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PonteVedraRecorder.com

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Recorder



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#GivingTuesdayNow

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EDITOR'S NOTES

What's This?: 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.

Pets of the Week: Beacuse 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.

NOTES TO READERS

On our website: Visit **pontevedrarecorder.com** to get the latest closures, cancellations and updates for St. Johns County, as well as a listing of virtual events taking place around Northeast Florida.

Don't miss an issue: In case social distancing requirements get more strict, we will email you your paper. Send your email address to don@opcfla.com.

Weekly newsletter: The Recorder offers 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 Enter-tainment EXTRA! To get the newsletter emailed for free, email don@opcfla.com. We'll add you to the list.

County discusses beach openings, small business funding at meeting

By Paris Moulden

The St. Johns County Board of Commissioners held a special meeting Tuesday morning to discuss updates regarding the COVID-19 crisis, including extending hours of operation for the beaches, possibly as soon as the end of the week.

County administrator Hunter Conrad said the county has reached out to the City of Jacksonville and Gov. Ron DeSantis' office to see where they stand on extending beach hours and opening of state parks. Conrad said while the county can make the decision on its own, coordinating with surrounding areas are important to make the extended beach opening a success.

"There is a logistics issue to consider once we open our beaches," Conrad said. "When we closed the beaches, there were logistical issues with compression because of the other beaches around us closed."

Conrad said the county hopes to have an extended opening of the beaches by the end of this week or early next week. He also said the moving restrictions which allows use of the beaches for exercise, swimming, surfing, etc., but no stationary activities will remain in place.

Conrad also discussed the county's economic recovery and Response Task Force, including programs aimed to assist small businesses. The board approved a \$2.1 million grant/loan program to "assist small businesses for job retention and economic survival." The program will go up before the board for final approval next week, and the county hopes to have the online application process available by May 16.

The Board also heard from Dr. Dawn Allicock, director of the Florida Department of Health for St. Johns County. Allicock said the number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in St. Johns County mirrors the state, and the department of health is continuing to focus on early detection as well as contact tracing and isolation of those affected.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.







Man suspected of shooting at SJSO deputy in Sawgrass Publix parking lot expected to survive

Father said son was suicidal, suffered 'gruesome facial injuries'

By Don Coble

The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office has turned to officials in Lewistown, Pennsylvania, to get more answers why Richard Arthur Bonsell told friends he was going fishing on April 17 and was involved six days later in a shootout nearly 900 miles away with deputies in the Publix parking lot at Sawgrass Village.

"The investigation is on-going," said SJSO spokesman Chuck Mulligan. "There's an officer's bill of rights, so this kind of investigation will take a while."

Mulligan said the 28-year-old man now is expected to recover at UF Health Jacksonville after he was shot while he exchanged gunfire with a deputy.

According to the Lewistown Police Department, Bonsell said he was going fishing along the Juniata River on April 17. Police then reported him missing on April 20 on its social media page, saying, "He was reported to have a fishing rod with him, and he was riding his bicycle."

Bonsell parked in front of the grocery



store shortly after noon on April 22. Deputy Cameron Coward pulled behind him since the Toyota Tundra pickup had been reported missing from a Lewistown dealership.

When Bonsell reached back into the truck, he fired through the rear window with a shotgun, SJSO said. Coward returned fire.

Following a brief standoff, deputies found Bonsell injured in the front seat. Shoppers and local residents were ordered to shelter in place during the standoff.

Deputies still aren't saying whether Bonsell's injuries were self-inflicted. Bonsell's father said his son suffered "gruesome facial injuries."

Bonsell's father, however, provided details of a son who threatened suicide

SHOOTING continues on Page 4



Photo by Susan Griffin

The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office blocks off the Publix parking lot at Sawgrass Village after a shooting April 22.



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St. Augustine announces launch of thermometer distribution plan

The City of St. Augustine, in collaboration with Kinsa, Inc., launched its community health monitoring initiative last week by distributing 600 thermometers to eligible volunteer candidates, prioritizing city residents, utility customers, largemember households and households with members who come in contact and interact with the public as part of their daily work or volunteering.

"The purpose of the project is to give our public health officials a real-time monitoring tool that detects changes in our public health so that they can promptly respond," city manager John Regan said.

City residents and utility customers will be the first to receive thermometers, if they qualify.

"Ideally, participants live in a larger household [more than four] and their employment or volunteering puts them in higher level of exposure to larger numbers of people in the community," Regan said. "These are not only our first responders, public safety officers and healthcare workers ... but also school teachers, grocery store clerks, restaurant and hospitality workers, or any of the support staff within these professions."

The project will soon expand to include residents outside of the city limits thanks to in-kind donations resulting in the purchase of 300 additional thermometers.

Callers will speak directly to city staff monitoring the phone lines and will be asked six simple questions, starting with name and address. The data is monitored through the Kinsa smartphone application, but no personal information is conveyed with a temperature measurement to the monitoring network. The address in this case also identifies the caller as a city resident, utility customer or non-city resident.

Additional questions include whether you or a member of your household physically leaves the home for work and interacts with 10 or more people on any given workday. Also, how many people live in your household, and if you think a smart thermometer would be helpful.

The answers will be recorded and given a certain point value. The final cumulative

score determines the caller's eligibility for receiving a thermometer.

A city resident or utility customer with a qualifying score will qualify for a thermometer and be given the choice to pick-up the device at the drive-through window located at 50 Bridge St., or the city will make arrangements to hand-deliver it.

Someone with a qualifying score who is not a city resident or utility customer will be placed on a wait list and be eligible for next wave of distribution.

Those with a non-qualifying score can purchase a thermometer at a retail store or online. Whether the city provides the thermometer, or it is purchased privately, any registered device is automatically included in this project network.

"It is our goal to distribute these 900 thermometers so that we can begin collecting data in what will be the densest real-time temperature network in the country," Regan said, "but the number one priority of this program is to keep our community healthy"

For more information, call (904) 825-1053 or email kinsa@citystaug.com.



She also reiterated the need to practice caution as the state and counties begin preparations to re-open.

"First. should we become complacent and ease up prematurely on all social distancing. the trajectory of the pandemic could dramatically change for the worse and economic costs would continue to grow," Allicock said.

The board also heard from U.S. Rep. John Rutherford, who provided an update via telephone about the federal response to the pandemic.

Rutherford said most of the loans being made through the Cares Act were going to small businesses as intended, and "Cares Act 2.0," which is currently in the works, would provide even more assistance to small businesses.

"We wanted to get this money out as quickly as possible to small businesses so they can get it on out to their employees," Rutherford said.

The congressman said the money going to small businesses will also help individuals because it will allow people to remain employed and paid.

"This money is specifically going to small businesses for their workers," he said. "We're trying to maintain the relationship between employer and employees by giving small business the dollars."



St. Johns County Sheriff's officers stop cars near the secene of a shooting April 22.

Shooting Continued from 3

instead of going to jail for a DUI.

"My son is not a bad person, he does not do drugs," he said in a statement to Action News Jax. "However, he has had trouble with alcohol and has several DUI's. A few years ago, he did try to hide from the cops and wanted to kill himself because he didn't want to go to jail for the DUIs. His mother intervened, without his knowledge, and took the cops to get him so he would not hurt himself. He then went to jail and did his time."

The father said he tried to warn Pennsylvania police of his son's threats.

"I then went back to the Lewistown cops and explained what I learned, and that my son would panic and want to take his own life instead of going to jail. I asked that if they found him to try to de-escalate the situation and let me talk to my son so that he wouldn't take his own life.

"It appears that when Ricky was fishing, he was drinking and found out that the truck was reported stolen. He was afraid of getting another DUI and going to jail, he panicked and ran.

"I have no idea why he went to Florida. I continuously tried to contact him while he was missing.

"I don't know completely what happened in Florida but do know that he was suicidal. My guess is that he shot, not directly at the cop, but in hopes that they would shoot him, and he would have died."

BRIEFS

COA extends program closures through May

With the health and well-being of St. Johns County seniors as its top priority, St. Johns County Council on Aging has extended it recent program closures through May 31. All COA senior centers in St. Johns County (Coastal Community Center, River House, Hastings, Trout Creek and THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center in Ponte Vedra), all Integrative Memory Enhancement Program classes, and the Sunshine Center adult day care facility will remain closed through May 31.

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 via email. Seniors and caregivers in need of COA's assistance are encouraged to contact COA at (904) 209-3700 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., via email at info@ coasjc.org, and via their website at www.coasjc.org.

Sunshine Bus service and Paratransit buses will continue to operate at the current levels of service with additional safety measures recommended by the CDC in place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. For those Sunshine Bus riders requiring essential rides to work, medical appointments, pharmacies and grocery stores, Sunshine Bus will continue to provide trips to essential destinations only.

Call (904) 209-3716 for more information.

2020 annual on-beach driving passes extended through 2021

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners has extended all 2020 annual on-beach driving passes through the 2021 beach season. All passes purchased prior to the onbeach driving restrictions and for the remainder of the season are included in the extension. Sales of the passes are currently suspended and on-beach driving remains restricted. For more information, call (904) 209-0752.

Ponte Vedra Boulevard pavement project to begin May 11

As part of the St. Johns County Pavement Management Program, Ponte Vedra Boulevard will be milled and resurfaced from Corona Road South to State Road A1A beginning Monday, May 11. The project completion is expected within 30 days, weather permitting. The contractor will provide the proper maintenance of traffic which will require intermittent lane closures throughout the project duration. Any impacted areas within the project limits will be restored to pre-construction conditions. For more information, call (904) 669-4485 or email tmashburn@sjcfl.us.

Kimberly Lawlor has worked both sides of the golf business. She ran South Hampton for eight years, dedicating herself to the business side of the sport. Now she's the teaching professional at Palm Valley Golf Club where she can focus on the game itself. And like most, the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted many changes for Lawlor at the course — but it's all been for the good.



Golf pro Kimberly Lawlor (left) instructs a class at the Palm Valley Golf Club.

As told to Don Coble

What is your background?

I played at JU (Jacksonville University) and I turned pro 25 years ago. I was born and raised in Jacksonville, Florida. Actually, I played softball. I didn't switch to golf until about 15. I was a late golfer, if you will.

It seems like your business at Palm Valley has picked up during the COVID-19 threat.

It's been packed, that's for sure. We're blessed to be open. It's been a challenge keeping up with the range balls. We're doing 100 buckets a day, which is on the plus side for us. It's a good challenge. You go with it. We're doing lots of rounds – more than normal and the buckets of balls are crazy.

Your course is unique in St. Johns County, isn't it? With many being ordered to stay home, not only has golf been deemed an essential need, it allows people to get out in fresh air, maintain distancing and get exercise, doesn't it?

Yes. Everyone walks and you can use a pull cart if you absolutely need it. We, of



course, have to wipe them down. On the weekends, we're doing 100 rounds on a par-3 course. It's crazy.

You're a member of the PGA and the LPGA. What are the benefits of that?

It's good thing. As a female, I have the chance to be a PGA member. They are

different in that the LPGA focuses a lot more on the teaching side and the PGA focuses a lot more on the business side. It's a good balance to have. That's a good thing in my career to have both.

What is it like to be in the golf business in a place like St. Johns County?

Photos provided by Kimberly Lawlor

My background is I came from South Hampton. I ran it for eight years. I was the general manager there. I'm doing different stuff now, focusing more back on the teaching side of things. I've been fortunate in my career to be able to cover both an 18-hole facility as a GM and now turn the table and be a teaching pro.

What gives you the greatest satisfaction?

It's very rewarding when you see someone figure something out during a lesson, especially for that beginner who's never played. All of a sudden you tell them a few things and they light up with their ball goes up in the air. You can take a perfect practice swing and you put that little white ball there, it changes everything. But it's very rewarding to focus on teaching. I can set my own schedule. I'm not around the clock like I used to be when I had to run an entire facility.

What is you best moment on the golf course?

I won as an amateur, a tournament at Osprey Cove (in St. Marys, Georgia) back in the '90s, shooting 1-under-par. That was pretty cool.



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GIVINGTUESDAY NOW

#GivingTuesdayNow is a global day of unity taking place May 5 as a response to the unprecedented need caused by COVID-19. **PAGES 6-8**

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tour. It can get quite exciting! To book your tour on-line, log onto bookeo.com/tigertours Donations may be sent to: 5190 Farm Creek Road, St. Augustine, FL 32092

The St. Augustine Wild Reserve is a non-profit corporation founded in 1995, focusing on the world's rapidly diminishing wildlife. Created as a rescue center for unwanted and abused exotic animals, this need has become evident due to the number of individuals who obtain an exotic animal or pet, only to realize that the animal's wild nature doesn't fit into their lifestyle as they expected. This is where the St. Augustine Wild Reserve comes into play. As Founder/CEO, Deborah Warrick has extensive knowledge of the animals themselves, their behavioral characteristics. care and handling of various exotic animals. It is her vision, knowledge, working experience and love of exotic animals that will transform the St. Augustine Wild Reserve into a self-sustaining reality that will provide the public educational exposure while providing a comfortable home for unwanted and abused endangered animals. Because of the coronavirus, we are in desperate need of monetary donations to get us through rough times. We are selling tour tickets on our website at www.SAwildreserve.org, which can be used in the future, when restrictions have been lifted.

#GIVINGTUESDAYNOW 7

Hugs Across County continues efforts to help area children in need amid crisis

Hugs Across the County, an all-volunteer nonprofit, works year-round to provide clothing, shoes, full size toiletries, new books and food to St. Johns County children-in-need, including the more than 400 local children who are considered homeless.

With unemployment at an all-time high due to the COVID pandemic, Hugs is continuing efforts to provide Clothing Care Packages to dozens of local children through referrals from school counselors and nonprofit partners, like the Betty Griffin Center.



Hugs is working closely with Epic Cure (the Feeding Northeast Florida food pantry partner in St. Johns County) and the St. Johns County School District by providing volunteer assistance for the distribution of boxes of non-perishable food, fresh bread and healthy produce to 500-plus local children every Friday.

Hugs knows that hundreds of local children do not have books in their homes, and the need is even greater now that they do not have access to school libraries. Hugs is providing hundreds of brand-new books to Title 1 elementary schools for distribution to their students.

"We are so grateful for our incredible

volunteers who are juggling their enthusiastic efforts with important social distancing measures," Hugs director Brette Reiman said. "We are also thankful for donations from the Ponte Vedra Woman's Club, the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach, the United Way's First Coast Relief Fund, Publix, Village Bread & Bagel and many private donations, all of which help our tiny team provide emergency assistance to local kids now and throughout the year."

Visit www.stjohnshugs.org for information, to volunteer or to make a donation.



Photo provided by Rotary Club of St. Augustine

Members of the Rotary Club of St. Augustine provide community service gift certificates to help out unemployed workers in the area.

Rotary Club of St. Augustine launches community program for jobless workers

Members of the Rotary Club of St. Augustine recently launched the organization's newest initiative to commemorate the Club's centennial anniversary with a program to help unemployed and furloughed workers in St. Johns County. Relief in the form of Publix supermarket gift cards will be distributed to individuals and families in need.

Due to the pandemic, the club's 100th anniversary year gala event was canceled and ticket sales, plus sponsorships and member donations, were converted into more than \$20,000 in gift cards with additional funding support. To date, the club has received more than 70 applications for assistance and further requests are expected. For more information, contact Committee Chair Dan Hilbert via email at Rotarygives@gmail. com. All applicants must identify contacts at the local Rotary Club, a Rotary-affiliated business, or a Rotary-funded nonprofit. Gift cards will be given to recipients after verification of the application on a first come first serve basis. According to Peggy Gachet, Rotary Club of St. Augustine's president, the organization will continue to raise money in hopes of supporting the much-needed program.

"For more than 100 years, Rotary members have used their passion, energy, and intelligence with a dedication to sustainable projects. From local literacy programs and goodwill activities, to water and health interests in the region, we are always working to better our world and our communities," Gachet said.

Although the gala event was canceled, the club is approaching the charitable giving challenge with the same determination shown in supporting those in need during the past 100 years, she said.

All donations to the new initiative will be 100% tax deductible as the Rotary Club of St. Augustine Foundation will receive the funds and purchase the gift cards.

The Club also transferred funds from its reserves account to kick off the program.

K9s For Warriors responds to COVID-19 need by joining #GivingTuesdayNow

K9s For Warriors is responding to meet the needs of veterans and service dogs in training by keeping its doors open and joining #GivingTuesdayNow.

#GivingTuesdayNow is a global day of giving and unity taking place on May 5 as an emergency response to the unprecedented need caused by COVID-19. The day is designed to drive an influx of generosity, citizen engagement, business and philanthropy activation and support for communities and nonprofits around the world.

Despite the pandemic and many businesses closing their doors, K9s For Warriors is keeping its doors and hearts open to continue to support veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury and/or Military Sexual Trauma. K9s For Warriors has more than 600 warrior-K9 graduate teams that still need K9s' services more than ever in times of mandatory isolation during COVID-19.

"While isolating is the best practice for our country's health at the moment, isolation is something Service Dogs are meant to help veterans with PTSD overcome," K9s For Warriors CEO Rory Diamond said. "Isolation and social distancing are factors that can easily send at-risk veterans on a downward spiral towards worsened PTSD symptoms,", "It is important for us to continue to provide our services to veterans to fight veteran suicide and to help mitigate symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury and Military Sexual Trauma. With the support of donors who respond to the call of #GivingTuesdayNow, we can show America's military heroes that their country is there for them like they were there for us."

During this time of uncertainty, the GivingTuesday mission aims to bring people together in the spirit of generosity.

"As a global community, we can mourn this moment of extreme crisis while also finding the opportunity to support one another," said Asha Curran, CEO of GivingTuesday. "We each have the power to make an impact with acts of generosity, no matter how small, and to ensure the sustainability of organizations and services that are crucial to the care and support of our communities,", "Even as many face financial uncertainty, generosity is not about size. We all have something to give, and every act of human consideration and kindness matters on #GivingTuesdayNow."

For more information about donating to K9s For Warriors for #GivingTuesdayNow, visit www.K9sForWarriors.org and click "Donate."

Ponte Vedra Recorder · April 30, 2020

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United Way of Northeast Florida





Laura Schneider poses with her daughter, Danielle Deblasio and granddaughters, Lyla and Everleigh with bags filled with picked-up trash, after celebrating her 59th birthday and Earth

New resident celebrates birthday, Earth Day, with family cleanup

By Daniela Toporek

Sandy Oaks resident Laura Schneider recently moved to Ponte Vedra Beach from Coral Springs, and she usually celebrates her birthday on April 22 — Earth Day with a community gathering filled with eco-friendly activities.

She may be new to the neighborhood, and the quarantine may have dampened original plans, but that didn't stop her from celebrating her 59th year around the sun — and Earth Day's 50th year around the globe.

"Being able to do something on Earth Day's 50th anniversary was important to me," Schneider said. "Whether it's cleaning up or being able to plant a tree."

Schneider said she tried to contact other community members, but with quarantine still in effect, she opted for a smaller celebration with her family.

Schneider, her daughter Danielle Deblasio and granddaughters Lyla and Everleigh, visited Bird Island Park to visit Mother Nature, pick up trash and get some fresh air.

"The park is open and with everyone [wanting to be] outside, there were more people than normal, but not in big crowds," Schneider said. "But more visi-



Laura and Don Schneider are also turtle nest sponsors and dedicated a nest to all their "turtle-loving grandkids."

tors means more water bottles, lunch and garbage. So we cleaned up that area and in front of where we live, off the Sandy Oaks subdivision."

Curious park visitors stopped at a distance, she said, and chatted with her and her family about the environment. Some even offered a helping hand from afar.

"They saw what we were doing and they started picking up what they could find. We also talked to some neighbors who were working in the yards, too," Schneider added. "My husband and I do it

EARTH DAY continues on Page 11

Suzie Connolly 904.234.8812 CELL

Day's 50-year anniversary at Bird Island Park.

sconnolly@pvclubrealty.com



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But how are the kids?

Child abuse suspected to be on the rise as mental heath and drug abuse cases see surge in calls

By Amber Lake

A recent graduate of child psychology at the University of North Florida, Christiana Mosby's short tenure as a guidance councilor in the region has resulted in more than 10 calls to the Department of Child Services in just under three years.

Her first call was during an internship at a Head Start preschool in Nassau county. As part of the school's policy, each child undergoes physical and verbal "check" each morning. One student arrived that day with his usual positive attitude and smiling face. Only that same face was now sporting a black eye.

The preschooler told Mosby he had gotten it playing with his sister and accidently hitting his head on the dresser. His sister collaborated the story, almost word for word.

"It didn't seem right," Mosby said.

After a few more questions and careful prodding, his sister revealed her 5-year-old brother had been playing with his father's fishing pole and was subsequently beaten with it, causing the black eye.

Hushed voices retreated behind closed doors to call CPS to report.

"My adrenaline was going," Mosby said. "I left that day and was like, 'wow.' When you're working at a school you don't have any idea what these kids go through when they get home. It is hard not to think about that. These (particular) kids were so happy, you would have never known."

Unfortunately, Mosby's story is typical of child abuse reports. Someone sees something and feels "not right" about it — enough to question it. After social distancing restrictions were implemented and schools closed, however, far fewer people are making abuse reports, if only because there are fewer eyes to see.

Even worse, according to Dr. Christine Cauffield, CEO of LSF Health Systems, although there are fewer calls, abuse may be ironically on the rise. Child abuse is often the result of other mitigating mental health factors that have been dramatically increasing during the past month.

"Unfortunately, during man-made and natural disasters, what we see is an increase in child abuse, domestic violence, relapses and suicides," Cauffield said. "It's really a very challenging time in the behavioral healthcare arena. Oftentimes individuals that have anger control issues and now are feeling out of control and unable to manage with healthy coping mechanisms."

One major triggering factor is drug abuse and relapse. According to Cauffield, the region has seen a 20% rise of overdose calls to EMS, with 466 more



CEO of LSF Health

Systems

calls. A number "far exceeding" what was typically seen on a monthly basis. "It was the highest incidence of overdoses...ever," Cauffield said.

"We have some parents that are saying they can't deal with their kids anymore,

particularly their teenagers," Cauffield said. "With their increased use of drugs and alcohol it's really creating a very dangerous situation."

This past March, the Florida Department of Children and Families reported a 30% increase over the previous month in the number of calls to their domestic violence hotline.

Currently, LSF is still performing home visits to "high risk" cases, gearing their workers with PPEs and new policies. Other families are doing a virtual home visits or "telehealth" services. While Cauffield said that some, mostly younger, individuals are benefiting from at-home, tech-savvy care, others are having difficulty coping with the change.

"A lot of people of people are struggling with not getting the same services as they were before," said Ashlyn Taylor, senior dependency case manager for the Family Integrity Program. "They could go to a location where they could meet face-to-face with someone. Now, they're doing a lot of therapies on the phone. It's a good alternative, but it's not the same. I definitely believe that more kids are currently going through a more difficult time. There is just nobody there to be that outlet for them."

Taylor said that many people on her caseload are struggling to meet their milestones and complete their programs. Far more than usual are missing their drug tests and check-ins due to resorting back to unhealthy coping strategies during a stressful, uncertain time. Taylor said she doesn't even blame them, as she herself has been feeling the weight and anxiety of past month. Right now, while the vulnerable may be more at risk, everyone has an increased potential to be triggered into unhealthy habits and mindsets.

Dr. Cauffield described the sensation similar to coping with loss.

"Part of what is going on is that we're grieving," Cauffield said. "We are grieving the loss of connection. We're grieving freedom and it takes a lot of energy. It also brings up a lot of emotions, such as anger, sadness and denial. It also brings up past grief and loss issues. We are finding people are thinking about their grandmother's death 20 years ago and sadness around their divorce that happened five years ago."

To report potential abuse, call (800) 96-ABUSE. If you or someone you know is experiencing mental health or drug related issues call (877) 229-9098 to access the help line to speak with someone on the LSF clinical team.



Photo provided by Kimberly Mullins

Students learning online tutoring, at-home structure during shutdown

Kat Mullins does school work via the internet from home during the COVID-19 shutdown.

By Daniela Toporek

It's official: Gov. Ron DeSantis announced that Florida schools will be shut down for the rest of the academic year. And while keeping students safe is priority, keeping students structured at home is another struggle. That's where businesses like the Tutoring Club and Kumon of Ponte Vedra can help.

"Kumon has always been a homebased learning program, with students doing work five days at home, and two days in class," said director Shelley Dunne. "Instead of in-class sessions, I am offering one-on-one sessions via video chat and phone calls."

Director of the Tutoring Club, Kimberly Mullins, said her team developed an online platform within two weeks, all with a digitized curriculum and a fully trained staff.

"Everything is the same," Mullins said. "Same experience with the same tutors, curriculum and management. It's just on the computer. Our tutors are amazing because kids relate to them. They're excited, enthusiastic and that it's a different relationship than with a teacher."

According to Mullins, teachers use pedagogy-based learning practices, an approach for teaching specifically children or a classroom, while the Tutoring Club practices andragogy-based learning, or practices that help teach specifically to adults or someone of similar age.

"The difference between teaching and tutoring is that tutoring is teaching a subject that has already been taught," she explained. "We help re-organize the material to what suits the students, and we certainly are not teaching 26 students at a time. We also got certified with the National Tutoring Association."

No matter what strategies are used in education, both Mullins and Dunne stress the need for structure, discipline and repetition in the household for students to grasp a subject successfully.

"Parents are looking for the structure that our program offers, with daily 20to 30-minute assignments," Dunne said about Kumon's programs. "The Kumon Method emphasizes both accuracy and time. I create an at-home study plan, monitor scores and progress and ensure each student is mastering concepts before advancing. Students are not involved with extracurricular activities and are mostly home the entire day. I anticipate seeing many of our students advancing faster, as they have more time to devote to their Kumon studies."

But structure is sometimes easier said than done, especially for students who have trouble concentrating for a period of time.

"It's hard because parents are working, but they need to make sure kids are getting work done, too. They need to set up a plan, teach study skills and how to set up a planner and check their work," Mullins recommended, adding that summertime already digresses 15-20% of what's learned in a school year. Imagine going through two summers in a row.

"It could erase half a year of school nationwide," she said. "Maybe a full year for students with mental disabilities. It's going to affect everyone, but no one is going to rewrite standardized tests for these kids."

FCAT, AP and IB exams will still be in full effect for the academic school year.

So, starting next month, the Tutoring Club will offer free assessments to see where each student is at academically.

"For example, if you're missing the last quarter of geometry, it might not be on the AP exam this year, but you still have to know it for the class you're taking next year. That's how it's set-up for students," Mullins said. "It's going to affect everyone, which will be interesting going forward."



Photo provided by Laura Schneider

Laura Schneider said that her 5-year-old granddaughter Lyla always picks up after herself at the beach, and is learning more about the environment through the clean-ups.

Earth Day

Continued from 9

every year and we try to make it the best experience with what we have available. We've been here for a little over a year and want to show how much we appreciate living here. We walk up and down the beach and bring garbage bags with us. Today was really comforting and brought a sense of normalcy."

Schneider is also a volunteer turtle watcher in Ponte Vedra Beach and a turtle nest sponsor alongside her husband, Don. They both hope next year will bring a bigger and better celebration for kids and families in the community.

"I'd love to get the city involved," she said. "And show just how wonderful of an event it could be for family, old and young. My granddaughter Lyla is 5 and she always cleans when we go to the beach. It's a good way to teach her about the environment. It's a good way to instill it on young

kids and if we're doing it together, it's fun for the family. We show how important this event is and it makes people feel good."

OBITUARIES

Dolores Bing

Dolores Bing (Dodie), 85, passed away April 18, 2020. She was born in Greenville, South Carolina. She spent most of her adult life with her husband, children, and many pets in Palm Valley, Florida.

Dodie was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She focused all of her energy on making sure everyone around her had everything they needed to enjoy life...especially her grandchildren! To say she was an outstanding grandmother would be a major understatement. "Grammy", as she was called, went above the call of duty every time she was with them. No matter what she had going on, she always made them feel like they were the most important thing in her life. Grammy did that with everyone. She had a gift for taking care of those around her. In her younger days, she was an avid aquasizer and enjoyed her outings with the ladies after each session. She also spent many years traveling around the U.S. in an RV and tailgating at FSU football games. Probably not her favorite things to do, but consistent with her life theme, she did it to make those around her happy.

Dodie is survived by her two sons, Kevin (Kathy) and Jeff; grandchildren, Caroline, Joseph, and Lauren; and her brother Don. She is predeceased by her loving husband Joe. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 22, 2020 in the Chapel of Quinn-Shalz with Reverend Michael Larkin as Celebrant, with the burial following at Ponte Vedra Valley Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Sister Parish Ministry, Inc. Checks can be mailed to 2320 South Third Street, Suite 9, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250. Online donations can be made at www.sisterparishministry.com

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



Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre 3609 Third Street South, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250 Phone: 904.249.1100 Fax: 904.241.7554

Harold "Hal" Fletcher

Harold "Hal" Fletcher, 88, of Ponte Vedra, Florida, died April 23, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Jack Hickey

Jack Hickey, 79, of St. Johns, Florida, died April 25, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

OBITUARIES continues on **Page 12**



Oceanfront Retreat

Built to take advantage of the captivating water views and north of Mickler's Landing, this 4,878 property includes a pool and new roof (2017). With 150 ft. of ocean frontage this 1.45-acre lot is the ideal place to make your private beach retreat.

6 bedrooms, 6.5 baths \$3,450,000



Oceanfront Masterpiece

Private gated 1.78-acre estate, known as Turtle Hall, exemplifies luxury oceanfront living. With 165 ft of ocean frontage this custom-built estate showcases museum-quality features and craftsmanship throughout this 11,000 sqft home.

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Spectacular Views in Sawgrass Island Located in Sawgrass Island on an estate-sized lot this spacious single story home showcases spectacular water to golf views. With high ceilings, generous windows, and custom details throughout this home was built to accommodate all your needs. 4 bedrooms, 5.5 bathrooms \$1,575,000







Design Oceanfront Oasis

Design your dream home on this oceanfront estate. 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 \$3,650,000**



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Flattening the curve of coronavirus: What are the benefits of wearing homemade cloth face masks?



We have all learned a great deal about the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, in a short period of time. And the more we learn, the better recommendations health and governmental officials can offer to help "flatten the curve". But, with

so much information

Guest Columnist

being released each day, it can be hard to keep up with current guidelines.

There is no question that the United States has an unparalleled health care system that can help patients with the most complex medical conditions. However, our "high-tech" capabilities must not make us complacent that we are accustomed to preventing the droplet-based spread of a highly contagious respiratory virus. Ironically, residents of countries with greater degrees of crowding, more variable public health standards and more experience with recent epidemics such as SARS and MERS may be more accustomed to good behavioral practices and personal protections against viral illness. Wearing face masks is a critical part of this equation and may have



been instrumental in slowing the spread of COVID-19 in mainland China.

It is important to note that the most effective methods to slow the spread of coronavirus are hand washing, avoidance of contaminated objects, and proper social distancing. In addition to these practices, the most recent recommendation advised by the Center for Disease Control is public use of cloth face coverings. With all the confusion surrounding this topic, I will address the proper use of face masks for the public, where to get them, and how to wear and clean them.

WHY IS CDC NOW RECOMMENDING THE PUBLIC USE OF FACE MASKS?

The most important measures to reduce the risk of public infections are maintaining social distance and avoidance of congregating. In addition, it has been important for healthcare associates and infected patients to wear face masks to reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19 in healthcare facilities. This reflects the fact that close face to face encounters, like caring for a sick patient, can result in significant exposure to coronavirus. In contrast, most public and social encounters are less likely to result in such an exposure.

We have become increasingly aware that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus have minimal or no symptoms. Even those who eventually develop symptoms can transmit the virus to others before realizing they're sick. The virus can spread through people in close proximity by speaking, coughing or sneezing. In light of these new findings, CDC now recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where it may be difficult to maintain six feet of social distance. That includes when visiting essential businesses like grocery stores and pharmacies, where people interact in close contact with a cashier.

WHICH TYPE OF MASK SHOULD YOU WEAR?

With the limited supply of masks nation-



DR. KEVIN NEAL | DR. MICHAEL WINTER DR. ANDY MAPLES | DR. BRIAN MAPLES Experience the good a simple smile can do. 100 PROFESSIONAL DR. | PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL 32082 (904) 285-8407 | WWW.PVPDENTAL.COM wide, we must ensure personal protective equipment is readily available in medical settings to protect the healthcare workers and patients who are at highest risk. That is why it is crucial to understand the difference between three types of face masks: N95 masks, surgical masks, and cloth face coverings. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items such as bandanas. scarves and the like, are being recommended for public use. While disposable surgical masks are fine if you already have them, the general public does not necessarily need N95 or surgical masks and there is a concern that widespread consumer consumption could lead to supply shortages for healthcare workers.

While not medical grade, cloth face masks have been shown to help protect others from you, in the event that you are unknowingly infected. They can also offer an important cue not to touch your face, something we're all in the habit of doing more than we realize. However, it is important to remember that cloth masks do not protect you from becoming infected from someone else. That is why we can't let them give us a false sense of security—we must still practice safe, social distancing and proper hand washing.

HOW TO PROPERLY MAKE AND USE A CLOTH FACE MASK

If you choose to wear a cloth face mask, there are many ways to make one for free at home. For example, you can cut a t-shirt to create ties that go behind your neck and head. If you're handy at sewing, you can cut rectangles of cotton, run elastic through the hem to create ear loops, and sew it together. A third method is to place a coffee filter inside a folded bandana and use hair ties as the ear loops. More information about homemade face masks can be found at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Cloth face coverings should fit snugly and comfortably against the side of the face, while allowing for breathing without restriction. Make sure to wash your hands before and after putting your face mask on.

Obituaries

Continued from 11

Louise Johnson

Louise Johnson, 59, of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, died April 20, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Sharon Lainhart

Sharon Lainhart, 60, of St. Augustine, Florida, died April 17, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Never touch the front of the mask—only handle it from the sides or straps and be careful not to touch your face while doing so. If you need to take your mask off, put it on a clean surface or in a bag. Furthermore, it is important to wash the mask at the end of the day or when you get home. You can put it in a pillowcase and toss it in the washing machine. Alternatively, you can soak your mask in a bowl with warm, soapy water and vinegar for twenty minutes, rinse it well, wring it out and hang it to dry (or dry it inside a pillowcase in the dryer).

WHERE TO GET CLOTH FACE MASKS

If you don't want to make your own, some local businesses such as tailors and boutiques are making and selling face masks. You can also buy them on websites like Amazon and Etsy. But, be careful of these sites as quality varies, and the masks may not be made according to CDC guidelines. They can also be very expensive as supplies are low.

Finally, I am excited to share a new, innovative way for Jacksonville area residents to receive free, CDC-recommended cloth face masks. Through the "Masks4Jax" movement, large-scale manufacturers and local businesses have come together to make masks readily available in our community. Starting this week, 30,000 masks will be donated to local restaurants. Simply order takeout from one of the participating locations, and you'll receive two free face masks with your order. This is a great way to help support local businesses and help flatten the curve of coronavirus infections in our local community. Visit Masks4Jax.com to find the steadily growing list of participating restaurants. As we come together to combat this very serious pandemic, remember that cloth face coverings help the most when everyone wears them: "I wear my mask to protect you, and you wear your mask to protect me."

Dr. Anthony Magnano is a Ponte Vedra Beach resident and local cardiologist. For more information about the Masks4Jax movement and where to receive free face masks, visit Masks4Jax.com.

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

Anna "Betty" Moye

Anna "Betty" Moye, 89, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died April 20, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com

Ronald Worman

Ronald Worman, 86, of St. Johns, Florida, died April 25, 2020. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalley.com



- > Designers show support for local businesses
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Who needs an interior designer?

By Stephanie D. Hollis, M.D.

Owner of Design M.D.

Whether you are building a custom home from the ground up, remodeling a dated space or simply refreshing a room that you've outgrown, consider consulting with an interior designer.

In this amazing age of internet, online shopping and endless reality TV, we are

inundated with a constant stream of images of how our homes should or could look. It's overwhelming. The options are endless. The good news is that you don't have to figure out all those details by yourself.

An interior designer is available to be your guide. Their role is to help you figure out exactly how your ideal space should look and feel and translate those details into the right paint color, tile choice, lighting package, etc. Interior designers serve as your communicator to the builder, architect and multiple subcontractors in a major build project to make sure your vision is interpreted accurately, or simply are the experienced 'friend' who helps you decide on a color palette for repainting your space.

Making sure the numerous details including color, texture, form and func-

tion come together to become the dream space you have longer for is what interior designers are passionate about. In addition to having the expertise to create the look you want, designers also make sure your choices align with your needs to stand up to pets, kids, parties and life in general.

Once viewed as only available to the rich and famous, interior designers are now available for almost every budget.

Photo provided by metrocreativeconnection.com

Exterior renovations that improve home value

Renovating a home to improve its value can be a smart investment. Interior improvements, such as updating kitchens and baths, offer good return on investment, but there are plenty of exterior renovations that can add value to a home and give it that coveted "wow" factor.

LANDSCAPING

Abundant and well-planned landscaping can instantly boost curb appeal. According to the landscaping company Lawn Starter, 71% of prospective home buyers say a home's curb appeal is an important factor in their buying decisions. As buyers use the internet to look for their dream homes, there's no denying a beautifully landscaped, nicely photographed property can entice buyers to click and read more about a house.

ADDRESS INSECTS AND MINOR REPAIRS

Improving home value may come down to fixing areas of the home that can negatively affect its appeal to buyers. Hire an inspector to look at key components of the house and recommend what needs to be fixed. This way it is discovered before home buyers come in and do their own inspections. Termite infestations, deteriorating roofs and hidden water leaks are some things that might need fixing.

IMPROVE THE ENTRYWAY

The front door is the focal point of a home's exterior. Invest in a new door or paint it a striking color to add appeal. Remodeling magazine's "Cost vs. Value Report 2019" indicates changing an entry door to a steel replacement can offer 74.9% ROI. Such a door provides visual appeal and added security — things buyers look for. In addition to the front door, make sure that the entry-way has a level walkway, steps that are in good repair, accents that are free from rust or tarnish, and decorative plants.

OUTDOOR LIGHTING

Outdoor lighting can add to the ambiance of a property and serve as a security feature. Utilize different lights, such as a bright light by the entry, uplighting in trees and shrubs for drama, a light-lined path to the door to improve visibility, and motion-detection lights to improve the security of the property.

REPAINT (OR RESIDE) THE EXTERIOR

A fresh coat of paint or new (or cleaned) siding can instantly give homes a facelift. Neutral, warm and inviting colors tend to have the widest appeal. Adding manufactured stone veneer to the home can offer a 94.9% ROI. And after doing the front door and siding, investing in a garage door replacement offers the highest ROI of all exterior projects listed on the "Cost vs. Value Report 2019." This improvement returns 97.5% when selling.

Knowing which improvements add value to a home can help homeowners tailor their efforts to those that are most financially beneficial.

How home design trends are evolving for social distancing

COVID-19 has brought changes to everything, and home design is no exception. Experts are expecting to see lasting impacts on everything from the materials we use to the rooms we prioritize.

Check out these noteworthy trends:

Houses over apartments: Many people who live in condos or apartments do so to be closer to the action - work, entertainment and shops - and never planned on spending much time at home. But the pandemic has changed that, and more people are going to want a home that offers plenty of room and outdoor space in case they need to self-isolate again.

Self-sufficiency: A hard lesson we've learned is things and services we thought we could count on aren't necessarily a sure thing, so items that increase self-reliance will become very popular. Expect to see more homes with sources of energy like solar panels, sources of heat like fireplaces and stoves, and even urban and indoor gardens that allow you to grow your own produce.

Outdoor living: Between playgrounds closing and parks becoming overcrowded, many of us are turning to our balconies, patios and backyards for fresh air and nature. This means we're going to be investing more in our outdoor spaces, with functional kitchens, soothing water features, cozy firepits, and high-quality outdoor furniture to create a much-needed escape.

Healthier spaces: Thanks to spending more time indoors and reprioritizing our health, we'll turn to design to help ensure our homes are safe and healthy for our families. We'll see a rise in products like water filtration systems as well as materials that improve indoor air quality. For new homes and additions, alternatives to wood-framing like insulated concrete forms from Nudura, which offer improved ventilation for healthier indoor air quality and an environment that's less susceptible to mold, will be key.



Dream Weaver Design is a full-service interior design and staging company based in Jacksonville, Florida. We specialize in new builds, renovations, unique furnishings and staging. We integrate our years of design experience with inspiration from your life, resulting in a curated environment that is not only functional, but uniquely you.

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Trends

Continued from 15

Home office space: Business experts are suggesting many companies will see that working from home is not only possible but offers tangible benefits, like saving money on office space rent. With working from home on the rise, creating a home office space that inspires productivity will be a major project many of us tackle. Luxury home office

furniture that feels chic and blends into your décor as well as ergonomic chairs and desks will see a major boost.

Ponte Vedra Recorder · April 30, 2020

Custom and quality: With the hit to the economy, people are going to be buying less, but what they do buy will be better quality, while at the same time making an effort to support American businesses. When it comes to design, trends will shift to locally made furniture, custom-built homes and pieces and materials that stand the test of time.



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- Doors: All types Install Remove Repair • Paint • Door Knobs • Door Locks Screen Doors • Doggie Doors
- Dryer Vent Cleaning: Avoid Fires
- Fences: Gates Install Replace Repair • Power Wash • Paint • Stain
- Flooring: Tile Wood Laminate Linoleum • Install • Replace Repair • Remove
- Garage Flooring: Power Wash Paint Stain
- Garage Shelves: Wire Shelves Wood & More
- Gutters: Clean Out Power Wash Painting
- Kitchen Remodeling: Full or Partial Tile & More
- Hurricane Protection: Install & Remove
- Light Bulbs

 Mail Boxes
- Mirror hanging
 Curtain Rods

- Smoke Alarm Battery: Replacement & More
- Painting: Interior Exterior Full Service
- Power Washing: Full Service
- Screen Replacement
- Storage Sheds: Kits only
- Siding: Vinyl Wood T-1-11 & More Install • Remove • Replace
- Soffit & Fascia Board: Install Remove Replace • Power Wash • Paint
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HOME DESIGN & REMODELING 17



Stephanie D. Hollis, M.D. - Owner, Lead Visionary

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Designers share their new normal for supporting local businesses and American-made companies

By Dream Weavers Design and Staging

For an exceptionally long time, designers and consumers alike have relied on imported goods and furnishings for their design projects.

We are accustomed to seeing labels from other countries for furniture, accessories, fabrics, rugs, flooring and the list goes on and on.

We now have opportunity to think about a new way to structure our businesses and share our successes within our communities. Did you know, you can discover several American-made furniture companies online and in the Jacksonville area?

Who doesn't love finding a local piece of art or an American-made piece of furniture for your home?

As a customer, it feels great to know that you are helping real people, even people you may know personally, support their families and their dreams by shopping American.

By using local businesses and Americanmade products, we can support our country and make buying local our new norm!



Photo provided by metrocreativeconnection.com



Photo provided by metrocreativeconnection.com

Decor ideas to give homes a fresh look this spring

Spring is a season of rejuvenation, and that spirit of renewal can take hold inside a home.

Warm weather and longer hours of daylight make spring a perfect time to imagine a home's interior design in a new light. The following are a handful of decor ideas that may inspire homeowners to give their homes an entirely new look this spring.

■ Wallpaper: Wallpaper fell out of favor years ago, but new styles that aren't so heavily patterned can make for wonderful additions to any room. Large-scale prints can give a room a whole new feel without giving homeowners or their guests the impression that they have stepped back in time. A simple, mural-style floral wallpaper on the walls surrounding a table in a breakfast nook can bring nature inside.

■ Pastel colors: Nothing embodies the spring quite like pastel colors. If colorful, bright flowers dot the garden in the backyard, homeowners can bring those uplifting pastels inside by painting an accent wall or even adding some brightly colored accent furniture to rooms that could use a lift.

• Declutter: Clutter is often conquered during spring cleaning sessions, but homeowners who want to create more free-flowing interior spaces can downsize their furniture and/or look for multipurpose features

How to improve in-home air quality during allergy, flu season



A/C Designs, Inc.

According to the EPA, indoor air quality can be two to five times more polluted than outdoor air. During the spring and flu season, this can take a toll on family members who get sick or suffer from allergies. While we're all spend-

ing more time inside practicing proper social distancing, we want to do everything we can to improve our air quality. Fortunately, you can breathe easy with these quick steps.

IMPROVE VENTILATION

Your home is already built to keep the air clean through constant circulation—you just have to take advantage of it. Remember to turn on the hood fan over your stove every time you cook and use the ventilator fan in the bathroom. Of course, keep all your air vents open throughout the home. If weather permits, open doors and windows to improve circulation and reduce levels of indoor pollutants. Try this in the early morning or evening, when temperatures outside are cooler.

CHANGE A/C AIR FILTERS AND MAINTAIN YOUR UNIT

You must change your air filters regularly, not only for improved indoor air quality, but also for a well-functioning unit. Air filters serve as a trap for dirt and allergens such as dust, pollen, mold and pet dander. But, if your air filter gets clogged, its effectiveness is significantly diminished. For 1" to 3" filters, a good rule of thumb is to replace them every 30 to 60 days.

In addition, keeping the vents to your HVAC unit clean and dust-free helps keep these substances from ending up in the air you breathe. If you have trouble remembering when to care for your unit, you can sign up for maintenance programs through heating and cooling companies. These provide scheduled unit checks throughout the year, same day service, 24-hour emergency service, and more.

BANISH DUST MITES

Dust mites thrive in humid environments like we have in Northeast Florida. Vacuum your floors and furniture regularly to reduce the amount of dust, and also consider investing in special covers to protect your mattress. Washing your bedding in hot water on a weekly basis is another step you can take to improve the level of allergy-triggering dust mites in the home. Also, if possible, try steaming your tile or wood floors rather than mopping, as the hot steam will kill more bacteria and allergens.

USE AN INDOOR AIR PURIFIER

Indoor air purifiers can make a huge impact on improving the air quality in your home. One option we recommend at A/C Designs is the REME HALO®. It is designed to eliminate sick building syndrome risks by reducing odors and air pollutants. Validated tests even suggest the REME HALO® can reduce certain viruses in the air, although it is not a medical device.

The quality of the air your family breathes should be a top priority, as poor air quality can have serious implications for both your comfort and your health. Sometimes indoor air quality can be compromised, and it can be difficult to understand what the exact problem is, or how to resolve it. If you have any concerns about the indoor air quality in your home, contact an expert to help make your home a more comfortable, healthy place to live.

Ed Tennant is the owner at A/C Designs, Inc., which offers air conditioning and heating services to Duval and St. Johns County. To learn more about solutions to improve home air quality and breathe easier, visit ACDesignsJax.com.

TILES NEW AGAIN!

BEFORE

A CLEANER, HEALTHIER HOME IS YOUR BEST DEFENSE.

MAKE YOUR

BEFORE



that make it hard for clutter to take over a room. Create more open space in entertaining areas by mounting the television and getting rid of a bulky entertainment center. Create even more space by replacing rarely used end tables with a storage ottoman where books and magazines can be stored to give a room a fresh, clean look.

■ Accent features: Sometimes the smallest changes to an interior space make the biggest impression. Replace dated accents like vases and table lamps with newer items that reflect the latest styles and trends. Such adjustments won't break the bank, and they can give rooms a whole new feel.

Spring is a great time to reconsider home interiors. This spring homeowners can embrace various strategies, both big and small, to give their homes a whole new feel.







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

KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

"Life is the flower for which love is the honey." - Victor Hugo



Kathy Esfahan

Columnist

TOPIARIES AND ORNAMENTAL STANDARD TREES

Topiaries and ornamental standard trees are among many of Florida's beautiful growing plants. They can come in an evergreen varietal or add vibrant color to your landscaping. As both are a medium sized plant, they create a perfect middle ground between low growers and high bushes and trees.

Topiaries and standards create a focal point in your garden, enhancing the landscaping and bringing your eye at home level for viewing. These trees can be planted on their own, or in groups of odd numbers, bringing another unique aspect to your garden. Most of the varietals below have a flowering version that looks entirely different to the shape of these stunning trees.

Evergreen topiaries, meaning they will stay green throughout all seasons of the year. In Northeast Florida, juniper, podocarpus and Eugenia are among the most popular and can be shaped in many ways.

Usually, you can buy them shaped in cones, or in one, two and three balls stacking each other to create the "tree" effect.

Ornamental standard trees are vibrant in color and come in many different types of flowering plants. Most are shaped with one round ball at the top of the tree, in which you will need to prune to keep shape. A few butterfly loving trees are shrimp plant, sapphire Durante and Angelina.

For a tropical look, there is a hibiscus standard tree, in a variety of colors. Hibiscus trees are even grafted so that you can have three different color blooms on one tree! If you have more of an English garden landscape, try a standard rose tree or gardenia tree to give height and blooms. Mandevilla is typically a climbing vine, but in a standard tree creates very twisty vines that is an eye catcher in your landscaping!

Lastly, any of the above mentioned do wonderful in planters, as long as the sun/shade requirements are met.



Photo provided by Kathy Esfahan

They can be a lovely addition to frame a front door or enjoy on a back patio. Happy Planting!

Email Kathy at kathys.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

How to choose the right home design for your family



Building a new home is an exciting prospect. It's your opportunity to choose the personalized design and details you need to create the lifestyle you want for your family.

Tim Calderala Guest Columnist

Everything from the layout of the

kitchen to the type of stovetop you'll be cooking over, will make a big impact on the memories you will create in your new home. But, if you've already begun researching floor plans and portfolios, you know the home design process can be overwhelming at times, too. It can be hard to choose when you know each decision will make a big impact on your future experiences.

To help make your decisions a little easier, consider these suggestions to find the best home design for your family.

CONSIDER YOUR LIFESTYLE AND IDENTIFY MUST-HAVES

Whether you're using a pre-planned design or creating a new home concept from scratch, building a home is an investment in your future. That's why it's important to think about your lifestyle and longterm plans before you begin your design. What will your family need in five, ten or even twenty years from now? While you can always paint the walls or redecorate a guest room, you won't have the flexibility to renovate your home's structure in the future.

Start with the basics, for example, how many bedrooms and bathrooms will you want? Should all the bedrooms be on one side of the house, or will you want a little



more privacy? Do you have any hobbies that require an extra work or flex space to accommodate? Put together a list of your top priorities, whether that includes a top of the line kitchen or an incredible outdoor living space. These answers will help you and your home builder design a layout that functions for your family.

MEET WITH THE RIGHT PARTNER TO DISCUSS DESIGN

Once you have an idea of these key elements needed in your home, you can begin conversations with a home builder. The design process usually begins with a thorough, collaborative meeting with your home builder to discuss your must-

haves, preferences and other ideas. The right partner will give you advice on the best ways to incorporate your needs into a perfect layout for you. Make sure to bring all your notes, photographs and favorite designs to this conversation so you can show your ideas on paper.

If you're still not sure what you want for your home, your home builder can help you at this stage. Beginning with a consultation, a good design team will talk with you about your needs, preferences and the features you require. They will help you brainstorm and will collaborate with you while keeping you on budget, so you can make your dream home into a reality.

FINALIZE THE PLANS, PRICING AND FINISHES

Once all your ideas are shared, your home builder will put together your plans in a conceptual rendering of the layout of your new home. This will give you a clear idea of what your home will look like from the outset. At the same time, your home builder will produce a sales price and contract documents. These details will give you the peace of mind that you can build the home you want within your chosen budget. And, if there's anything that needs to be adjusted once you see it all on paper, you can do that from here.

The next step will be to select the interior and exterior finishes of vour home. For a lot of homeowners, this is the fun part, where you can choose everything down to the last light bulb. Others prefer to take a more hands-off approach. A good design team will help you make the right decisions or do all the heavy lifting for you. Remember, the process of building a home should suit you as much as the future home itself.

BUILD THE HOME OF YOUR DREAMS

While choosing a house design can seem overwhelming, it's a great time to narrow in on what you really want from the home of your dreams.

The right home builder should help you get everything you want in your new home without compromising. After all, this is the place where you'll create longlasting memories with your family for years to come.

Tim Calderala is the Chief Operating Officer at Collins Builders, custom home builders in Northeast Florida. To learn more about choosing the right home design for you, visit collinsbuilders.net.

Takeout and delivery guide:

Where and how to still eat

local during the crisis

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

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Son of a Butcher manager Matt Simon stands by his food truck in Nocatee.

Photo by Daniela Toporek

Food trucks are beacons of hope for the hungry during COVID-19

By Daniela Toporek

With restaurants having to shut down dine-in areas, takeout has been the savior that hungry residents are using throughout the COVID-19 lockdown. But instead of guests driving all the way to brick-and-mortars for take-out, the take-out is driving to them. Food truck owners are driving all around, serving communities flavorful options for those who are still essential and have no time to cook, or simply for those who want a break from cooking.

"We're fortunate to be doing very well," said Evan Eriksen, owner of food truck Pie95. "Some trucks have dropped because they're not getting locations or aren't well-known."

But according to Eriksen, Pie95's sales have gone up about 30%.

He thinks that practicing safety guidelines, and more importantly, notifying clients how guidelines are being practiced, has been essential to main-

FOOD TRUCKS continues on Page 25

Now is opportune time to review sustainability, green business practices



Executive Director,

North Florida Green

Chamber of Commerce

It has been a difficult couple of months, with the world reacting with uncertainty to the coronavirus and market news.

The North Florida Green Chamber of Commerce recognizes that many businesses are feeling the impact of this crisis in an immediate and profound

way. We compiled this list of some helpful ideas for businesses to help them get through this crisis.

WORK SMARTER, NOT HARDER

The safety of your employees, customers and the public should come first. Follow the advice of the CDC, federal, state, and local officials to help decide what is best for your business.

Self-care is a must. Remember that this is temporary, so find solutions to make this work without taking the chance of spreading the virus.

Try to get back into a routine. When you wake up, get dressed and ready as if you are going to work. Create an office setting for yourself at home, (and) make sure to eat healthy and get adequate sleep at night. When not working, enjoy the time with

ien not working, enjoy the time with

KELCOURSE continues on Page 23

Local Realtors weigh in on current state of real estate market

By Amber Lake

Mary Ann Bongiorno, vice president/ broker for Watson Realty Corporation, and Cara Ameer, a bi-coastal agent with Coldwell Banker licensed in California and Florida, share their thoughts on how the local real estate market has been affected during the COVID-19 pandemic.

How has COVID-19 affected the viability of the local market so far, in your opinion?

Bongiorno: February and March started



Mary Ann Bongiorno Cara Ameer

out as very strong markets, but once CO-VID-19 emerged we started seeing both buyers and sellers pulling back. As the weeks went on the pullback became more significant. These are unchartered waters so no one knows for sure how the market will come out of this. North Florida has been strong and there is no reason to think things will change once life is back to normal. Right now, people are cautious, as they should be, but with that being said, there is still activity out there. People will always need a place to live and Florida is probably better positioned than most other areas in the country given the mild climate and low taxes.

Given the uncertainty of the length of the pandemic, do you foresee any changes to that in a month? Three?

Ameer: I do think pent up demand is building amongst buyers, particularly those that can't get here right now due to travel restrictions. When the pandemic situation eases, I do think we are going to see the real estate market become very active again as people are free to move about the country.



Couple Noah Dellilo and Meagan Bryan pose with their pets for engagement shots for their wedding that was originally scheduled for May 1.





VoteHardwick.com

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Paid by Rob Hardwick, Republican, for St. Johns County Sheriff. Use of pictures in uniform does not imply the endorsement or support of any law enforcement organization.

COVID-19 crisis prompts changes in wedding plans

Wedding venues feel impact of quarantine

By Daniela Toporek

Jacksonville bride Meagan Bryan had her heart set for her wedding this upcoming spring until news came about the CO-VID-19 outbreak. Little did she know, she would have to postpone the wedding she had been planning for the past two years with her fiancé Noah Dellilo.

Brides everywhere are having to cancel or postpone their weddings due to the outbreak and now, event venues are having to adjust and adapt new concepts to pull through the age of pandemic.

"We had weddings scheduled right after THE PLAYERS, so we started receiving calls the same week the governor closed restaurants and restricted gatherings," TPC general manager Derek Sprague said. "That's when brides started calling asking what their options were."

Spraguesaid some immediate weddings have been canceled, but a majority were postponed until later summer and fall.

"Brides don't want this pandemic to spoil their special day," he said. "Our team has done an incredible job, working in rescheduling their day. Everyone has been super cooperative in working with us and planning their event."

Unfortunately for Bryan, her venue had to temporarily close until May 8 and Friday weddings (her original day of choice) were booked until May 2021, so she opted for a Thursday wedding for later this year. "It [stinks]," Dellilo said. "We loved the date we chose, so we'll still be celebrating that as our anniversary as opposed to the date of our ceremony. We're expecting less guests, too. I was really looking forward to seeing all our families in one place. My significant other also planned her Masters program around being free for our wedding and honeymoon, so she has a semester off for no reason and then has school surround-

ing [the time of] our wedding." Although weddings are temporarily no longer an option for venues, they can still offer other services like takeout menus, family-style meals and a grocery concept, like TPC Sawgrass has implemented.

"We're still open, but in a modified concept. We're offering a butcher block grocery with high-end meats and fish to prepare at home, which has been very successful," Sprague said. "We operate with the highest safety standards on a regular basis, and that has been enhanced to follow the CDC guidelines for social distancing that are now in place."

And although Bryan and Dellilo didn't get their dream wedding date, they are relieved things worked out and are optimistic for the new date.

"We were on our toes, watching the news every day and anxiously waiting to find out," Bryan said. "Now, we don't feel that anxiety every day. We're just being thankful. It's for the best and for everyone's safety. We just have to listen to what the CDC is telling us and hopefully we'll get through this together."



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Staying clean, sanitized through COVID-19

By Daniela Toporek

The COVID-19 outbreak has crowds lining up for sanitizers, wipes, gloves and for some reason, toilet paper. But are these crowds also properly using their supplies to clean properly and efficiently?

Professional cleaners from MaidPro and Pablo Beach Cleaners explained how COVID-19 is affecting their industry, while giving locals some tips and tricks to a cleaner and safer home.

"Some residential clients opted to hold off on services for the time-being," said Sarah Hammond, owner of Pablo Beach Professionals, a locally women-run housekeeping business. "However, we still urge folks to use our services. Most clients have been reasonable. Some even go on their walks or grocery runs while we are there working to avoid contact."

Professionals have also expanded their services, offering unique cleanings that were created specifically for the pandemic.

Pablo Beach Professionals added floor steaming and has partnered with builders for post-construction clean-up.

"I've partnered with several property management groups to sanitize access points for buildings, such as elevators and keypads," Hammond said.

Jacqueline Mareovich, co-owner of MaidPro St. Johns, implemented services



Jacqueline and Eduardo Mareovich of MaidPro St. Johns offer tips for proper cleaning.

that focuses specifically on what are called, "touch points."

"We wear masks and gloves through the clean, then remove all supplies and come back in and focus on doorknobs, countertops, pulls on dressers, remote controls, keyboards, where ever major touch points are," Mareovich said.

And to ensure the safety of both the client and the employee, both MaidPro and Pablo Beach Professionals wear masks and gloves and follow all social distancing and CDC guidelines.

If holding off on housekeeping, Mareovich shared some at-home cleaning tips.

"If you're privileged enough to have disinfectant wipes, or just a cleaning towel with diluted bleach and water, just spray or wipe down all handles that are typically not wiped during a cleaning," Mareovich said. "All doorknobs, remotes, keyboards, frames, touchscreens, pulleys on all furniture and cabinets."

She suggested cleaning phones multiple

times a day, keeping hand sanitizer nearby and spraying Lysol on mattresses before adding sheets, as well as inside trash bins to eliminate germs and odors.

Mareovich also emphasized the importance of cleaning dirty laundry, which can harbor humidity and bacteria.

Owner of local dry cleaners Oceanside Cleaners, Mike Harris, advised following laundry detergent directions, adding that too much detergent leads to laundry that's not thoroughly rinsed and too little leads to laundry that's not thoroughly cleaned – both which can still harbor germs.

"Follow the instructions on the packaging," Harris said. "But reduce the amount slightly if the washer uses soft water."

Harris said Oceanside Cleaners' fabric sanitizer Endex-99 was deemed effective in killing 99.9% of bacteria and eliminating coronavirus germs by the Environmental Protection Agency.

"With this endorsement from the EPA, our customers know they have additional ammunition to help prevent the spread of COVID-19," Harris said.

And for the final step, take off shoes before walking in the door.

"Remove shoes and spray them with Lysol and don't wear them through the home," Mareovich said for her last tip. "Or wash them in the dishwasher, without dishes, obviously."

Kelcourse

Continued from 21

your family. Reset the craziness of usual life to develop a healthy work life balance.

DO NOT PANIC! REALLY

It's best to plan and prepare for whatever may happen in the future. Stay productive and use this downtime to be able to work on your business. Like many businesses, the crisis has meant a slowdown in business transactions, but an opportunity to see how sustainable business development fits with your business plan.

Sustainable business development is about keeping the balance between social, economic, and environmental concerns in corporate decision-making; taking care of the natural resources the company uses, recompensing the communities in which companies work and promoting long-term value-creation for shareholders.

You can also use this time to catch up on editing projects and planning. Look at ways you can improve our business. You want to be ready to hit the ground running when the crisis has passed.

Speak with a trusted adviser

Talk to your banker, accountant and other trusted experts for assistance and guidance in managing your cash flow.

Communication is key during this crisis. Now is not the time to try to go it alone. Whether it is a business professional, a trusted employee, or a business mentor, you should be reaching out and enlisting their support. They can be a resource and provide you with a fresh perspective on how to get through this.

Reach out to vendors, suppliers

Talk to your suppliers, vendors, and your landlord. They will certainly be aware of the situation and may be willing to work with you on flexible terms to get you through the hump. Many businesses are also offering to ship products to their customers if they are able.

Everyone has been impacted in one way or another by the coronavirus outbreak. We all know that this is a difficult situation. You should get ahead of this and have those important conversations with your suppliers, vendors and others. They are most likely going to want to work with you to help get you through this crunch.

Stay connected with others

You are not alone. Do not isolate yourself and ask for help from others. Take advantage of the resources and support of the chamber and other strong business networks.

Sign up for business counseling or technical assistance to help guide your business through this disruption. There are several resources available. We have had an amazing ecosystem of entrepreneurial

What advice would you give someone looking to invest in real estate at the moment?

Bongiorno: For people who have to buy right now, they are more likely to get a good deal because there is less competition out there. Conversely, sellers who must sell need to be aware of this dynamic and respond accordingly. If they are in the market now, they are here because they really want or need to buy. They are not resources, of which the North Florida Green Chamber and Small Business Development Center at UNF are both a part.

Finally, this is also an opportune time to review your commitment to sustainability and green business practices.

If you are not convinced by the socioenvironmental responsibility that your business should adopt, you may be more receptive to the benefits brought by having a green attitude with resource efficiency measures, green products and services, and a circular economy.

Resource efficiency, for instance, is a straightforward concept. Resource efficiency means increasing your business revenue streams by lowering resource use, environmental impacts, and operating costs.

Christina Kelcourse is Executive Director of the North Florida Green Chamber of Commerce. She can be reached at northfloridagreenchamber@gmail.com or (904) 878-3474.

just kicking tires. If you have a secure job and don't need to sell your house in order to buy, this could be a wonderful buying opportunity. Unlike 2008 this slowdown has nothing to do with banks or lending practices. When the threat of the pandemic is over, if interest rates remain low, things should return to a more normal pace.

To read more of this interview, go to pontevedrarecorder.com

Real Estate

How is the market in Ponte Vedra similar/different to others across the U.S or Florida?

Ameer: I think Ponte Vedra Beach is well poised to weather this situation and is only going to come out stronger on the other side. After 9/11, there was some exmigration out of the New York metro area to places like Florida that offered a bit more relaxing and less stressful way of life. I think we may see some of that in the coming months ahead. It can be difficult to be cooped up in a dense living situation with nowhere to go — at least in a place like Ponte Vedra Beach, there is an abundance of outdoor activities to enjoy, even if you don't have the biggest house, but certainly you can get a lot more for your money.



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- 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, 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 offering alcohol to go. Staff will bring orders out to your car. Call (904) 285-5524 for placing orders.

Coastal Wine Market: 641 Crosswater Parkway. Suite B, Ponte Vedra Beach

Offering no-contact pickup. Orders taken noon-2 p.m. Monday-Friday for next day pickup between 2-4 p.m. Call (904) 395-3520 to place an order.

Dick's Wings: 100 Marketside Ave., #301, Ponte Vedra Beach,

Open from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. for takeout orders. Call (904) 829-8134 to place an order.

JaxSpice: 311 3rd St. N. #104, Jacksoville 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 curbside and offers delivery.

The Loop Pizza Grill: 101 Marketside Ave., Ponte Vedra Beach

Takeout available from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. To place

an order, call (904) 834-2078.

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.

M Shack: 641 Crosswater Parkway, Ponte Vedra Beach

M Shack is offering a limited menu for takeout. Hours are 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Call (904) 395-3575 to place na order.

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.

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

Memphis Jax is open for takeout or delivery. Customers can 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. 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 is offering dockside delivery and curbside delivery. Call Palm Valley



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 poppysitaliano.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.

Really Good Beer Stop: 245 Nocatee Center Way, Ponte Vedra

Offering delivery. Call to (904) 372-0910 or (904) 233-6765 to place an order.

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

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 doing pick-up orders only. Call (904) 285-9660 to place an order.

South Kitchen: 150 Pine Lake Drive, Suite A, Ponte Vedra Beach,

Open for takeout and delivery. To place an order, call (904) 686-7144.

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 placed on the 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, call (904) 395-3989.

Treylor Park Restaurant: 158 Marketside, Ponte Vedra Beach

Offering limted menu takeout from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Call (904) 834-7356 to place an order.

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 pickup or delivery. Staff will bring your food to car or deliver for \$5 within a 5-mile radius and \$20 minimum order. Two Dudes is also delivering beer, wine and cocktails. First responders, military and health industry professionals receive 25% off takeout and delivery orders. Visit www.twodudesrestaurant.com for the menu.

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

V Pizza's curbside cocktail bar is open.. 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 or send an email 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 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: 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.





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Food Trucks

Continued from 21

taining a following during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"With food trucks, we're blessed that we're mobile and do take away," Eriksen said. "You can also see who's serving you. If you go to a bigger business, you don't normally see who's in the back putting your order together, or in the package. When you're shopping at a small business, you see everyone and all the health precautions being taken."

Just last week, Erikseon posted reasons why it's still safe to order from mobile food vendors to social media, such as how food trucks only use single-serving containers and silverware (limiting risk of cross contamination), are open-air establishments so guests aren't breathing recirculated are, nor boxed into one common area and the fact that trucks have significantly fewer staff members handling food.

Thomas Ulwelling, co-owner of pan-Asian cuisine truck, Lolly's Food Trolly, has done the same, and said that his guests showed appreciation when things get cleaned, are fast and safe.

"We do our best to make sure customers know their safety is the first priority," he said. "Employees are asked to wear masks, change gloves as much as possible and sanitize every station, no matter how often it was used. Most trucks have three



Co-owner of Lolly's Food Trolly, Thomas Ulwelling, sanitizes the truck before guests can order.

to four employees, which minimizes the spread of infection. They also employ family members or individuals that they trust and normally. You normally already know who they've been in contact with."

A strict practice of social distancing has also been the biggest precaution taken at Lolly's, Pie94 Butt Hutt Smokehouse and other mobile vendors.

"We suggest that one person per family comes out per order to limit the number of people around," Eriksen said about Pie95. "We also do marking on the ground, 6 to 8 feet away. Our register systems are wiped after each use. We prefer that people use card over cash. We're working on an online-ordering system now. Overall, we have a very clean system."

Eriksen's strategies have been effective so far, and he gives credit to fellow food truck owner and friend Jacob Bander, owner of Butt Hutt Smokehouse.

"I messaged him and asked if I could repost the same message he posted," Eriksen said about Bander's COVID-19 updates.

Bander said the post is essentially a guideline to make customers safe.

"We implemented online ordering, as well, so the only person touching the order is the person preparing the food and the



Photo by Daniela Toporek Son of a Butcher serves sandwiches and wraps like The Mayport, with Mayport Shrimp.

person ordering the food." Bander said. And according to Matt Simon, owner of the food truck Son of a Butcher, employees and guests are taking the changes well.

"So far everyone's been cooperative," he said. They practice social distancing and pretty much scatter themselves. No one ever stands in a big crowd. We're taking it pretty well."

Bander, Eriksen, Simon and other mobile vendors are thankful to still be in business, they still show concern for brickand-mortar business owners.

"We spoke to a food distributor who originally had about 34 accounts, but are now down to 13," Eriksen said. "I'm not trying to be rude, but Corporate America has their buy-outs and loans. Here, we have mom-and-pop restaurants that are hurting. People need to go out and go to local, family-owned restaurants. Everything right now is relying on the community supporting the community."



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Betty Griffin Center extends deadline for 'A Day Without Violence' art, poetry contest

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Betty Griffin Center extended the date to accept submissions from St. Johns County Students for the 2021 'A Day Without Violence' Art and Poetry Contest through May 31.

Also, instead of using the usual drop-off locations, further submissions must be mailed to the attention of Betty Griffin Center Event Coordinator Kenlie Kubart. at Betty Griffin Center's Main Outreach Office, located at 2450 Old Moultrie Rd., Suite 202, St. Augustine, Florida 32086.

The project is open to all St. Johns County students in kindergarten through 12th grade, whether they attend public school, private school or are home-school. Last year, there were more than 1,000 entries.

"With so many students now quarantined at home, many with their parents as well, we wanted to extend the deadline so the children, along with their parents and teachers, will have this arts outlet available to them," said Betty Griffin Center CEO Joyce Mahr. "Expressing themselves through their art and poetry is a great way to channel some energy into a positive activity during this stressful time."

Prizes are awarded to the winners, who are selected by a group of independent artists: \$50 for first place, \$25 for second and 11 honorable mention awards of \$10 each.

Judges select the winning entries based on their effectiveness in conveying a positive impression of peacefulness and cooperation, artistic merit, originality, diversity of images and geographical diversity within St. Johns County.

The winners will receive special recognition during a St. Johns County School Board Meeting, and have their artwork displayed at a local art gallery throughout October during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. All 13 winning artists and 12 poets will have their work reproduced in the Betty Griffin Center 'A Day Without Violence 2021 Calendar.'

Contestants can print out the contest application and registration form at https://bettygriffincenter.org/day-withoutviolence-calendar-contest/.

To be eligible, artwork must be in color and able to be reproduced at 8 x 10 and suitable for framing (horizontal format only). All original 2D media is acceptable. The theme "A Day Without Violence" must be reflected in the art or words. An entry form must accompany each piece of art.

For more information, contact Kenlie Kubart at 904.808.8544, extension 207, or email kenliek@bettygriffincenter.org.

Any businesses or other donors interested in sponsoring the printing of the calendar should contact the Betty Griffin Center at info@bettygriffincenter.org.

Jacksonville Symphony staff, musicians will be paid for season

Jacksonville Symphony President and CEO Steven Libman announced April 20 symphony musicians and staff will continue to receive full salaries and benefits through the end of the season, although officials already have decided to cancel the rest of the season.

The Symphony this week canceled all of its remaining concerts after state and local officials declared a prolonged state of emergency for COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are incredibly thankful for the continued support from our donors and our community that has allowed us to keep the salaries and benefits of our musicians and staff unchanged," says Libman. "These are truly difficult times, and almost no industry remains untouched by this crisis. To our patrons who have donated back their purchased tickets or supported us through a new or increased gift: thank you. The Jacksonville Symphony is here to enrich the spirit of Jacksonville through symphonic music, and because of the generous support from our patrons, we

will continue to do so when we are able to return to Jacoby Symphony Hall."

"There are many organizations who have had to make difficult decisions about the salaries and benefits of their artists," says Board Chair David Strickland. "We are proud to be in a position where we can continue supporting our musicians and staff in this time of crisis."

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the Jacksonville Symphony could potentially lose \$500,000 in ticket sales by the end of the fiscal year on June 30. Although unable to perform on the Jacoby Symphony Hall stage, the Symphony continues to find new ways to engage the Jacksonville community through the streaming of concerts every Friday night.

Multiple streaming concert performances remain in the organization's new online series. Presented on Friday evenings at 8 p.m., patrons can find both new, prerecorded ensemble performances, as well



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Local artist performing online shows on Facebook

During the "stay at home" order the country is trying to make sense of, the St. Augustine's Billy Buchanan is making it his mission to bring joy and a special connection to his fans around the United States and Europe, through his "themed" weekly live streaming shows.

The shows are live-streamed on Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/billybmusic).

He performs every Wednesday and Friday nights at 8 p.m., and twice on Sundays — an uplifting worship set at 11 a.m., and another themed show at 7 p.m.

Buchanan performs all the great music that has inspired him during his music career, in a 90-minute show. Whether it's a "Soul Night," "80s Night," "Songs from the Movies Night" or a "request Night," he is making people happy during a very difficult time, and they love it.

Thousands are tuning in each week and being encouraged to tune in. Listeners are encouraged to make comments and engage with Buchanan during the show. Donations



Musician Billy Buchanan is permorming live on Facebook four times a week.

are appreciated, but not expected.

"This is a difficult time for all of us, and we're all longing for some normalcy," Buchanan said. "I'm so thankful that I can

share my gift with others via social media and bring some joy into their homes. My live-streaming shows allow me to keep my chops up, learn some new tunes, and stay connected with my fans. These shows have definitely been a real bright spot for me during this pandemic."

Buchanan is a fulltime entertainer and songwriter, he and performs 250-plus shows a year all over the country. He also mentors, consults and develops aspiring artists through his music company, Persevere Entertainment Group.

Symphony

as previously recorded performances by the full orchestra. Patrons can still find the concerts on the Symphony's Facebook page, YouTube Channel or website. Symphony musicians are also sharing at-home content that can be viewed on the Symphony's social media channels.

Recently, the Symphony announced

its 2020-21 season. More information can be found at www.JaxSymphony.org or by calling (904) 354-5547.

To support the Jacksonville Symphony during this difficult time patrons can donate previously purchased tickets or make a donation through the website www.JaxSymphony.org.

Patrons can also receive additional information about the Jacksonville Symphony via social media, and the web site, where patrons can sign up to be added to the email list.

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Finchem to be inducted in World Golf Hall of Fame

Former PGA TOUR commissioner joins Woods in 2021Class

The World Golf Hall of Fame will enshrine former PGA TOUR Commissioner Tim Finchem as part of its Class of 2021, joining Tiger Woods and Marion Hollins. Finchem received news of his induction through the Contributor category from Commissioner Jay Monahan.

"It is the greatest honor to be elected

to join golf's most legendary players and contributors in the World Golf Hall of Fame," Finchem said. "This is a truly humbling moment, for which I am most grateful, and I look forward to celebrat-



Tim Finchem

ing with my family and friends throughout the game of golf and the many people who made this possible for me. I am especially proud to stand alongside one of the world's all-time greats, Tiger Woods, in the Class of 2021 and look forward to what will be an exciting year ahead."

Under Finchem's 22-year tenure as the PGA TOUR commissioner from 1994 through 2016, prize money skyrocketed, moving from under \$100 million on three

FINCHEM continues on Page 30

Golf provides sense of normalcy during COVID-19 pandemic

By Daniela Toporek

While many are forced to stay home to avoid the threats created by COV-ID-19, golfers stay on the course to seek fresh air and their sanity.

Competition and comradery have been the perfect remedy for residents who've become stir crazy by restrictions and isolation created by the coronavirus.

Courses have adjusted their business models to accommodate Gov. Ron De-Santis' state of emergency, but it's done little to diminish the need to be around golf buddies — and far from the news of the day.

More than 44% of golf courses are still open, according to the National Golf Foundation, including all of the courses in St. Johns County.

The courses at TPC Sawgrass are open for play. The club allows only one golfer for each cart. It also requires flagsticks left in the cup, nestled in the middle of a section of a foam rubber swimming noodle to keep players from reaching into the hole.

Other suggestions include not picking

up another player's club on the green, refraining from the customary handshake after the round and washing hands is encouraged at every opportunity.

Other courses like the Marsh Landing Country Club in Palm Valley are following the same precautions, according to Collin Manning, who's plays two or three rounds a week.

"They disinfect all the carts, all food is to go, no one sits in the club house and of course, we maintain distance,

COURSES continues on Page 30

Landrum's Guarnera earns spot on Future Stars Game football team



Jake Guarnera

Offensive tackle will play for Florida in 4-state, round-robin tournament **By Don Coble**

Jake Guarnera knows his freshman football season at Ponte Vedra High will be a challenge. That's why he's set realistic goals.

He hopes to make the varsity roster, but he will settle for a spot on the junior varsity team if it means more playing time. After being selected to play in the 2020 Future Stars Game in June at Atlanta, either goal seems reasonable.

"I just want to play," the 6-foot, 220-pound offensive tackle said.

Just 14, Guarnera played at Landrum Middle School last year. The Lions finished 9-2 after

losing in the second round of the county tournament. Guarnera tried out for the Florida eighth grade

Guarnera tried out for the Florida eighth grad team recently in Jacksonville and earned a spot on the roster. He will play against all-star teams from Louisiana, Georgia and South Carolina.

Players aren't nominated for the all-star teams. They have to attend a camp to be evaluated by coaches while they compete against other players.

Players will stay and practice at Clark-Atlanta University for four days. According to the tournament's website, in addition to practice, they

Photo by Don Coble

CLASSIFIED 29



Finchem

tours in 1994 to more than \$400 million on six tours when he retired in 2017. He created signature events in today's game, including the FedExCup and the FedExCup Playoffs, the Presidents Cup

Guarnera

will spend time in life skills sessions, such as academic requirements, weight training, nutrition, religion in the locker room, social media and life planning.

The tournament is June 10-13.

"He's already self-determined from playing football and basketball," said Rickie Simon, Director of Team Florida. "His talent is outstanding and he's very technical.'

Knocking defensive players on their back is more than technical. Guarnera said. It's exhilarating.

"It's pretty fun when you pancake somebody," he said. "People like to say offensive linemen aren't smart, but we are. We have to know where we are on the field.'

The Future Stars Game started in 2011. Some of its alumni include: Trevor Lawrence of Clemson. Jamarcus Chatman of Florida State and Emory Jones of Florida.

Guarnera was a three-sport starting



and the World Golf Championships.

Finchem worked to ensure giving back was part of the fabric of the PGA

TOUR's business model and was instru-

mental in founding the First Tee in 1997.

on Hollins as part of the 2021 Induction

Class. The Class of 2021 is elected by

Finchem joins Tiger Woods and Mari-

Landrum student Jake Guarnera was named to the Future Stars game team.

athlete at Landrum. In addition to playing football, he was a center on the basketball team and a pitcher/first baseman for the baseball team.

He also is a member of the Junior National Honor Society with a 3.7 GPA and is scheduled to attend all honors and AP courses at Ponte Vedra High.



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PONTÉ VEDRA

Courses

Continued from 28

which is fairly easy to do here," Manning said. "You're not reaching your hand in the cup for the ball. You don't take the flag or pin out anymore, either."

But with increased play comes a concern of too many golfers.

"It was much less crowded prior to the pandemic," said Joey Ramsey, who's played at multiple courses in the area, like Blue Sky Golf Club and Queen's Harbour Yacht and Country Club in Jacksonville and Amelia Island Plantation, prior to its temporary shutdown.

"It's just too crowded [during the pandemic], so the pace of play is a lot slower than normal," he said.

Some still question whether it's smart to keep courses open, but others believe it's not only safe, but good medicine.

Dr. Catherine Troisi, an infectious disease epidemiologist at the University of Texas Health Science Center, told golf. com when it comes to activities during the pandemic, "golf as it's normally played outdoors, with natural social-distancing built in - would be fairly safe."

While the business of golf continues to flourish, other services at local courses are struggling. Dining rooms, snack bars and lounges are limited to deliveries and takehome orders. To offset that, many courses have ramped up their on-course beverage cart service.

According to Taylor Fuller, World Golf Village's marketing manager, the WGV is taking extra precautions to remain open, provide tee times and comfort during the outbreak.

'We're really just trying to keep everyone safe and healthy," Fuller said.

International golfers often stay in the



Collin Manning took the photo and it's at World Golf Village.

St. Augustine resort, Fuller said, especially during March for THE PLAYERS Championship [which was canceled after one round by the outbreak.

"It's a great feeling, knowing our staff wants to be there for the people," Fuller said. "We're keeping the course as safe as we possibly can and are happy to give people some sense of comfort."

But regardless of the challenges, the passion for golf has never been more alive.

"It's definitely great to still be able to play," Manning said about golfing during the age of COVID-19. "You can forget about everything going on, you're out in open space, playing a game you're used to playing. There's a little bit of normalcy. It's a little different with the regulations, but pretty much, it helps feel like it's just a normal day."



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