supper Club” — reminiscent of the renowned Supper Clubs of the 1940s.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville Executive Director, Diane Boyle, expressed her appreciation saying, “We are truly overwhelmed by the generosity from friends of the Ronald McDonald House. It was a beautiful night that exceeded all of our expectations. Our supporters truly value the importance of caring for critically-ill children, which is evident in their support of our mission.”

Honorary Chairs, Matt and Shannon Connell were recognized for their ongoing support of McGala and the children and families of Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville.



McGala Event Chairs Matt and Shannon Connell enjoying the evening.

ABOVE: Ronald McDonald House of Jacksonville Executive Director Diane Boyle with Presenting Sponsors Joe and Nan Ferrara.

RIGHT: McGala attendees Heather Nathanson (from left), Melinda Stivers, Amber Anthony (past Ronald McDonald House of Jacksonville Board Member), Terry Cait, and Leslie Nadeau enjoy the festivities during cocktail hour.



Chris Thomas of the Chris Thomas Band played Jazz hits of the era.

Photos provided by the **RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF JACKSONVILLE**



Journey's Steve Augeri serenades the crowd with 'Don't Stop Believin''



Photos by DANIELA TOPOROV



Golfers take a photo with actor Kevin Rahm (center) during The Rahm Celebrity Golf Tournament May 30-June 2 at World Golf Village.
Photo by AVRA PHOTOGRAPHY



Actor Bruce Thomas poses for a photo with guests Bryana Dunn and Nicole Nelson at the Rahm Celebrity Jam Session.



Guests Ryan Arthur, Bob Medina and Scott Vurgess have a few laughs in the ballroom before the Jam Session begins.

RAHM CELEBRITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

raises \$700,000 from event at World Golf Village for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

by DANIELA TOPOROV

Actor Kevin Rahm held his first celebrity golf tournament May 30 to June 2 at World Golf Village, raising \$700,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

"The Rahm" was held at the World Golf Village Renaissance resort and was modeled after The Warburton, the West Coast version of the weekend-long event hosted by actor Patrick Warburton. More than 45 celebrities, such as lead vocalist John Elefante from rock band Kansas and Steve Augeri from Journey, came out in support of the cause.

The event began May 30 with a Nashville songwriters showcase, featuring songwriters Jamie O'Neal, Billy Dean, Tim Nichols and Kelley Lovelace.

On May 31, "The Rahm" Jam Session featured classic musical performances from Elefante, Augeri, The Romantics' Wally Palmar, Chicago's Jason Scheff, R.E.M.'s Mike Mills, Chris Daughtry, Sister Hazel and more.

Jam session guests Frank and Debbie Gazaleh were invited by John Thompson with Wells Fargo Advisors to enjoy the show and support the charitable event.

"We're having a great time," Frank Gazaleh said. "We're just here to enjoy the vibe and the music."

Also enjoying the vibe was celebrity guest and "Legally Blonde" actor Bruce Thomas who was spotted in the crowd on the dance floor, jamming to Chicago vocalist Jason Scheff's performance. Unfortunately for Legally Blonde fans, he was not seen doing the bend and snap.

The golf tournament ran June 1 and 2 at the King & Bear and Slammer & Squire courses in the World Golf Village, where each foursome was paired with a celebrity for both rounds. That celebrity also sat with the team at the Saturday Soiree, which featured a red carpet and cocktail reception, live and silent auctions, dinner and entertainment.

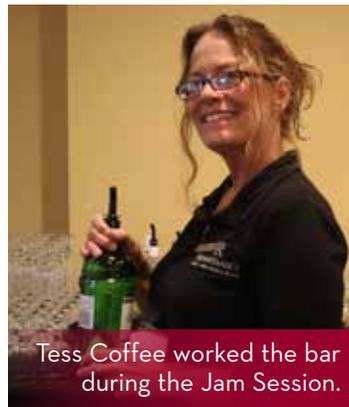
Spots to enter the golf tournament sold out with a long waiting list. The event's goal was to raise \$500,000, but "The Rahm" surpassed that goal with its final total.



Jam Session guests Cory Seay (from left), Lynn Pike, Debbie Templeton and Cindy Damato



Jam Session guests Debbie and Frank Gazaleh sit and enjoy the event.



Tess Coffee worked the bar during the Jam Session.



Jam Session guests Kathleen Tilley, Mary Kerr and Hannah Kerr pose in front of the ballroom at the event.

Fields Jaguar Land Rover dealership celebrates grand opening with a



BRITISH INVASION PARTY

A “Casino Night” section of the event featuring blackjack, raffles and prizes.



Congressman John Rutherford (right) poses with city council member Al Ferraro (left) and David Barron, owner of the Tire Outlet.



by AMBER LAKE

The all-new Fields Jaguar Land Rover opened its doors Saturday, June 8 for an exclusive event celebrating its grand opening. The party, with a “British Invasion” theme, featured a car show in conjunction with the festivities.

Jim Moyer, general manager of the new location, said that the event was intended to give back to the community.

“We are reinvesting into the community and this event shows our level of commitment to that,” said Moyer. “We want to make an impact on the community, be it jobs or services. We just want (the community) to participate so we can give back.”

Attendees enjoyed food and libations catered by TAVERNA of San Marco as well as a “Casino Night” with raffles and prizes. BeatleBeat, a Beatles cover band, entertained with everything from, “I Want to Hold Your Hand,” to “Here Comes the Sun.” Chicago artist, Elliott Aaron From, created performance art in conjunction with the band, creating abstract expressionist paintings to the beat of the music.

In addition, a few local dignitaries made appearances in support of the event, including congressman John Rutherford and Al Ferraro, city council member for District 2.

The new Jaguar Land Rover in Jacksonville is located at 11211 Atlantic Blvd. Visit www.landroverjacksonville.com for more information.





ABOVE: A Beatles cover band performs as the all-new Fields Jaguar Land Rover opened its doors Saturday, June 8 for an exclusive event celebrating its grand opening.



RIGHT: A flag-raising ceremony was presented by the Young Marines of Jacksonville.



In addition to the party, the new dealership featured a car show.
Photos by **AMBER LAKE**

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Blessings in a Backpack hosts Fiesta fundraiser

The 2019 Fancy Pants Fiesta raised more than \$20,000 to benefit Blessings in a Backpack, a nonprofit that provides weekend food bags to more than 200 elementary school children in Northeast Florida. The May 5, Cinco de Mayo-themed event was held at Topgolf in Jacksonville.

“Thank you, Fancy Pants Fiesta attendees, sponsors and donors, for one heck of an amazing day!” said Kimberly Ward, executive director, First Coast Blessings in a Backpack. “Despite the afternoon shower, everyone rolled with the punches and we had a very successful event — it is all thanks to you.”



The 2019 Fancy Pants Fiesta was celebrated on the top floor of TopGolf in Jacksonville on May 5. Funds raised go directly to providing hunger-free weekends for local children through the nonprofit, Blessings in a Backpack. Photo provided by **BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK**

During the 2018-19 school year, First Coast Chapter Blessings in a Backpack provided more than 873,240 weekend meals to 3,984 hungry children on the First Coast. School children have access to free or reduced meals during the week, but what about Saturday and Sunday? Blessings in a Backpack provides nutritional food for the weekend, so kids can

focus on the joys of childhood and return to school on Monday ready to learn. A backpack of nutritional, child-friendly, non-perishable food is available each Friday during the school year for school children who might otherwise go 65 hours without food.

For more information, visit, www.firstcoastblessingsinabackpack.com.

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