

Your Community Voice for 50 Years

PONTE VEDRA



Recorder

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

April 2, 2020
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75 cents

PonteVedraRecorder.com



CROWDS CAUSE CLOSURE

Crowds gather at St. Johns County beaches last Saturday despite social distancing recommendations due to COVID-19. A week after Duval County closed its beaches, throngs of beachgoers took to St. Johns County beaches, prompting the county to close the beaches completely last Sunday.

Read more on page 4

Photo by Clay Archer

MORE INSIDE: COVID-19 testing sites available to St. Johns County residents, **page 4**

Local priest delivers special message through air, **page 8**

Stores add safety precautions, new shopping hours, **page 14**



The Recorder's Entertainment EXTRA

Featuring TV listings, streaming info, sports schedules, puzzles and more!

INSIDE



Business Weekly

Pages 14-17



Kids Summer Fun Guide

Pages 18-19

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INSIDE

One of Us

Page 6

Business Weekly

Pages 14-17

In the Arts

Page 20

Sports

Page 22



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Send us your news

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

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

WHAT'S THIS?

Four readers correctly identified last week's photo as the sign for Advanced Disposal. The winner of the random draw was **Amanda Winter**. Congratulations, Amanda — you can call (904) 285-8831 or email pvrecorder@opcfla.com to make arrangements to get your tickets.



Editor's note: Because of the COVID-19 crisis and the current closure of the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, the Recorder is suspending the "Do you know what this is?" contest until further notice.

Editor's note: Because the St. Johns County Pet Center is closed, the Recorder's Pets of the Week feature has been temporarily suspended. The feature will return once the Pet Center reopens.

Need to know has never been more important than now

Ponte Vedra Recorder committed to keeping you informed with free weekly newsletter, E-edition

By Don Crible

Information on COVID-19 has become so critically important, it's difficult not to be overwhelmed.

Our beaches are closed. So are the bars, restaurants and hotels. Restaurants are limited to takeout and delivery menus.

At the same time, the number of our neighbors being infected continue to grow. Sadly, so will the death rate.

The Ponte Vedra Recorder will be there to keep you informed of the coronavirus, as well as the good stories that comes when a commu-

nity rises above the threat and works together for the common good — all while practicing social distancing.

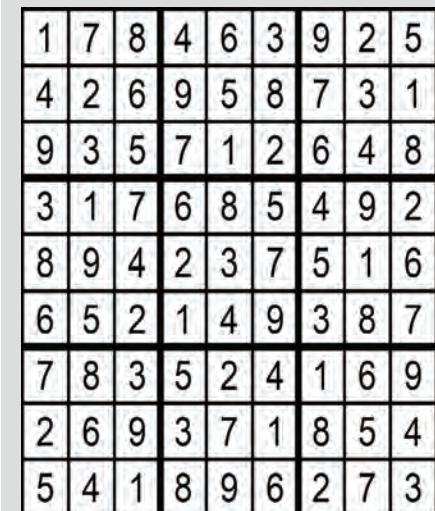
The need for responsible reporting at the local level has never been more important. While we won't feel the ramifications of the staggering numbers being reported in China, Italy and Spain, we feel the impact of everything that happens in our own neighborhoods.

Local newspapers like the Ponte Vedra Recorder is where you learn about your tax rates, schools and churches. It's where you read about your neighbors. It's where you find the tools and resources that lifts a community. It's where you find out if your favorite team won or lost its last game.

Billionaire Warren Buffett said it best: "If

NEWSLETTER continues on Page 3

Note to readers: Send us your emails to stay current on local news. In case social distancing requirements get more strict, we will email you your paper. Send your email address to don@opcfla.com

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

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Recorder will continue to work hard to keep pace with an evolving industry, particularly with digital platforms. We will continue to expand our website, pontevedrarecorder.com and our Facebook page, The Ponte Vedra Recorder, to include more breaking news. We also offer a weekly newsletter every Monday that outlines some of the top stories of the week, as well as providing access to our E-Edition and Recorder's Entertainment EXTRA! To get the newsletter emailed for free, just contact me at don@opcfla.com. We'll add you to the list.

The Ponte Vedra Recorder will continue to tell you about your neighbors. Now we need you to tell your neighbors about us.

Newsletter

Continued from 2

you want to know what's going on in your town — whether the news is about the mayor or taxes or high school football — there is no substitute for a local newspaper. Wherever there is a pervasive sense of community, a paper that serves the special informational needs of that community will remain indispensable ... papers delivering comprehensive and reliable information to tightly bound communities and having a sensible internet strategy will remain viable for a long time."

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COLLECTION



EGRETS GLADE \$239,000

Enjoy the privacy of a preserve lot, conveniently located between Atlantic & Beach Blvd. on the East side of Hodges. This 3 bed, 2 bath, 1,341 SqFt home has a 2-car garage, tile floors in the main living areas, carpet in the bedrooms, vaulted ceilings, low maintenance vinyl siding, solar window screens, & low annual HOA. MLS 1044285

Diana Kelly | 904.859.4368
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THE PLAZA \$339,900

Luxury riverfront condo in secure building with 24-hour concierge, heated pool, tennis, & clubhouse. This fully furnished unit features bamboo wood floors, granite counters, maple cabinets, 2 reserved garage spaces, & breathtaking views from all rooms! Tenant has lease until July. Purchase as investment property or move in after tenant vacates. MLS 1004244

John Richardson | 904.465.5110
JRichardson@WatsonRealtyCorp.com

PALMS @ NOCATEE \$444,000

Customized Las Palmas floor plan with interior courtyard, upgraded summer kitchen, 1 bed/1 bath casita, & 3-car garage. Situated on a private wooded preserve lot, this beautiful home features an open floorplan with large living room & kitchen, formal dining room, & master suite with separate sitting area & 2 walk-in closets. MLS 1034408

Murray & Elise Beard | 904.465.2784
MurrayBeard@WatsonRealtyCorp.com

TWENTY MILE @ NOCATEE \$679,900

Sought-after Brooke model on oversized corner lot. This home offers 5 beds, 3.5 baths, soaring ceilings, floor-to-ceiling bay windows, a gourmet kitchen with upgraded granite, 5-burner gas cooktop, & custom sub-zero fridge, formal dining room, fenced backyard with room for a pool, & large covered lanai. MLS 1044348

Victoria Ji | 904.612.9767
VictoriaJi@WatsonRealtyCorp.com

CYPRESS CREEK \$704,900

Newly renovated Ponte Vedra Beach beauty! This 2,800 SqFt home features 4 beds, 3 remodeled baths, an Epicurean kitchen, great room with stacked stone wood-burning fireplace, formal dining room, Florida room with sliders, custom blinds, huge rear deck, new landscaping, & lovely views of the lagoon. MLS 1041952

Jim Zeller | 904.772.5592
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These uncertain times have not stopped Watson Realty Corp. from selling in our communities. Record low interest rates have increased buyers' purchasing power, making homes more affordable. Call our Watson Office: 904.285.6300



Beaches closed out of concern for COVID-19, growing traffic

By Don Coble

Members of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office no longer will have to draw a line in the sand at the St. Johns County line to keep beachgoers away from their shoreline.

Officials in St. Johns yielded to mounting pressure from local residents and health officials late last Saturday by closing its 42 miles of beaches as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

That means Duval's sheriff's office no longer will have to set up a wall to keep thousands of beachgoers from St. Johns County from spilling onto the Duval County beaches.

"We have taken as many measures as possible up to this point to preserve our residents' ability to access their beach. Unfortunately, those visiting the beach continue to ignore CDC guidelines regarding crowd size and personal distancing. In order to maintain public safety and respect the State of Florida's Executive Order, we had no choice but to close the coastline to public access today," said Hunter S. Conrad, St. Johns County Administrator. "We will continue to be methodical in our approach to closings related to COVID-19, and like every decision we have made to this point, we will open the beaches at the appropriate time when it is safe to do so."

The determination to close all public beaches was based upon a recommendation to reduce health risks associated with



Photo provided by Susan Davison

People line up at the intersection of A1A and Mickler Road heading toward Mickler's Landing Beach last weekend. The crowds in the area prompted St. Johns County to close the beaches.

COVID-19 and beach overcrowding by the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, the St. Augustine Beach Police Department, the City of St. Augustine, the City of St. Augustine Beach, St. Johns County Emergency Management and local health officials.

Scott Beaver, the commander for the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office in the Ponte

Vedra Beach area, said another factor was the growing risks posed by the crowds and traffic.

"One they were on the beach, most of them practiced social distancing," Beaver said. "The problem was off the beach. We had people parking in streets and in yards, everywhere. People have been cooped up for a couple weeks and they're excited."

We just could risk anyone getting hurt."

Beaches will remain closed until further notice. Beaches to the north in Duval and Nassau counties were closed two weeks ago, as were the beaches to the south in Flagler County.

The closure will bring relief to many local residents, especially around Mickler's Landing, where hundreds of beachgoers crammed the side streets and parking lots on A1A.

The manager of Mickler's Landing plaza was forced to protect many of the parking spaces in his lot for his tenants on Saturday. The few extra spaces in the lot were rented for \$10 each.

"It wasn't about the money. We wanted to control who comes onto our property," the manager said. "The county kept the beaches open and closed the parking lots [last Sunday]. They made property owners deal with the mess."

The Mickler's Landing plaza is adjoined to the SJCO substation. Beaver said his parking lot also was filled by beachgoers.

Cars were parked on the west side of A1A for miles between Mickler's Landing and Vilano Beach Saturday afternoon, forcing beachgoers to cut between homes and make paths through the dunes to get to the beach.

All boat ramps, parks, green spaces and trails remain open for the public to safely enjoy, the county said. For more information, call the St. Johns County Emergency Management hotline at (904) 824-5550.

COVID-19 TESTING SITES FOR ST. JOHNS COUNTY RESIDENTS

FLAGLER HEALTH+

Flagler Health+ has established an outdoor test collection site for patients who have a physician order for COVID-19 testing and have pre-registered through the system. The drive through process takes about 3 minutes. Test results are taking at least 4-5 days on average. Tests results are communicated back to the patient's primary care doctor who notifies the patient of the results. Positive results are also reported to the Department of Health.

Flagler Health+ is also offering a reduced rate of \$25 for people to see a doctor online who may not have a primary care doctor. The online doctor will determine if they need to be tested or not based on their symptoms and an algorithm. The online doctor can also prescribe medications for certain other diagnoses. For additional information, visit www.flaglerhospital.org.

ST. JOHNS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEATH

The Florida Department of Health in St. Johns County, as part of disease control investigations, is collecting specimens for COVID-19 laboratory testing. As part of disease investigations, specimen collection is by appointment only for those individuals who meet the CDC criteria for testing. The Florida Department of Health in St. Johns County is located in the St. Johns County Health and Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

For more information about COVID-19 and testing, the Florida Department of Health in St. Johns County's COVID-19 call

center is open seven days a week from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. and can be reached at (904) 209-6363. All other inquiries can be directed to the Florida Department of Health in St. Johns County at (904) 209-3250. Calls received outside of standard business hours will be redirected to a Florida Department of Health in St. Johns County Public Health Nurse.

AVECINA MEDICAL-JULINGTON CREEK

The Avecina Medical-Julington Creek facility located at 1633 Race Track Road in St. Johns is open to the public from 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, as a COVID-19 collection site. Collection is being treated as an urgent care doctor's visit and clients must bring a photo ID and insurance card. The collection facility has a tent prepared outside and have requested that visitors wait in their cars for paperwork to be brought to them by a staff member. For additional information, call (904) 230-6988 or visit www.avecina.com/our-services/urgent-care/.

TIAA BANK FIELD FEDERAL TESTING SITE IS OPEN TO ST. JOHNS COUNTY RESIDENTS

Open to St. Johns County residents, the federally sponsored drive-thru COVID-19 testing site at TIAA Bank Field in parking lot J. All ages are accepted, although patients must still meet certain guidelines. These include:

- On-site temperature of 99.6 or higher.

- Patient must also have respiratory symptoms.
- First responders and healthcare workers who have direct contact with patients will also be tested, regardless of symptoms. Please bring work ID.

This site will operate from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. seven days a week, for as long as supplies last. While a doctor's order and appointment are not required at this location, clients will be evaluated by a medical professional on site. Patients who do not meet the criteria will not receive a test and will be sent home. Those attempting to be tested should:

- Bring their own pen.
- Have photo identification.
- Refrain from taking any fever-reducing medicine four-to-six hours before testing.

Remain inside of vehicle at all times.

A maximum of four people per car will be screened and tested; each person must be sitting at a functioning window. Additional passengers will be asked to move to the back of the line or return the following day. As long lines are expected, please follow the directions of Jacksonville Sheriff's Office traffic officers. Drivers coming from the west side of town should use Bay Street. Drivers coming from the east side should use Gator Bowl Boulevard. Public restrooms will not be available. American Sign Language and Spanish-language interpreters will be on site to assist. For questions regarding federal testing sites, call the toll-free call center at (877) 696-6775.

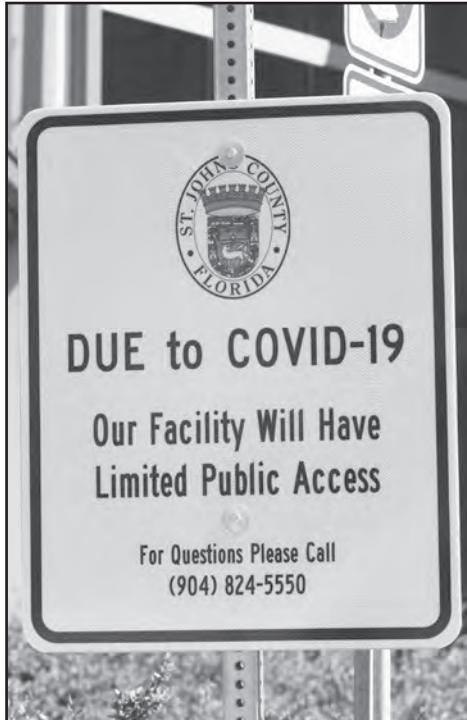
A LOCAL LOOK AT THE PANDEMIC



If a picture is worth 1,000 words, there aren't enough words to express how St. Johns County is reacting to the threat, restrictions and closures caused by COVID-19. Here's a look at the pandemic through our camera lenses.



Photos by Don Coble



More than \$2 million pledged to Northeast Florida COVID-19 relief

In the midst of a historic public health crisis, Northeast Florida donors have pledged more than \$2 million to Florida's First Coast Relief Fund to support immediate needs caused by COVID-19 disruption.

To help those most affected by COVID-19 disruption, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, Jessie Ball duPont Fund, Jewish Federation and Foundation of Northeast Florida, United Way of Northeast Florida and United Way of St. Johns County re-activated

Florida's First Coast Relief Fund.

"I don't know where to turn now that my hours have been reduced to nothing," said a local mother of four children who was seeking help from a Relief Fund grantee. "I don't know how we are going to make it."

For so many families who are now facing unemployment, reduced hours at work, lost wages and tips, mounting bills to pay and scarcity of everyday resources, the Relief Fund is serving as a critical safety net. Families who were already

at the tipping point before the pandemic are now living in survival mode. The assistance they receive through the Relief Fund helps them stay housed and buy food.

Twelve nonprofits in Duval, St. Johns and Nassau counties already received a total of \$405,000 to provide relief and resources to families throughout the region and the agencies that serve them. The first round of grants focused

RELIEF continues on Page 11

CLOSURES, UPDATES AND CANCELLATIONS

Due to the health and safety of the community, the following closures and cancellations have been made in St. Johns County and surrounding areas.

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

In the interest of public safety and in an effort to minimize the impact of COVID-19, the following St. Johns County facilities and programs are closed to the public or have been canceled until further notice.

- All St. Johns County libraries and the library bookmobile.
- All recreational facilities, recreational programming, recreational events, and all permitted events, including organized youth and adult sports, on St. Johns County property.
- The St. Johns County Ocean and Fishing Pier Gift Shop and all permitted events on associated County property, including the parking lot, volleyball courts and the pier pavilion.
- All events scheduled to occur at the St. Johns County Fairgrounds.
- All events scheduled to occur at the St. Johns County Agriculture Center.
- All events scheduled to occur at the St. Johns Golf Club.
- The St. Johns County Pet Center.
- All St. Johns County recycling and community collection events.
- All St. Johns County Fire Rescue community programming.
- All St. Johns County beaches.
- All boat ramps, parks, green spaces and trails remain open for the public to safely enjoy, the county said. For more information, call the St. Johns County Emergency Management hotline at (904) 824-5550.

St Johns County EOC COVID-19 Citizens Information Hotline

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners declared a Local State of Emergency in response to COVID-19 on March 17. In response, the St. Johns County Emergency Operations Center has been elevated to a level two partial activation and the COVID-19 Citizens Information Hotline is now active between 8 a.m.-6 p.m., seven days a week. St. Johns County residents can call the hotline at (904) 824-5550 for information regarding facility closures, program cancellations, and current St. Johns County COVID-19 guidelines.

SJC utility customer service/billing lobby closed, additional services available

The St. Johns County utility customer service/billing lobby is closed to walk-in customers until further notice. Their on-site drive-through, drop box locations, and pay-by-phone options will remain open to accept payments and provide services. Online bill payment and other utility services are also available at www.sjcf.us/utilities. The Utility Department standard operating business hours are 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For additional information, call Utility Customer Service at (904) 209-2700.

UPDATED ST. AUGUSTINE POLICIES

The following decisions go into effect immediately:

- The City Commission agenda will be limited to only those items essential to city business. Items that are not time-sensitive may be postponed.

UPDATES continues on Page 10

Matt Humphrey is NASCAR's director of Racing Communication. He's a resident of Ponte Vedra Beach who drives 80 minutes one way to NASCAR's Corporate Office in Daytona Beach every day — unless he's at a race. He spends most of that drive listening to, of course, NASCAR SiriusXM Radio.

Matt Humphrey

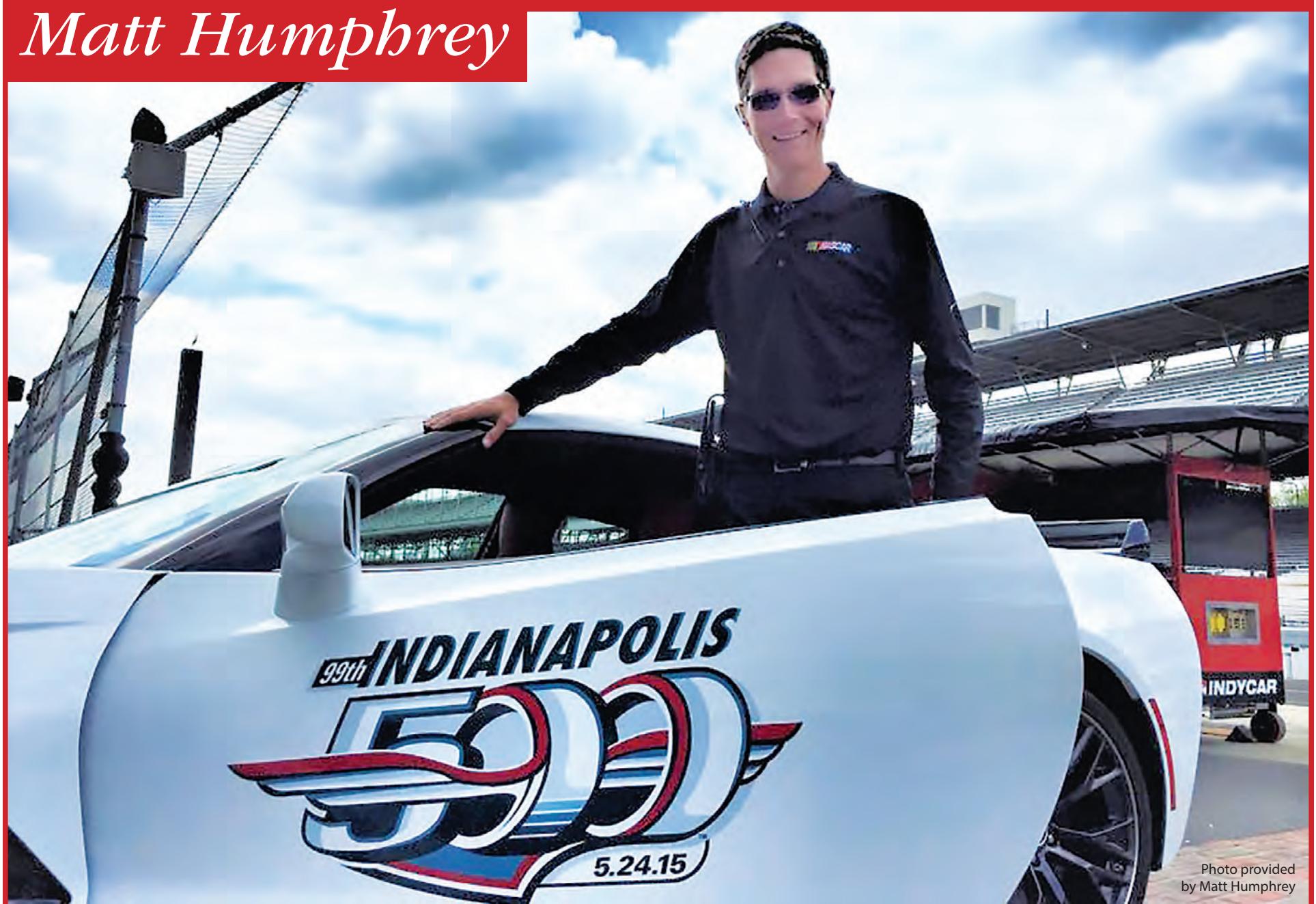


Photo provided by Matt Humphrey

As told to Don Coble

What are your first memories of auto racing?

I've been a motorsports fan since a time when I could remember. I grew up in Canton, Ohio. The only motorsports I had been exposed to was at that point and time was the Indianapolis 500. It was always shown on tape delay on television. And there was a Canton Motor Speedway, which is a little tiny short track. It's no longer there. It's a gravel pit. The track was located less than a mile from my house. I never got to go to that racetrack, but I would always fall asleep on Friday and Saturday nights hearing the roar of the engines. And I was hooked.

How were you introduced to NASCAR?

I was watching an episode of the "Dukes of Hazzard," of all things, and Cale Yarborough was the special guest star. The Duke boys got themselves involved with Cale Yarborough and that was my first exposure to NASCAR.

How did your journalism career start?

I quit college after six months because my ex-wife was pregnant. I needed to get a real job. I took a job working at the local sewage plant in Fredericktown, Ohio. We had two kids 13 months apart, so I had to get a second job to support the family. I got a part-time

working the sports department at the Mount Vernon News. They were looking for somebody to answer the phone in sports and write recaps of Little League baseball games. I got off the sewage plant at 3:30 (p.m.), and be down at the newspaper by 5:30-6 o'clock. I answered the phones and wrote all these one-inch recaps on local sports. After about a week of doing that, the sports editor asked if I had any interest in covering a football game and writing the story. I did both jobs, the newspaper and the sewage plant, for about three years. I volunteered to cover anything and everything, and that included motorsports. There was a local dragstrip in town called Pacemakers Raceway Park. There also was Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course right up the road, about a half-hour away. I volunteered my time to cover those events.

Why did you pick journalism?

I got sick at the sewage plant — literally sick. I wound up at the newspaper in St. Joseph, Missouri, and created an early friendship with Jimmie Johnson, who went on to win seven NASCAR championships.

How did that happen?

While I was at the New Press (in St. Joseph, Missouri, out there in early 2000), David Bradley, who was the publisher, was best friends with Stan and Randy Herzog of Herzog Motorsports, the No. 92 car in the Busch

Series. They had a guy driving who nobody had ever heard of — a guy named Johnson. As a favor to the Herzogs, the publisher asked me to do a story on this guy before and after all the Busch Series races. That led to me starting a motorsports page. I had to write it, design it and edit it. My design work got me to the Orlando Sentinel. What drew me to Orlando was the Daytona International Speedway was in the backyard.

And that got you to NASCAR?

In 2011, they had the Roar Before the 24 (test session ahead of the Rolex 24 at Daytona). Jimmie Johnson was testing a sports car. He was doing a press conference. I was experimenting with live streaming content to our website, orlandosentinel.com. I streamed the Jimmie Johnson press conference live back to the Orlando Sentinel. Stu Odom, who was running the sports services team with NASCAR, saw what I was doing. He asked if I'd be interested in applying for an opening in NASCARmedia.com.

Do you have a favorite race?

Without a doubt. It was the 50th running (in 2012) of the Rolex 24. That's the day I met my wife Kristin. I had one job that day: a woman was coming in to do transcripts. My one job was to keep her happy. I took those instructions to heart. I'm still doing that.

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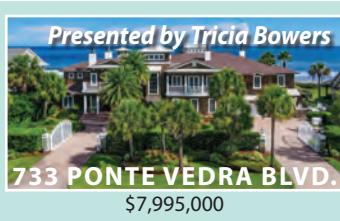
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Photos by Bridgett Massey

St. John Paul II Catholic Church priest offers airborne Benediction

In an hour of divine mercy, Father Richard Pagano of St John Paul II Catholic Church in Nocatee, accompanied by St Augustine Police Department Chief Robert Hardwick, flew over a portion of St Johns and Duval counties on Friday, March 27, offering Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament and prayer for all residents, workers, health professionals, first responders, and those who put themselves in harm's way to serve our basic needs during these challenging times of the coronavirus pandemic.

Father Pagano asked people to join him today in prayer and solidarity for the end to the coronavirus pandemic

and for healing to all those who have been affected.

The service was conducted from a helicopter from the Northeast Florida Regional Airport in St. Augustine.

Father Pagano said this is a great opportunity for "Church and government to unite in leadership to be able to pray, especially for the welfare of all of our people that we serve in our local area."

He referenced Pope Francis' reflection today during the Urbi et Orbi blessing, sharing, "when Jesus fell asleep in the boat and His disciples

FLYOVER continues on **Page 9**



Local fitness center offers live training during quarantine

By Amber Lake

Practicing social distancing doesn't necessarily mean finishing off a can of Salt and Vinegar Pringles while binge watching Netflix by yourself.

It does seem, however, that isolation and lethargy make comfortable bedfellows - or perhaps "couch-fellows" depending on your level of commitment to even making it out of bed.

Enter Jimmy Mullaney, trainer at Burn Boot Camp in the Nocatee Town Center. Mullaney said he doesn't believe social isolation has to be involve an entire pint of Ben and Jerry's. In fact, eating well and exercising can be done from home, easily and with accountability, thanks to Burn Boot Camp's daily dose of fitness via Facebook.

Mullaney has continued training (sans open facility) through the gym's live, online workouts and over-the-phone nutritional counseling.

Burn Boot Camp, which opened only a few months prior to the pandemic, decided that instead of calling it quits, they were going to do their best to keep the community fit and COVID-19 free.

"(Business) was going really well," Mullaney said. "(We thought) we can just shut down and suspend everyone's memberships and just wait it out or we can

try to keep the momentum going."

The regular live workouts are posted twice a day, with weekly "challenges," like drinking half-gallon of water or eating three serving of vegetables a day. Members are encouraged to post selfies after workouts and challenges to keep up motivation for themselves and other group members. Additionally, for those that aren't previous Burn Boot Camp members, the organization offers a free, two-week trial.

"We found that it's kind of ironic that all the gyms are closed down and that people now need gyms more than ever," Mullaney said. "We were running with that idea and we've always done a free 14-day trial. We wanted to open that up to all the residents of St. Johns and Duval counties. We figured it the least we can do because the community has been great to us so far."

Mullaney said that in addition to the live workouts and interactive videos, the Facebook page offers special kid-centric workouts two-three times a week for parents in need of some "P.E." time while home-schooling.

"It gets the whole family involved and the feedback has been awesome," Mullaney said.

To check out Burn Boot Camp's online fitness program or sign up for a free 14-day trial, visit www.facebook.com/BurnBootCampNocateeTownCenterFL/



Photo provided by Burn Bootcamp in Nocatee

Burn Boot Camp in Nocatee offers free at-home workouts for residents of St. Johns and Duval counties.

Flyover

Continued from 8

feared for their lives," they were able to experience "the peace that comes from prayer, from being in the company of Jesus."

Father Pagano wanted each of us to feel that same peace today as he blessed our neighborhoods. He asked us to "join in prayer and to really enter into the peaceful company of the Lord. When we

are with Him, we are with the Author of Life, we're secured in peace... that peace is so important for everybody right now."

Chief Hardwick expressed how blessed and privileged he felt for having the opportunity to participate in this experience with his long-time friend, Father Pagano.

"We are St Johns County strong and we will get through this ...," Hardwick said.

"We are going to get through this together and we are going to get through this in prayer," Father Pagano said.



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COA extends program closures through April 30

With the health and well-being of St. Johns County seniors as its top priority, St. Johns County Council on Aging has extended its recent program closures until April 30.

All COA senior centers in St. Johns County (Coastal Community Center, River House, Hastings, Trout Creek and THE PLAYERS Community Senior Centers in Ponte Vedra), all Integrative Memory Enhancement Program classes and the Sunshine Center adult day care facility will remain closed until April 30.

While these services will be closed, Meals on Wheels will continue to be delivered, and COA caseworkers and staff will continue to be available by phone and email. Seniors and caregivers in need of COA's assistance are encouraged to call (904) 209-3700 Monday through Friday

from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., email at info@coasjc.org or visit www.coasjc.org.

Sunshine public buses and paratransit buses will continue to operate with additional safety measures recommended by the CDC in place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

COA will continue to post updates via Facebook at www.facebook.com/coasjc/, via Instagram at www.instagram.com/councilonagingsjc/ and via the COA weekly e-newsletter. To sign up to receive the e-newsletter, visit www.coasjc.org.

"Now more than ever, we are relying upon the community's help to be there for the seniors in our community," COA Executive Director Becky Yanni said. "The best way to help right now is with monetary donations so that we can adjust to rapidly changing needs during this crisis."

The Recorder has a new garden columnist, Kathy Esfahani, of Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery. Read her column for valuable garden-growing tips in Northeast Florida.

KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE



"Never underestimate the healing power of a quiet moment in the garden."

CLIMBING FLOWERS AND PLANTS

As many people are staying home these days, gardening can be a relaxing home

improvement to spend your time. Climbing plants can give your yard an organic and inviting feel and add beautiful ambience.

Here are some of the beautiful climbers we carry at the Nursery:

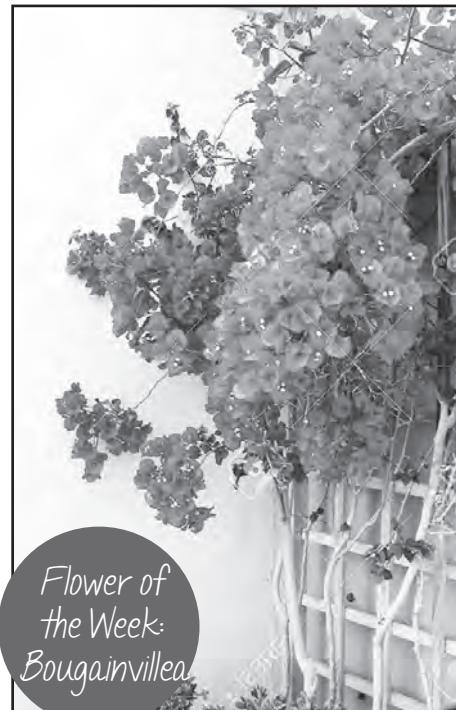
Allamanda: Fastest growing vine with bright yellow blooms. Great vine to have around a patio or pool but be careful, their seeds are poisonous to humans and animals.

Bougainvillea: This vine is a tropical plant that loves Florida heat and requires full sun to create such vibrant blooms. They will bloom most of the year right up until Winter in our zone and climbs quickly!

Bleeding heart: Another tropical vine that thrives with full shade or morning sun. This vine has dark green leaves and clusters of red and white flowers that can be pruned into the shape of your choice.

Carolina jasmine: This vine has a fragrant, yellow bloom and can grow to 25 feet. It blooms in late winter/early spring and thrives in this zone, as long as we don't have a harsh winter.

Mandevilla: Loves the Florida heat, but needs some shade in the hottest part of the



*Flower of the Week:
Bougainvillea*

Photo provided by Kathy Esfahani

day. Also an easy grower, this vine comes in a variety of bright colors.

Confederate jasmine: Easy grower in partial to full sun. They grow to be at least 6 feet long and bloom a small white flower each May.

Passion vine: This vine created a 3D flower in purple that butterflies love! It can grow in full sun or partial shade and up to 25 feet tall.

Email Kathy at kathy.creative.gardens@gmail.com for any questions or gardening tips you would like to see in the future.

Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery is located at 196 N. Roscoe Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach. (904) 655-7373

Updates

Continued from 5

■ In regards to public comment, and in lieu of physical attendance, the city encourages individuals to submit comments via email to cityclerk@citystaug.com which will subsequently be read into the public record.

For those organizations receiving a recognition and/or proclamation from the City Commission, the city is requesting representation by one attendee. The city has also determined that non-essential staff will not attend public meetings in person, but will monitor meetings online through the city's website at www.CityStAugTV.com.

■ In compliance with best practices of social distancing, city staff will be minimizing person-to-person contact by holding meetings through teleconference and online virtual meetings.

■ Until April 1, to ease the burden of past due balances for utilities, the city will not shut off water service.

■ Customers who wish to submit permit applications or pickup approved permits should not appear in person, but instead correspond via email to BuildingPermits@citystaug.com for planning and building permits, and PWpermits@citystaug.com for Public Works permits.

■ Customers who wish to make payments for utilities or permits, should not appear in person, but instead call to make payment arrangements over the phone:

Customer Service (utility billing): (904) 825-1037
Planning & Building (building permits, business licenses): (904) 825-1065, ext. 2
Public Works (right-of-way and site construction permits): (904) 825-1040, ext. 6

For more information, call (904) 293-3307.

UPDATED NOCATEE POLICIES

■ In an effort to maximize compliance with State of Florida Executive Orders and other social distancing recommendations, CDD playgrounds and sports courts will remain closed until further notice. CDD playgrounds are in Greenleaf Park, Cypress Park, Twenty Mile Park, Twenty Mile Post, Addison Park and Lakeside Park.

■ Currently, all CDD facilities are closed, with the exception of limited staffing of the Resident Services office.

■ Closures include all pools and waterparks, all events, activities and rentals of Crosswater Hall, the fitness center, playgrounds and sports courts.

■ Coastal Wine Market has canceled home delivery in effort to eliminate human contact. Gift cards can still be purchased via Venmo by sending the amount requested to @coastalwine.

■ The decision to close our facilities is based on recommendations to reduce health risks associated with the COVID-19 virus by the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, the St. Johns County Emergency Management and other local health officials.

■ The Nocatee Welcome Center remains open, but a scheduled appointment is required. The Nocatee Welcome Center is currently not allowing Walk-In Visitors. Call (904) 924-6863 to speak

with a Welcome Center representative for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Connect Virtually

View an online Nocatee Welcome Center Presentation and Tour via this link. A live chat feature is available on the page, and a Welcome Center Representative is available to answer any questions that you may have. The staff is available to answer questions and give presentations by phone at (904) 924-6863. Email any questions to welcomecenter@nocatee.com

FACILITY CLOSURES

■ The St. Johns Golf Club, St. Johns County's parks, open green spaces and trails remain open.

■ In addition, Veterans Services, the Permit Center, Health and Human Services, Utilities Services, and all other County business services remain open to the public and operational.

■ The Beaches Museum is closed until further notice.

■ The Cultural Center of Ponte Vedra Beach is closed until further notice.

■ The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens is closed until April 3.

■ The Jacksonville Symphony has canceled concerts through April 1, with possible livestream performances to be aired for the public.

■ The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall events that were to take place from March 19 through April 1 have been postponed.

■ The Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club has canceled its upcoming events for the next eight weeks. In addition to regular weekly meetings, this will also include the Local Heroes event scheduled for April 2 and the Mineral City Celebration on May 9. The club still intends to honor this year's Local Heroes award recipients and will present their plaques privately.

■ Publix has changed its store and pharmacy hours with all stores now closing at 8 p.m.

■ The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum is closed until further notice.

■ The St. Johns Golf Club is postponing all Sunday Junior Golf Clinics until further notice.

■ The Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts is closed to the public. Events from March 19 through April 1 have been postponed.

■ St. Johns County Public Libraries to host Facebook Live Storytime in response to COVID-19

■ St. Johns County Public Library will host virtual storytimes at 11 a.m., Monday through Friday, on Facebook Live. Youth services librarians will be reading stories from the library's collection.

The storytimes last approximately 30 minutes and are recorded and posted on the Library's Facebook page for those who miss the live showing. For more information, or to watch a storytime, please visit www.facebook.com/sjcpcls.

Compiled by Daniela Toporek

The weekly calendar has been suspended due to the pandemic. Email cancellations, closures, postponements and updates to daniela@opcfla.com or pvrecorder@opcfla.com

OBITUARIES

Claude Ellis Bagwell

Claude Ellis Bagwell, 88, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died March 22, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. (904) 249-1100.

William Louis Beckley

William Louis Beckley Sr., 75, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died March 27, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. (904) 249-1100.

William Henry Brown

William Henry Brown Jr., 93, of Neptune Beach, Florida, died March 24, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family

Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. (904) 249-1100

Morris L. Dean

Morris L. Dean, 80, of Jacksonville, Florida, died March 10, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. (904) 249-1100

John Stephen Gleason

John Stephen Gleason, 86, of Jacksonville, Florida, died March 23, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. (904) 249-1100.

Amanda "Mandy" Krausser

Amanda "Mandy" Krausser, 31, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died March 19, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904)

285-1130 – www.pontevdravalley.com

Roxas Viray Macam

Roxas Viray Macam, 81, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died March 21, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. (904) 249-1100.

Marchelle McMillan

Marchelle McMillan, 52, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died March 21, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. (904) 249-1100.

Donald "Don" Petty

Donald "Don" Petty, 63, of Jacksonville, Florida, died March 25, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 –

www.pontevdravalley.com

Cathie Shimp

Cathie Shimp, 67, of Jacksonville, Florida, died March 24, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. (904) 249-1100

Lorraine Mary Smith

Lorraine Mary Smith, 73, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died March 20, 2020. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. (904) 249-1100

Rachel Stoughton

Richard L. Stoughton, 92, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died March 20, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevdravalley.com

Relief

Continued from 5

on immediate needs of shelters and those providing emergency food and financial assistance.

The recipients include: Barnabas Center, BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry), Catholic Charities (Jacksonville), Catholic Charities (St. Augustine), City Rescue Mission, Clara White Mission, ElderSource, Feeding Northeast Florida, Jewish Family & Community Services, St. Francis House, Sulzbacher and Trinity Rescue Mission.

"Trinity Rescue Mission has seen donations and other revenue streams to be very vulnerable right now," said Gary Judd, the Jacksonville shelter's executive director. "The coronavirus has put an incredible stress on the homeless community and on those who help to serve them. We have seen increased direct expenses, including staffing, transportation, food cost and supplies. Florida's First Coast Relief Fund has allowed us to continue to operate and those who are most vulnerable in the city to be cared for during times of uncertainty."

With support from the Relief Fund, Trinity Rescue Mission has been able to increase its services, including isolating its most vulnerable population at a separate location; take extra recommended steps to help the homeless, including social distancing and hygiene; and actively collaborated with other providers across the city to meet overall community needs.

"This is exactly what Florida's First Coast Relief Fund is designed to do – it ensures Northeast Florida nonprofits can continue their critically important work helping our most vulnerable populations in this time of increased need," said Mari Kuraishi, president of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund. "We're grateful for the support of so many individuals, businesses and foundations who are helping shore up the resources available to those in our community who need them most."

The Fund was able to deploy these much-needed grants due to the generous

and immediate support from local foundations, corporations and individual donors. The Jessie Ball duPont Fund trustees pledged \$500,000 to support the Relief Fund, the largest single gift to date for COVID-19 relief.

Major funders who have committed to the Relief Fund for COVID-19 thus far include:

- Jessie Ball duPont Fund: \$500,000
- Shad Khan of the Jacksonville Jaguars: \$400,000
- Jim Moran Foundation: \$250,000
- Weaver Family Foundation Fund: \$250,000
- Lucy Gooding Charitable Trust: \$150,000
- The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida: \$100,000
- GuideWell/Florida Blue: \$100,000
- Riverside Hospital Foundation: \$50,000
- Zimmerman Family Foundation: \$50,000
- Wells Fargo: \$40,000
- DuBow Family Foundation: \$25,000
- Robert and Margaret Hill: \$25,000
- Jewish Federation and Foundation of Northeast Florida: \$25,000
- VyStar Credit Union: \$25,000
- Anonymous: \$25,000

More than 50 additional donors have made generous gifts totaling \$44,000.

"We live in an incredibly generous community, and in times of crisis like these, it truly shines," said Nina Waters, president of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. "Because of our community's generosity, the nonprofit sector is bolstered and individuals will get the help they need. Florida's First Coast Relief Fund partners are deeply grateful for the dollars raised thus far, and we urge others to step up to join us in this important effort."

The needs are growing, and the calls for help are increasing. Nonprofit organizations can now apply for funding from the Relief Fund, and applications are being accepted online. Organizations can apply for help in the following categories:

- Food assistance, non-food items

and supplies for agency and low-income individuals and families who are food insecure due to job losses, school closings, etc.

■ Short-term housing assistance to support shelters to safely distance residents and prevent the spread of COVID-19

■ Financial assistance for individuals and families impacted by the crisis to help meet their basic household needs

■ Child-care support for first responders and other frontline staff working to prevent the spread of the virus

■ Medical, safety supplies and equipment for community-based service providers as they carry out essential community services

■ Technology support for nonprofits to enable remote work and continued delivery of services

As with past relief efforts, the Relief Fund will be overseen by a grants committee and administered by United Way of Northeast Florida with 100 percent of donations going to nonprofit agencies.

"I want to say thank you to every group or individual who is personally stepping up for the people of Jacksonville during these uncertain times," said Shad Khan, owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars, in a press release Tuesday. "It's my privilege to help."

Again, 100% of Florida's First Coast

Relief Fund dollars will benefit local COVID-19 relief efforts. They will be granted to organizations providing direct services to individuals impacted by COVID-19 in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns counties. The fund will provide resources to meet needs not met by government programs.

Florida's First Coast Relief Fund will remain open until needs stabilize and while funding is available. Applications are now open for nonprofits to apply for funding. To learn more, give or apply, visit unitedwaynefl.org/COVID19response.

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Area hospice patients receive love letters from therapy pets

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Community Hospice & Palliative Care's Pet Therapy pets are unable to make visits to patients and their families. These compassionate dogs and cats travel to see patients in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau St. Johns, Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Putnam, Suwannee and Union counties.

"We felt a card mailed out along with a collage of photos of the patient's therapy pet would cheer them up during this time," volunteer coordinator Chris Whitney said. "It is essential for our patients to know that the Pet Therapy team is thinking of them as well as miss them."

Pet therapy is yet another way that Community Hospice & Palliative Care brings comfort and smiles to patients and their families. Registered therapy animals and their owners have played an important part of the Community Hospice care team since 1996.

For more information, visit CommunityHospice.com or call (904) 407-5022.



Abby with her owners



Ava with her owner



Photo provided by Community Hospice & Palliative Care

Local Girl Scouts donating cookies to health care heroes

The Girl Scouts of Gateway Council is giving thanks to emergency and health care workers by donating boxes of its famed Girl Scout cookies.

Aiming to provide some comfort and normalcy during this difficult time, Girl Scouts of Gateway Council has committed to donating at least 20,000 boxes of cookies to workers in those fields.

The Girls Scouts of Gateway Council is asking organizations, companies and donors to buy cookies in bulk (at cost) to gift Girl Scout Cookies to local hospital staff, first responders and pharmacy staff. The organization will also match all donations given on top of the 20,000 of boxes already committed.

Donors can also designate the facility where they want the donated cookies to go, and personalize their support for a spouse, friend or family member working to promote health and keep the community safe. Donors will also be recognized on the Gateway Council website, in emails and in publicity materials, and 100% of donations go to providing cookies to these workers.

Contact TriciaRae Stancato at tstancato@girlscouts-gateway.org or (904) 421-3484 for more information. To donate, visit secure.qgiv.com/for/coohoer.



Ponte Vedra Club Realty

FIRST COAST STRONG!

Here on Florida's First Coast, like everywhere else, we face closures, cancellations and postponements due to the growing coronavirus pandemic. We have learned new terms like social distancing, flattening the curve and self-quarantine. Amid the stress and uncertainty, we must remember our strength as a community - family, neighbors and businesses working together to help one another. We are First Coast Strong! We hope everyone remains healthy and safe - Suzie & Rory Connolly.

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Business Weekly

PAGE 14

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Local stores add safety features, special hours

By Don Coble

Grocery and liquor stores are changing hours and adding protective shields to better serve their customers — and protect their employees — during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stores like Winn-Dixie, Publix and The Fresh Market are working tirelessly to stock shelves and provide a safe environment during a time when many residents have been told not to leave their homes.

Winn-Dixie and ABC Fine Wine and Spirits already have installed Plexiglas shields at most of their registers and Publix plans to have the same partitions in place in the next week.

ABC was quick to respond to the virus that's easily spread by contact, sneezes and coughs.

"We have a woodshop in Orlando, and they made enough shields in one night for 125 stores," the assistant manager at the Ponte Vedra ABC said. "We got them up right away."

Liquor stores reported an unprecedented rush during the second week of March when restrictions and cancellations were announced by federal, state and local officials.

The company has the following statement on its website: "Currently, all shelter-in-place orders allow ABC and our team members to

continue working."

And that means extra business.

"We were holiday busy," said one store operator in St. Augustine. "It was crazy, crazy, crazy. It was like the week before Christmas."

In Ponte Vedra Beach, staff at ABC said many of their customers were stocking up in case stores are ordered to close. However, in most jurisdictions, liquor stores provide "essential services" and wouldn't be subject to closures like local bars, nightclubs and restaurants.

All stores have adjusted their hours to help elderly people complete their shopping early, to allow first responders to shop late and to provide extra time around the store for cleaning.

The Fresh Market now is open from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. During weekdays, the first hour of operation is limited to senior citizens who are considered the most vulnerable to catch the novel coronavirus.

"We ask that our other guests who do not fall into these categories respect these special hours for those who fall into the higher risk categories as outlined by the CDC, so they can feel more comfortable shopping in our stores," the store said in a company release.

STORES continues on Page 17

Takeout and delivery guide:
Where and how to still eat local during the crisis

Page 17



Photo by Don Coble

An employee at the Winn-Dixie in Ponte Vedra Beach checks out a customer from behind a protective shield.

Ponte Vedra Beach real estate thriving despite pandemic

By Daniela Toporek

With fears of a drowning economy due to the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses are finding new ways to stay afloat, including those in real estate. While the world is advised to stay home, Realtors are adapting to the new, virtual strategies to sell. And at Ponte Vedra Beach, it seems to be working.

"I hear people keep saying the market is crashing, but real estate and stock, don't go hand in hand," said local agent Lisa Barton. "Our market here at Ponte Vedra Beach is actually really strong. We've had over 10 years of growth and very little inventory. At an all-time low of about four months. In real estate six months is the average for a balanced market."

Ponte Vedra Realtor Claire Berry is tak-

ing advantage of the slower pace and using it to get to know her clients better, with more in-depth conversations and attention to detail.

"There's nothing nice about this situation, but with slowing, we have time to ask more questions and learn more about each other," Berry said. "I think that's going to be a good thing that we have time for planning, rather than just five minutes between the next appointment. It's nice to spend time with these prospects, educating them on the market and having more time to find the ideal location."

And although clients can't see their potential new properties in person, Berry, Barton and other Ponte Vedra Realtors have virtually brought the tours to them.

"We always post a professional video

that shows how the house fits in the neighborhood, but now, we've successfully been doing Facetime videos with our client," explained Barton. "We put two houses under contract this week, actually. One couple was from New Jersey so of course, she didn't want to fly down, so we walked through the house with our phone. We could open the pantry, show them the closet, how far the guest bath is from the pool and more. We've had some good success."

And for those without Facetime, there's always Whatsapp.

"I'm a Samsung girl, so Whatsapp is a good option for me. I did a tour of one of the neighborhoods on Tuesday, I think," Berry said, laughing at how all the days seem to blend together lately. "No, it was

definitely on Tuesday. It was a gorgeous day. I went out there with my phone, first thing in the morning, parked and walked both ends of the boulevard, showed them the nice residential street and came back to look at the lots."

Prospective buyers still are able to meet and tour spaces in person, but with much precaution and with Realtors handling every part of the location, from opening doors to sanitizing countertops.

"People, of course, are nervous about having strangers in their home right now, so we're being really serious about only pre-qualified clients visit," Barton said.

"We normally work with an agent and if they say clients have a preapproval letter,

REAL ESTATE continues on Page 15

North Florida Green Chamber selects board of directors

The North Florida Green Chamber of Commerce has announced its selection of board of directors for 2020.

NFGCC is a regional networking organization for all sizes of businesses and community organizations including nonprofits that emphasize green and sustainable business practices.

Mary Tappouni, president of Breaking Ground Contracting, is chairman. Vice chair Marc Hudson is the Land Protection director at North Florida Land Trust. Kelly Karstaedt, executive director of the Jacksonville Justice Association, is secretary. Jessica Handley, tax manager at BDO, is treasurer.

Other board members include Tracy Alloway, Ph.D., an award-winning psychologist, professor, author and TEDx speaker;



Tracy Alloway



Craig Barzso



Jessica Handley



Marc Hudson



Kelly Karstaedt



Paul Sifton



Mary Tapouni

Craig Barzso, co-founder of Altways, a St. Augustine-based business helping people go solar and founder and CEO of LifeWare TEK, developer of Internet-based sales, marketing and supply chain systems for major brands and Paul Sifton, part owner of 927 Events and partner of Bee Friends Farm.

These members bring a diverse background in business, non-profit and govern-

ment service to the North Florida Green Chamber Board of Directors.

In addition to promoting the economic success of NFGCC members using environmental, socially responsible and sustainable practices, the North Florida chapter has ongoing networking and educational events, job fairs, newsletter as well as sponsorship opportunities, discounts and a mentoring program.

To learn more email contact@northfloridagreenchamber.org, call (904) 878-3474 or visit www.NorthFloridaGreenChamber.org.

The North Florida Green Chamber of Commerce is where being green is cool and convenient! Today, more businesses than ever understand how critical it is to grow in ways that are sustainable financially, but also socially and environmentally.

Representatives from Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices FNR's Ponte Vedra location celebrate the company's annual Top Producers event. Front row (from left): Sarah Alexander and Elizabeth Hudgins. Back row (from left): Janet Westling, Devon Witt, Lisa Sandifer, Tina Webster and Holly Hayes.

Photo provided by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices FNR



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices FNR honors Top Producers at event

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty celebrated its "Forever Agents and Forever Brand" March 18 at the Lightner Museum in St. Augustine for its Top Producers Special Night, where the company recognized the 2019 award-winning Realtors.

The Lightner Museum provided an elevated backdrop for the festivities that honored more than 100 Berkshire Hathaway associates in Florida and guests from the company's branch offices all around Northeast Florida.

"I congratulate our Forever Agents on their tremendous achievements," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices FNR President and CEO Christy Budnick. "Our incredibly talented, passionate and dedicated Realtors have made our company the market leader in Northeast Florida. I am so grateful and appreciate their contributions to the company's success."

For more information about Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, call (904) 296-6400 or visit www.FloridaNetworkRealty.com.

Real Estate

Continued from 14

that's usually enough. Now, we have to see it to assure it's a legitimate buyer. We're the only ones touching anything in the home."

Barton also is limiting the number of people who can tour the homes, not permitting any children to attend for the time being and keeping human contact at

a minimum.

And to further assist both Realtors and potential buyers, the CEO of the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors notified agents that a new addendum has been added to contracts that addresses what occurs if there is an unforeseen delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"For example, if we're looking to close a deal on Monday and the closing office all of a sudden closed, this addendum would

cover that delay," Barton explained. "So used that on an offer I just accepted today. I'm working on another offer now that will hopefully get signed today, as well."

Barton also said that now is normally one of the busiest times of the year for agents. It's the prime time for families with kids to find their new dream home before the next school year begins.

"It's interesting to see how we're going to maneuver when in July, if and when

things start getting back to normal," she said.

But for now, agents will focus on serious inquiries only, appropriate social distancing, sanitizing, and virtual tours, to help move their businesses forward.

"In a way, we still are sort of an essential staff, right now," Barton said. "With everything going on, especially now, people still need a place to live and a roof over their head."

Financial Focus: Watch out for financial scams related to virus

Karsten Jacobson
Columnist

On one hand, the coronavirus has brought out the best in us. People across the country are pitching in to help others, from providing protective masks to health care workers to holding video chats with confined residents of assisted living homes to simply buying gift cards to support local businesses. On the other hand, a small number of bad actors are taking advantage of the situation to try to defraud people. How can you guard against these virus-related scams?

For starters, be aware of three common scams connected to the coronavirus:

■ **Websites claiming to help and track the pandemic:** Look out for websites that claim to help you work remotely or provide financial resources to the afflicted. These sites may try to trick you into giving up personal information, donate money or load malware onto your computer. Don't trust information technology (IT) "helpdesk" agents you don't know. And check out

JACOBSON continues on Page 16

Jacobson

Continued from 15

■ “Risk-free” or “guaranteed” investments: The coronavirus has caused two separate, but related, areas of stress. The first is the health concern, and the second is the financial/investment component. The enormous volatility of the financial markets has caused much concern among investors, and scammers are seizing the

opportunity to offer “risk-free” or “guaranteed” investments “perfect” for this particular time. Again, responding to these types of offers can bring you nothing but trouble. All investments carry risk of one type or another, and they typically don’t come with guarantees, although some do offer significant protection of principal. In these turbulent times, your best move is to stick with a long-term investment strategy based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

Here’s one more suggestion: Warn your elderly relatives about the increased potential for scams. The elderly are always the most susceptible to fraud, and now, when they may be more isolated than before, they may well be even more vulnerable. So, make sure you’re talking to these loved ones, and urge them not to make any sudden, out-of-the-ordinary financial moves.

Even in normal times, it’s regrettable that we have to be on the alert for scam

artists — and it’s even more unfortunate during a period of national crisis. However, by being reasonably vigilant, and by taking the proper precautions, you can avoid taking on the “collateral damage” that can occur in this environment.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor. Karsten L.Jacobson, CFP®, is a financial advisor for Edward Jones at 2208 Sawgrass Village Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach 904 285 9898.

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RESTAURANT TAKEOUT AND DELIVERY GUIDE

A comprehensive guide to eating local during the COVID-19 crisis:

Aqua Grill: 395 Front St., Ponte Vedra Beach

Aqua Grill is offering complimentary delivery by staff with 5-mile radius and \$30 min order. Curbside pick-up is available from 5 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

Barbara Jean's on the Water: 15 S. Roscoe Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach

Barbara Jean's is currently doing takeout orders and has expanded its services for delivery in the Ponte Vedra and Palm Valley area. To place an order or inquire if your address is covered, call the restaurant at (904) 280-7522.

Bogey Grille: 150 Valley Circle, Ponte Vedra Beach

Bogey Grille will continue to offer takeout and is partnering with Delivery Dudes for delivery. Additionally, the restaurant is now offering alcohol to go. Staff is ready to take your orders and will bring them out to your car. Call (904) 285-5524 for placing orders.

JaxSpice: 311 3rd St. N. #104, Jacksonville Beach

Jaxspice located at Jax Beach is open for takeout orders. The authentic Indian restaurant is open Monday and Wednesday-Friday from 1-9:40 p.m. and Tuesday from 5-9:40 p.m. Call (904) 853-6217 to pick it up. The restaurant will also deliver at the curbside to your car, and offers delivery through Bite Squad, Diversify Dude, Uber Eats and Door Dash.

Lulu's Waterfront Grille: 301 Roscoe Blvd. N., Ponte Vedra Beach

Lulu's Waterfront Grille, which serves fresh local seafood and other Southern-accented fare, is open daily from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. for delivery and curbside takeout. Call (904) 285-0139 to place order or for more information.

McFlamingo: 880 A1A N Suite 12, Ponte Vedra Beach

McFlamingo is offering free delivery for Ponte Vedra Beach, Nocatee and Jax Beach. Curbside

pick-up is also available. To order, call (904) 834-2331. The restaurant is also offering dining al fresco.

Memphis Jax BBQ: 10870 U.S. 1 S., Ponte Vedra Beach

Memphis Jax is open for takeout or delivery. The restaurant encourages customers to order online at www.memphisjaxbbq.com or call (904) 342-0078.

Mulligans: 45 PGA TOUR Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach

Mulligans is introducing Mix & Match Meals for two. Sandwiches are \$8, burgers are \$10 and entrées are \$12.50 each. Entrées include a side salad with dressing of choice. The deal excludes steak and family style entrées. Order on the website for curbside pickup or delivery with Delivery Dudes. The kitchen is open until 10 p.m. nightly.

Palm Valley Fish Camp: 299 Roscoe Blvd. N., Ponte Vedra Beach

Offering takeout, including most beer and wine. Call (904) 285-3200.

Palm Valley Outdoors Bar & Grill: 377 S. Roscoe Blvd., #2, Ponte Vedra Beach

Palm Valley Outdoors will remain open for business, however, it is operating under food truck-type protocols. The restaurant will not have any tableside service available as of now but encourage customers to go up to our counters at the inside and outside bars to order any and all food, alcohol and other beverages that will be packaged in a to-go capacity. The patio will remain open. The restaurant will still be offering dockside delivery as well as curbside delivery. Call Palm Valley Outdoors at (904) 834-7183 and orders will be brought directly to customer's vehicle or boat.

Pieology Pizzeria: 641 Crosswater Parkway E., Ponte Vedra Beach

The pizzeria offers takeout, curbside pickup and delivery for its menu. For delivery, the restaurant encourages customers to order online

at www.pieology.com/menu/custom-pies.

Poppy's Italiano: 832-1 A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach

Poppy's will be offering drive thru pick-up and delivery. Customers may inquire on the website at [poppyitaliano.net](http://www.poppyitaliano.net) or call (904) 273-7272 to place an order.

Pussers Bar and Grille: 816 Highway, A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach

Pussers is offering free delivery. Call ahead at (904) 280-7766 or view the takeout menu at bit.ly/33xh5Yz. Delivery provided by Uber Eats.

Ruth's Chris Steak House: 814 A1A N., Suite 103, Ponte Vedra Beach

Now through April 5, purchase an eGift Card online worth \$100 or more and earn a 25% bonus card to use on a future visit. To purchase, visit bit.ly/33fsfKr. Additionally, the restaurant is offering takeout. Call (904) 285-0014 to place an order or to inquire about delivery options.

Sandwich Man Deli: 1110 A1A N., #102, Ponte Vedra Beach

The deli is currently open and doing pick-up orders only. Call (904) 285-9660 to place an order.

Timoti's Seafood Shak: 152 Crosswater Parkway, #18, Ponte Vedra Beach

Timoti's is currently doing takeout only until further notice. Online orders can be conveniently placed on their website at www.timotis.com/order-online.

Trasca & Co. Eatery: 880 A1A N., Suite 12, Ponte Vedra Beach

Trasca & Co Eatery is offering neighborhood pop-ups in order to bring meals to neighborhoods. Additionally, the restaurant will be offering curbside service and lunch delivery from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., dinner prepared meal delivery will be offered from 2-4 p.m. and pop-ups will be from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Anyone interested in hosting Trasca for a popup in their neighborhood is encouraged to call (904) 395-3989.

Tropical Smoothie: 830 N. A1A, Suite 1, Ponte Vedra Beach

Tropical Smoothie is open for takeout. Order online or call (904) 280-4044 to place an order.

Two Dudes Seafood Restaurant: 268 Solana Road, Ponte Vedra Beach

Call (904) 273-5595 to place an order for either pick-up or delivery. Staff will bring your food to your car or deliver for \$5 within a 5-mile radius and \$20 minimum order. Two Dudes is also currently delivering beer, wine and cocktails. Visit www.twodudesrestaurant.com for their menu. Additionally, all first responders, military and health industry professionals receive 25% off all take-out and delivery orders.

V Pizza Palm Valley: 154 Canal Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach

V Pizza's curbside cocktail bar is open for business. The restaurant is extending its "adult lemonade" stand hours to 2-8 p.m. every day. V Pizza is also selling its wine by the bottle for half off and curbside pick-up orders for menu items. Call ahead at (904) 473-5218. If you have any special requests or would like to place a cocktail order ahead of time send an e-mail to dan@drinksidecar.com.

Woody's Bar-B-Q in Ponte Vedra: 226 Solana Road #1, Ponte Vedra Beach

Woody's is open for drive-thru, curbside pickup, delivery and online ordering. Visit www.woodys.com/locations/ponte-vedra/ to place an order or call (904) 280-1110.

Zoes Kitchen: 240 Highway A1A, Ponte Vedra Beach

To order pickup or delivery, go to Zoes Kitchen website or ZK app: <http://bit.ly/33vWR1f>. Zoes Kitchen closes at 8 p.m. and is also available on DoorDash.

To add your restaurant to the takeout and delivery guide, email paris@opcfla.com and provide restaurant name, location and a brief description of services offered.



Photo by Don Coble

A partition is set up at the registers at ABC Fine Wine & Spirits in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Stores

Continued from 14

The Fresh Market has also closed all café seating areas, and in states that have banned gatherings of no more than 50 people, we are monitoring the guest count in our stores to adhere to these guidelines.

Winn-Dixie, along with other stories in the Southern Grocers chain, has adjusted its hours to allow for senior citizens to shop from 8 a.m.-9 a.m. during the weekday. Store hours also have been extended an hour to 9 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays for first responders.

"At Southeastern Grocers, we are a people-first company and we are dedicated to being there for the community when they need us most," said company president and CEO Anthony Hucker. "Our first responders and healthcare providers are working extra-long hours to take care of the community and we want to do our part to take care of them. Beginning this Monday, all

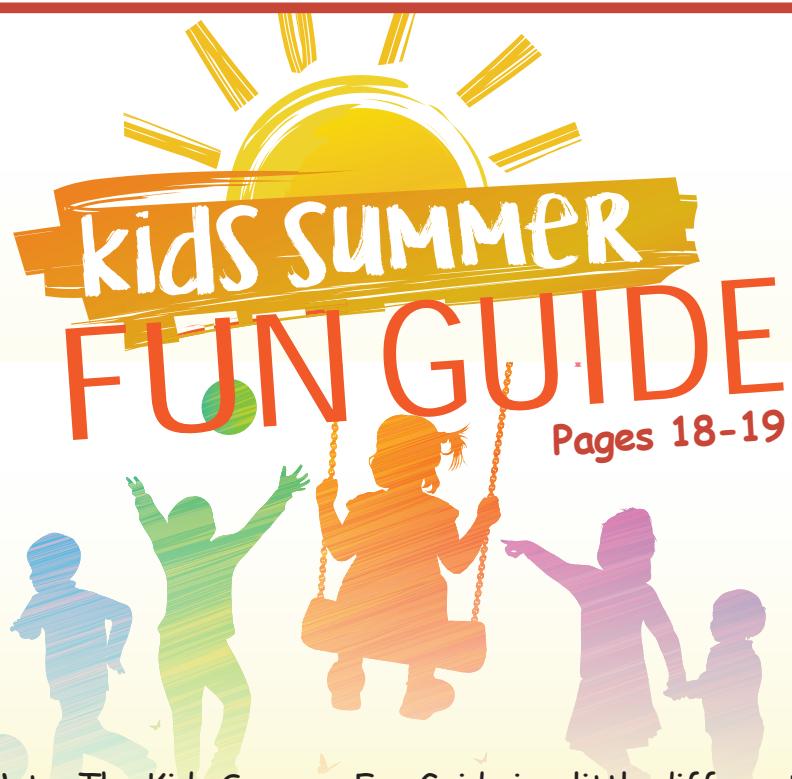
of our stores will remain open from 8-9 p.m. every Monday and Tuesday to allow these heroic individuals the opportunity to stock up on fresh food and essential items. We ask that our customers be respectful of this time we have dedicated to our front-line warriors."

Many Winn-Dixie stores also have markings on the floor to remind shoppers to maintain a two-cart-distance from other shoppers and cashiers.

Publix stores across the First Coast are closing two hours earlier at 8 p.m. Stores, including the pharmacy, are open for senior shopping from 7 a.m.-8 a.m. on Thursdays and Wednesdays.

Many Publix stores said customers often are waiting outside for the doors to open during their special shopping hours.

"As a company that started as a small business 90 years ago, Publix wants to help businesses renting from us survive the economic impact of these unexpected closures," said Publix Director of Communications Maria Brous.



Note: The Kids Summer Fun Guide is a little different this year, so having resources for at-home learning and play in the coming months is more important than ever. The Recorder aims to help out during this time by publishing a weekly games/activities section for kids and providing updated educational information.

If interested in sponsoring the kids activities/information section, call Susan Griffin at (904) 285-3938 or email susan@opcfla.com

Junior Achievement of North Florida offers online resources to assist with virtual education

Junior Achievement of North Florida has a new free resource for students, parents and teachers and a way for volunteers to help out as people remain at home and socially distant due to the threat of COVID-19.

As schools remain closed and move to online classrooms, JA programs are online as well to allow students to continue learning on their own, with a parent or other adult or with teachers through a digital/virtual environment. The resources are posted at JA.org/Tomorrows and offer programs and activities for students in elementary, middle and high school.

"There will be a tomorrow. We are dedicated to helping our children plan for the future and focus on their dreams by providing teachers and parents with free online resources," said Steve St. Amand, president of JA of North Florida.

Teachers, parents and students can go to JA.org/Tomorrows and click on learn more. Topics will include programs and videos that will help parents speak and teach their kids about money-management issues. You can also learn about the economic climate and decision-making skills.

Programs for middle school students include the "JA Searching for Savings," which helps students learn how to save money, and the JA Assembling Your Career, which teaches students about STEM careers and how they can start preparing now for their future. High school students can also take part in the JA Economic Investigations designed to help them achieve a deeper understanding of current economic issues or the JA Travel and Tourism which introduces students to exciting career opportunities in the travel and tourism industry.

"We also have a way for JA volunteers to continue working with us in our efforts to teach financial literacy, work-readiness and entrepreneurship to the youth by becoming a virtual volunteer," said Teresa Smith, vice president of programs for JA of North Florida.

To become a JA virtual volunteer, you should record yourself for 2-3 minutes in landscape mode in your home office or workspace. Start with, "Hello, Team Duval," followed by your name and where

VIRTUAL continues on **Page 19**

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ENGLISH: Laugh

SPANISH: Reír

ITALIAN: Ridere

FRENCH: Rire

GERMAN: Lachen

WORLD FACTS



Historians think that April Fool's Day may have originated in this European country.

ANSWER: FRANCE

Virtual

Continued from 18

you work. Describe what you do for a living and answers these questions:

- What most influenced you to choose that career?
- If there's one piece of advice you could give to a young person about achieving their dreams, what would it be?

Once the video is complete, send it to Teresa Smith at teresa@janfl.org. It can also be uploaded to Instagram using the tag JA of North Florida at @janorthflorida or on Twitter to @JANorthFlorida. Use hashtag #InspiringTomorrow. More information can

be found at JA.org/Tomorrows or call Smith at (904) 398-9944, ext. 227.

Once schools reopen, JA programs will continue in the classroom as well and volunteers will be needed to teach financial literacy, work-readiness and entrepreneurship. Volunteers can register at janfl.org. Each volunteer will be given training before the class which will include tips on classroom management, how to deliver the curriculum and how to communicate with teachers and students.

Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating students about workforce readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs.

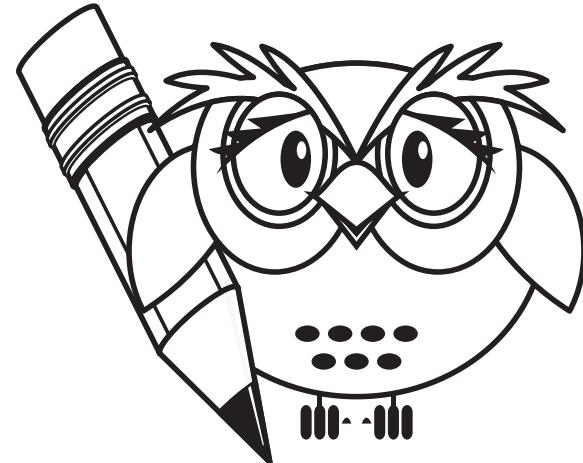
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- Benjamin Franklin



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Nemours Children's Specialty Care

Cummer Museum interim director navigates delivering fine arts during social distancing

By Amber Lake

Only a year after taking the position of director and CEO of the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, Adam Levine announced he will be leaving the institution in late April.

In his place, Atlantic Beach resident Kerrie Slattery has been appointed as interim director while a nationwide search is held. The museum announced the decision on March 19. Slattery said the pandemic hasn't interrupted the Cummer Museum's mission too much, however.

"Under Adam's leadership we are in a really positive financial situation," Slattery



Kerrie Slattery

said. "We are still paying our employees. He is handing it over to me financially sound. We can close our doors and serve the public quite easily while still being able to check on all the essential facility requirements."

Slattery said employees are currently working from home and already planning for the museum to be re-opening its doors again, including exhibition schedules and Summer at the Cummer.

"Last year, Summer at the Cummer was

extremely successful," Slattery said. "The community came out in full force – families, couples, you name it. Everyone in the community was just thrilled (to attend)."

This year, Summer at the Cummer, which includes free admission, live music and patio games on Friday nights, will correspond with the Buddha and Shiva, Lotus and Dragon exhibit.

For now, Slattery encourages residents and museum lovers to follow the Cummer Museum on social media, where they are participating in the national #museumathome effort.

"Right now, we are putting our energies into reopening, but also communicating

through social media," Slattery said. "We are trying to keep people engaged and busy with fun things to look at."

Currently the Cummer is featuring art projects to do with children at home and virtual cooking classes through the museum's café, among art and historical interest posts on its Facebook page.

"Currently, the garden is blooming and it's beautiful," Slattery said. "We are taking pictures and posting them so people can get a little bit of nature from home."

To learn more about upcoming events at the Cummer Museum of Art & Garden, visit www.CummerMuseum.org or follow @TheCummerMuseum on social media.

St. Johns Cultural Council establishes emergency fund for local artists, small arts organizations

In response to hardships created by event cancellations and venue closures related to the COVID-19 crisis, the St. Johns Cultural Council has established an

Arts Emergency Fund to support members of the St. Johns County arts community.

Small arts organizations and artists of all disciplines may apply. Individual

artists may request up to \$500 and arts organizations may request up to \$1,000 in assistance through this program.

Individual artists may access funds for basic living expenses such as housing, utilities or groceries. Arts organizations may request funding to support rent payments, utilities and other operating costs related to arts, culture and heritage activities.

The Cultural Council has designated a total of \$10,000 of its unrestricted funds for this program and hopes to increase funds available through donor contribu-

tions. One hundred percent of contributions to the fund will be disbursed to local artists and arts organizations. In many cases, these contributions will be tax deductible.

Applications may be submitted now and will be reviewed on an ongoing basis until funds are depleted. For more information about applications or donations to the Arts Emergency Fund, email christina@historiccoastculture.com.

Contributions to the fund may also be completed online at www.stjohnsculture.com/donate.

St. Johns Cultural Center announces online concert series to support local musicians

The St. Johns Cultural Council will present a series of online concerts featuring St. Johns County-based artists during the month of April.

Concerts will be presented Monday through Friday at 7 p.m. through the Cultural Council Facebook page at www.facebook.com/stjohnsculture/ beginning April 1.

Confirmed performers include Amy Hendrickson, Joe Pollock, Aslyn and the Naysayers, Ramona, Brittani Mueller, Sailor Jane, Lucio Rubino and Michael Lagasse.

Participating musicians will receive a \$200 stipend from the Cultural Council and will also receive 100% of any dona-

tions made during their performance. Each artist will be featured in a spotlight on HistoricCoastCulture.com and receive additional marketing support for future performances, recordings and merchandise sales.

Interested musicians may schedule a performance time by emailing christina@stjohnsculture.com. Priority will be given to musicians who have lost a significant portion of their income due to recent event cancellations and venue closures.

Donations to support the concert series may be made at www.stjohnsculture.com/donate or by mailing a check to St. Johns Cultural Council, 15 Old Mission Ave., St. Augustine, FL 32084.

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Sports

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020

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Fire destroys home of 2-time PLAYERS winner Davis Love III

By Don Coble

The St. Simons home of PGA TOUR player Davis Love III was destroyed by fire on Friday, March 27. Davis and his wife, Robin, escaped without injury.

According to Glynn County (Georgia) Fire Chief R.K. Jordan, the fire started in the garage and spread quickly. It took firefighters more than three hours to battle the blaze.

"The house upon our arrival was fully involved in flames," Jordan told The Brunswick News. "It is a complete loss."

Love issued a statement on Twitter later Friday confirming the fire, saying:

"Our family home was destroyed by an early morning fire. We're very thankful to the first responders who made a valiant effort to save our home, and we're keeping things in perspective as people across our community and around the world are struggling with the current unprecedented health crises."



Davis Love III

"We've been proud members of the St. Simons Island/Sea Island community for many years and will continue to be for many more. We appreciate your thoughts and prayers and you respect for our privacy."

The 10,000-square foot home was built in 1998. It sat on a 5-acre lot on a marsh. It's been for sale since 2013 for nearly \$4.5 million.

Love won THE PLAYERS in 1992 and 2003. He won 21 PGA TOUR events, including the 1997 PGA Championship. Love, who's hosted the RSM Classic at the Sea Island Club since 2010, also was the captain of the winning U.S. Ryder Cup team in 2016.

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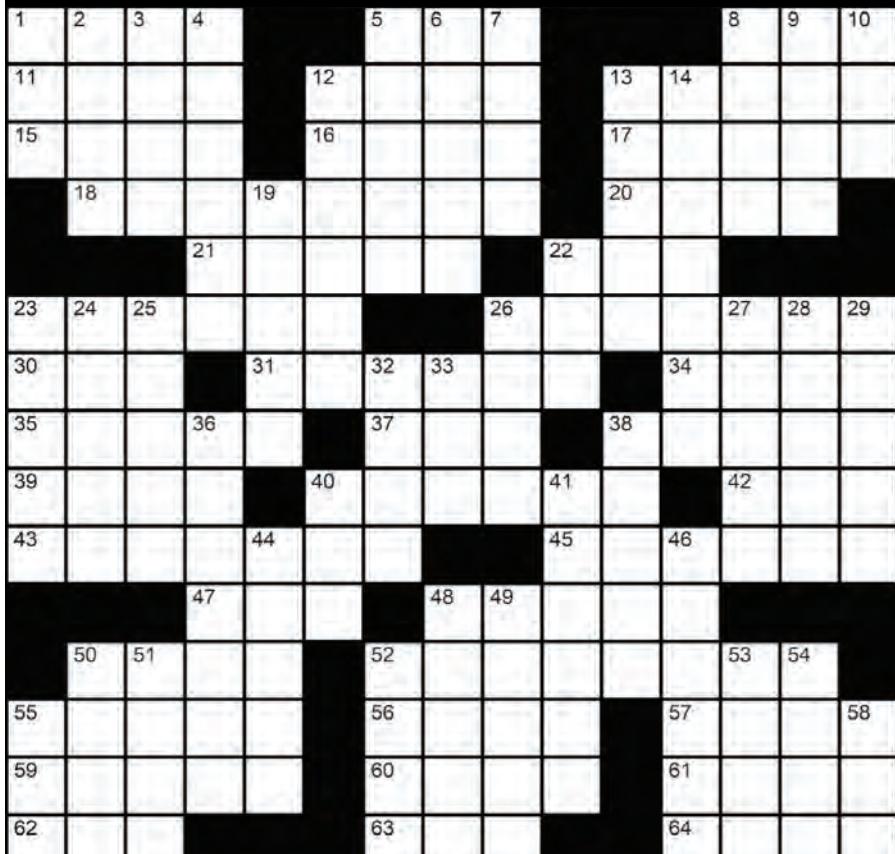
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ACROSS

- Bookie's number
- Parents org.
- Slang for microwave
- Time distortion
- One with biggest share?
- Like a case of appendicitis, possibly
- Decanter
- Knowing about
- Mister in Madrid
- *Usually served on ice, 2 words
- Barber's sound
- Accepted truth
- Took a load off
- Artist's office
- Excites passions, 2 words
- Comic book cry of horror
- Rude or sarcastic
- Chips, perhaps
- Roleplay

- Allegro ____ in music, Italian
- * ____ Perk from "Friends"
- Exit plus s
- Eye infection
- Oozes
- Article of faith
- Romanov's edict
- A ____ of tea, in U.K.
- Prowl around
- Embryo cradles
- Green pasta sauce
- One on the list
- Faux one
- Equal parts espresso and warm milk
- Fauna's partner
- Hudson's Bay Company original ware
- Experts
- Nose channels
- Kick the bucket
- Between counter-tenor and baritone
- Make this, not waste
- Affected by the moon
- Went down a slippery slope
- Kitchen flooring choice
- Tried follower
- Bygone era
- *The Revolutionary one followed #52 across
- The Simpsons's neighbor
- Garden cultivator

SUDOKU



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

DOWN

- Be in the red
- Crows' cousins
- Actress Barrymore
- More like rumors
- '70s Ford model
- Native American emblem
- Dwarf buffalo
- Pueblo tribesman
- On top
- For each
- Cosmetic cabinet staple
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