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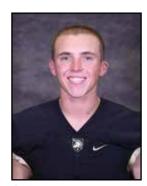


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Sports



Photos from 2016-2017 school year courtesy of St. Johns County School District

Pages 26–28 Students across St. Johns County School District report back to school today. Superintendent Tim Forson provides a preview of the upcoming school year on page 10.



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Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening.

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WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer with your first and last name to jonb@opcfla.com by Monday at 5 p.m.

All correct entries will be entered into a random drawing to win tickets for two adults and two children to the Jacksonville Zoo. In order to allow as many families as possible to win, participants are only eligible to win a ticket prize pack once every four months.

16 readers correctly identified last week's photo as Vicar's Landing. Good job, everyone! The winner of the random drawing was Dale Macpherson.

Congratulations, Dale – you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Georgia, I am a 5-year-old female cat who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center



as a stray. As this animal was a stray, there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #39059

WEEK My name is Dallas, and I am a 6-year-old

DOG OF THE

male dog who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center as a stray. As this

animal was a stray, there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit me today here at the pet center! # 38899

Any new pet being introduced to a new home will need time to adjust to their new environment. Please reinforce house-training and behavioral training and be mindful of interacting with other pets.

St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions at the St. Johns County Pet Center are \$30 for males and \$40 for females. Dog adoptions are \$45 for males and \$60 for females. Adoption fees include microchipping, neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The pet center is located at 130 N. Stratton Rd., off US 1 between County Road 210 and International Golf Parkway. Business hours are Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is closed to the public on Sunday. On Monday, the office is open by appointment only to claim a lost pet. For more information, please call the **St. Johns County Pet Center at (904) 209-6190**.





Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



FDOT to host open house on St. Augustine's San Marco Avenue/May Street construction project Aug. 16

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will host a construction open house in St. Augustine regarding the San Marco Avenue/May Street/West San Carlos Avenue intersection improvement project Wednesday, Aug. 16, from 4:30 to 6:30pm in City Hall's Alcazar Room at 75 King St. The meeting will also cover the May Street drainage project.

The public is invited to attend the open house any time during the two hours to learn more about the projects, including timeframe, construction activities, traffic impacts and other details. FDOT project staff will be available to answer questions. This is an informal open house; no presentation is scheduled.

Through collaboration and consensus with the City of St. Augustine and the community, the San Marco Avenue/May Street/West San Carlos Avenue intersection will be reconfigured and widened to allow for better traffic flow in the area.

Construction of the new intersection configuration is set to begin in

mid-September and is scheduled to be open for operation in summer 2018. Upon the opening of the intersection, replacement of a stormwater pipe on the north side of May Street from San Marco Avenue to east of Magnolia Avenue will begin and is expected to be completed in the summer of 2019.







COLLECTION







SOUTH SHORE \$472,000

Watch the sun rise on the water from the covered balcony of fabulous oceanside condo. The interior has a bright atmosphere with plenty of natural lighting, wood floors and a living room that flows into the updated kitchen with granite countertops. MLS 894434

Barbara Hubbard 904.349.1864 BHubbard@WatsonRealtyCorp.com John Richardson 904.465.5110 JRichardson@WatsonRealtyCorp.com

MARSH LANDING CC \$719,000

This beautiful immaculate residence offers an open layout with wood and tile flooring throughout, plantation shutters and four spacious bedrooms with 3 baths. The kitchen has been recently been updated with stainless steel appliances, wine refrigerator, granite counters, warm cabinetry and much more. MLS 893469

Suzanne Schinsing 904.314.0331 SSchinsing@WatsonRealtyCorp.com

THE LANDMARK \$885,000

Take a walk along the sand in the early morning before heading back upstairs to spectacular 6th floor condo. The condo has been beautifully updated with a gourmet kitchen, built-ins in the foyer and living room, surround sound system, custom closets, and comes with garage space. MLS 894124

Sue Hollis 904.616.2681
SueHollis@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



We're in your neighborhood.



St. Johns County staff maintains position in latest round of comments on PVC's Vista Tranquila

By Jon Blauvelt

St. Johns County staff sent its latest round of comments to Ponte Vedra Corporation (PVC) regarding the company's Vista Tranquila development application Aug. 1.

In the comments, county staff most notably writes that it disagrees with PVC that The Outpost property is designated as Residential-C or that the Residential-C designation of certain adjacent property should be extended to the subject property.

"Staff does not find that the applicant has demonstrated that the proposed PUD (Planned Unit Development) is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the subject property's Future Land Use designation of Conservation," said county staff in the comments. "In particular, staff does not find that the applicant has demonstrated that the exact boundaries of the land use designation of the subject property on the Future Land Use Map require interpretation on the basis that the location of a specific boundary is not clearly delineated on the Future Land Use Map.'

all position since the debate over PVC's

Recorder

development of The Outpost began a few years ago. PVC, a Gate Petroleum subsidiary, is proposing to rezone its 99 acres of Conservation property known as The Outpost from Open Rural to Planned Unit Development (PUD) to build a 66-home subdivision there known as Vista Tranquila. The Outpost property is located at the end of Neck Road and adjacent to the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTMNERR).

The county has consistently asked that PVC's PUD application be accompanied by a Comprehensive Plan amendment to change the Conservation designation. PVC argues that a plan amendment is not required to process the application. The company and its defense say the land use designation is conditional and requires future boundary adjustments based on environmental field surveys. They also argue the county has consistently approved such boundary adjustments in the past, determining that development on nonjurisdictional portions of such property may be developed consistent with the

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these examples cited by PVC are different compared to the company's Vista Tranquila application. County representatives did not wish to elaborate on how they're different due to the pending litigation between the two parties.

PVC submitted its responses to the county's review of its controversial development project June 30 and has since been awaiting the county's next steps. Now that PVC has received the county's latest comments, Attorney Lynn Pappas said the company is disappointed that the county continues to treat this property differently from other similarly situated properties.

"I would say the staff position that is articulated that the conditional Conservation land use designation doesn't apply to this particular piece of private property...we have not found any evidence in the record to support that staff position," said Pappas. "The staff has not provided any evidence or justification for that position, certainly not in the responses they've offered, most

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recently and frankly for the last three years that we've been working with them on the matter.

"If they intended to exclude The Outpost from the conditional conservation land use designation that governs the other private properties in the county and put this entire Outpost parcel within Conservation of land use of its own, then we would believe that the record in the county's proceedings or in the county some place, somehow, somewhere, would reflect that," she continued. "We've not been able to find anything that supports that position."

Also notable in the county's comments is its continued concerns for adverse impacts on the lands that surround the proposed development. Staff said that the GTMNERR and the Guana Wildlife Management Area have "the potential for impact for light, noise, runoff, loss of habitat and other kinds of issues that come with residential

TRANQUILA continues on Page 5



Tranquila

Continued from 4

development."

Pappas said PVC has complied with the land development code, as well as all regulatory agencies that have jurisdiction on the property, including the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). As a result, she doesn't see how the Vista Tranquila development would be any more impactful than what's already been developed in the area.

"I don't know of any reason why the residences that we construct, which would be less dense than Neck Road is today, that have more environmental protection because we're required to have master storm water systems and meet OFW (Outstanding Florida Waters) water quality standards, would be any different or any more impactful than what's there now or any other parcel of property adjacent to that environment and to that preservation area," she explained.

Jane West, an attorney representing the residents living along Neck Road who have formed the nonprofit group Save Guana Now to fight the development, disagrees.

"I don't see how you can say with a straight face that sticking 66 single family residential units on a peninsula of untouched property in this very pristine environment is not impactful," said West. "All you have you to do is look at the property, go out there physically and walk around the area, and you'll see very clearly that this will be impactful to the adjacent area."

Also within the county's comments, staff says the directly accessed roadway segment known as Link 72, or Mickler Road from CR 210 to SR A1A, is currently classified as "Deficient" with the total committed traffic at 124.7 percent of the approved peak hour service volume capacity. If Link 72 is impacted at 1 percent or more of the approved peak hour service, the comments read, then "mitigation" will be required. The comments also state that right and left turn lanes will be required at the intersection of Mickler and Neck roads based on the project's daily trip generation.

Pappas said none of the traffic com-





hoto by Jennifer Logue

The Outpost property is located at the end of Neck Road and adjacent to the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTMNERR).

ments surprised her, explaining that the traffic discussion is based on technical analysis and a refinement process that the company is still working through with the transportation division.

In addition, county staff asks PVC for several technical requests in the document, such as providing details regarding the construction of the development's community park and how the company plans to protect a gopher tortoise burrow on the property, as well as determining the number and location of "specimen" trees on the property.

Pappas said the timeline moving forward is dependent on how long it takes PVC to assemble responses and determine whether additional inquiries need to be made to county staff. Then the company will decide if it needs more written comments from the county or if they're ready to request that a public hearing be scheduled. The county's communications team confirmed this process, reiterating that Planning and Zoning Agency and Board of County Commission hearings have yet to be scheduled.

Overall, Pappas said the timeframe in

which the county has managed the comment process over the last several months is "fairly typical." She said, however, the overall timeframe over the past few years has been frustrating.

"It was preceded by three years of basically not getting anything accomplished," she said. "So yes, we're frustrated, and I think we don't feel like this land owner is being treated fairly. But we're going through the process, and the county is honoring the judge's order to process it in a timely fashion. That's where we are now."



Jack Wilbur is a Ponte Vedra native, Episcopal School of Jacksonville graduate and recent college graduate who is currently teaching English in Japan. The Recorder caught up with him while he was home for a recent visit.



By Jon Blauvelt

What's vour background?

I was born here in Jacksonville and have lived in Ponte Vedra my entire life. I grew up here at the beach with my parents and one younger brother. I attended both Beaches Episcopal and then Episcopal High School. After graduating, I decided to move up to Virginia to pursue a geology and history dual degree with a minor in East Asian studies at Washington and Lee University.

Can you please tell us about your current job in Japan?

Currently I am working in Kobe, Japan, teaching English to elementary school students and junior high school students. I teach about 160 seventh and ninth grade students. At junior high school, I primarily work with the kids on English pronunciation and conversation. At elementary school, I teach first through sixth grade and focus more on making English fun and basic sentences. Most of my students love English and take any chance to ask me what America is like and why I decided to come to Japan.

I would imagine Kobe is pretty different compared to Ponte Vedra, right? How would you describe it?

Pretty different is underselling it. Kobe is much bigger than Ponte Vedra. Right now, I think the city has about 1.5 million people, and it seems that all of them take my morning train to work. From my apartment, I can look out and see the Japanese coastline on one side and Mount Rokko on the other. Kobe is like a Japanese downtown Chicago with bustling stores, nightlife, and ever-present winds that howl between the buildings. It also has numerous beaches and friendly people.

What inspired you to teach English abroad?

When I was graduating university, I wasn't sure which career I wanted to pursue. I applied to several geology grad schools and interviewed for a few jobs but did not feel any particular calling. Then out of the blue, my former Japanese Sensei wanted to meet with me and asked if I had applied to the JET program, the Japanese government's program for foreign teachers. She convinced me that I should give it a shot. After a rigorous interview at the Japanese embassy in Washington D.C., the next thing I knew I was packing my bags and moving to Japan.

Working in Japan isn't the first adventure you've experienced. Can you please tell us about hiking Mount Kilimanjaro and studying in Greece? Are there any other adventures we should know about?

No it isn't! I will never forget hiking Mount Kilimanjaro. We started off in Tanzania and spent about a week climbing the mountain. Coming down, we went at breakneck speed and finished in less than two days. After reaching the summit, I remember falling dead asleep against a boulder with my entire pack on. Studying in Greece was amazing. I won't bore everyone with the geological analysis, but it is a fascinating area to study. As you go toward mainland Greece you can peel back time and imagine what the area was like millions of years ago. While on the trip, we stopped and did some sightseeing at a number of ancient ruins including the Parthenon. As for other adventures, I lived in Australia for a summer in middle school, and have spent time in Central America.

What's next for you? Hiking Everest?

I wish! Sadly, I don't think I will be able to with my



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

shoulder injury from my college rugby days. Right now, I am deciding how long I want to stay in Japan. Between the food and the friends I have made, it is a tough place to leave! I might transition to another field if my Japanese continues to improve. Recently, I have been considering taking the LSAT and applying to law school. Eventually, I would want to practice international law and continue to use my Japanese in a professional setting. I am also considering getting my masters in hydrology or coastal geology and working as an environmental consultant.

What about growing up on the First Coast has helped you to take on all of these adventures?

I grew up with a great family that was always encouraging me to play outside and go on adventures. This included not only physical adventures but also reading and writing. As I grew up, this love of exploration caused me to seek

out and join as many experiences as I could. Growing up on the First Coast makes it easier to travel abroad as I always know I have such a great hometown to return to.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I love to fish. Every chance I get, I will be out on the water deep sea or in shore trying to land something in the boat. One of the first things I did when I came back for a visit was head out to the beach with a pole in each hand. Besides fishing, I like to read sci-fi and fantasy novels and go hiking, hunting and watching movies. Of course, whenever I visit my brother, we have to play a one-on-one basketball game to decide the house champion.

Alleged coyote attacks leave locals grieving pets

By Samantha Logue

A recent uptick in the number of reported coyote sightings in Ponte Vedra Beach has some residents concerned for the lives of their pets.

"It's just been the most tragic and horrific thing," said Sawgrass resident Wendy Patton, whose cat Kiki was recently found dead in her neighbor's yard. "It's something you just don't think about living in the suburbs, your animal being mutilated by a wild coy-

When Kiki first went missing, Patton said she wasn't really worried.

"The only thing I've ever really worried about were maybe raccoons in our yard, and she actually used to chase them," she said. "So, it didn't really alarm me until the next day, when of course she wasn't there "

Patton said that she was in the process of putting up flyers for her missing

pet when her neighbor informed her that mangled cats had been turning up in his yard, including one that morning. Patton was later able to confirm that the most recent victim was Kiki, and after doing some research, she discovered that the way her cat was killed indicated a coyote attack.

Patton wrote about her experience online and was shocked by the number of responses she received from other Ponte Vedra Beach residents whose pets had been attacked or eaten by coyotes.

"I thought, 'How is this not more well-known?" she said. "Why don't we have people coming and getting these coyotes and taking them away?""

According to Brian Payne of First Coast Wildlife Services, one of the main reasons that the government does not get involved in coyote removal is the inability of animal control officers to keep up with the demand.

"Most animal control organizations, generally speaking, deal with domestic animals only, because that in itself is an overwhelming number of animals and an overwhelming number of calls," Payne explained. "Most agencies will deal with simple dogs and cats. When we get into wildlife, some agencies may have agreements with local cities to handle wildlife issues, but typically coyote trapping is so specialized that you really couldn't just have anybody do it."

Payne added that the presence of coyotes is not unusual in Florida.

"We have them everywhere across the entire state," he said. "There are coyotes in Downtown Jacksonville, but they're just not as prevalent. People don't really complain about them too much until things start happening, like their cat goes missing, or if [a coyote] ate a small dog. That's when the awareness comes about."

While Payne advised that coyotes do not necessarily pose a threat to humans, they are naturally scavengers and will hunt small animals like cats and dogs. He added that coyotes are also common carriers of rabies and will pass the disease on to other animals, so it would be wise for residents to exercise caution

"Everybody's under the impression that because we live in a beautiful area—such as Ponte Vedra or Jacksonville Beach—that it's safe for your cat to stay outside every night, and the reality is that it's not," Payne said. "That animal is going to come into contact with raccoons, possums and coyotes... Some of them will result in injury, so being vigilant and just being accountable for your animal, that's probably the most common thing that you can say. If your animal's not left outside after hours, the chances of it being eaten are slim to none."

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St. Johns County Sheriff addresses Ponte Vedra Republicans





213 Sea Island Dr.

By Shelley Marsh

Special to the Recorder

St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar served as the keynote speaker at the Ponte Vedra Republican Club's monthly meeting Aug. 3, discussing the growth of the county and some of the challenges facing his office, including sexual predators and the Opioid epidemic.

Held at the American Legion in Palm Valley, Shoar cited the high average annual household income, low taxes and high quality of life indicators as reasons for the county's growth.

"I always tell people when I talk about St. Johns County, 'There are two kinds of people in the world: those that live in St. Johns County, and those that want to live in St. Johns County,'" said Shoar, who has served as sheriff of the county for 12 years.

One of the challenges that Shoar cited is a growing problem with sexual predators from out-of-state targeting minors in the county.

"I made a vow when I got elected...
as long as I'm in the seat, in the office,
the two groups that we're going to
have to focus on more than any are our
children and senior citizens," he said.
"Why? They're the most vulnerable
people in our community."

Shoar also outlined the challenge of a growing drug addiction problem across the county. There has been an increasing number of incidents involving injectable drugs such as heroin, he



Photo by Shelley Marsh

Sheriff David Shoar

said. The St. Johns County Fire and Rescue Department responded to 47 overdose incidents last year.

He said the county has responded by implementing the use of Narcan, a nasal spray that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Every deputy now carries Narcan, and since the program was deployed in May 2017, Shoar estimates they have already had 12 lifesaving incidents.

He added that he would like to see mandated drug treatment for those with a history of two or more Narcan applications. However, Florida does not have the resources for such treatment, he said.

"We're 50th when it comes to funding for mental illness," explained Shoar. "Substance abuse and mental illness...these two phenomena occupy 60 percent of a cop's daily duties."

Shoar said that during his time as sheriff, he has not usually had a problem with Jacksonville residents as a source of crime in St. Johns County, but he now sees that changing. A string of recent car thefts has been attributed to criminals from Duval County, he noted. In many cases, Shoar explained the cars haven't even been locked.

He explained that efforts are being made to use technology in the form of license plate readers to track down criminals. License plate readers are cameras that scan license plate numbers, record them and run them through a database to identify wanted criminals. Shoar said the county implemented one camera as a test case, and on the second day of use, depu-



140 Outlook Dr.

NOCATEE EVENTS

Food Truck Friday

Twice each month, Jacksonville's favorite food trucks gather at the Splash Waterpark to serve members of the community local one-of-a-kind, gourmet food and snacks. On Aug. 11 from 6 to 9 p.m., the event will feature live music by Darren Corlew, 13 food trucks and bounce houses for children to enjoy. Select craft beer and wine will be available for purchase at the

Splash Back to the 90's Party

Nocatee residents ages 21 and up are invited to take a blast back to the past, when chokers, overalls, and mini buns originated; MTV actually consisted of music videos; and the creation of dial up internet was the most exciting thing to happen. Join neighbors and friends at Splash Water Park on Saturday, Aug. 12 from 7 to 9 p.m. for a night of movin' and groovin' to the hits of the '90's, a "best dressed" contest, games, drinks from the Splash Waterpark Bar and more! This event is FREE and is for ages 21+. RSVP to fun@nocatee.

Farmers Market: Sounds of Summer

The Nocatee Farmers Market: Sounds of Summer will be held Aug. 19 and will feature a special FREE concert for the community. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., families who attend can look forward to live music by Jacksonville's local hit band, The Band Be Easy. Along with this fun and groovy theme, the market will include over 80 local vendors offering items such as organic produce, herbs, spices, unique foods, crafts, jewelry and more. Free face painting will also be available for little ones, along with crafts and a bounce house

Coastal Wine Market to hold 'Crush Cancer' wine and cheese tasting in support of Chemo Noir

Coastal Wine Market & tasting room will be hosting a "Crush Cancer" wine and cheese tasting event Aug. 21 to support Chemo Noir, a nonprofit organization that raises money for the battle against cancer through winecentered events. In addition to the wine tasting and cheese, meat and fruit spread, CWM will be selling raffle tickets to "crush" a grape filled with different prizes. Tickets will be available at the door for \$30 and will be limited to only 50 tickets. The event will be held from 6 to 8 p.m.

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Sheriff

ties identified and located a suspect wanted in Wisconsin for arson and homicide

Shoar also indicated two areas often used to measure the success of a law enforcement agency in which he would like to see improvement: response time and officer to population

ratios. The sheriff's department aims to lower response time to five minutes or less in all areas of St. Johns County, he said. Response time is currently higher in the northeast and northwest quadrants of the county, where population growth has been highest.

Shoar noted that the current law enforcement to population ratio in the county is 1.18 deputies for every 1,000 people. The recommendation is 1.9 per 1,000. The sheriff cited budgetary reasons for the discrepancy.

Last year, the county added 12 deputies. He has requested 18 additional deputies for 2018.

Beyond facts and figures, Shoar said it is difficult to quantify the positive interactions that occur every day between officers and the public they

"Law enforcement gets up every day to try and do one thing: that is, to lessen the suffering of our fellow humans," he said.

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SJCSD Superintendent outlines goals for new school year

By Samantha Logue

After 11 weeks off for summer vacation, backpacked children across St. Johns County return to school today, Aug. 10, for the start of yet another school year. In an interview with the Recorder, Superintendent Tim Forson outlined the school district's goals and plan of action for the year ahead.

"From an active image standpoint, we are certainly pleased with our performance last year," Forson said. "But even with that, we take those benchmarks, and our goal is to move forward from there. We're focusing on continuing to improve math performance, continuing to improve literacy where it's not at a level we want it to be, so we will continue to focus on academics."

According to Forson, one way in which the district hopes to improve upon academics is through the opening of new schools, as well as the expansion of existing schools, to ensure students have the proper space to learn.

"We'll open a 600-student building at Nease High School that will greatly improve its capacity and ability to serve students there, and then we have under construction another K-8 school that is in the Nocatee development that will open next school year," he said. "It will not open until the fall of 2018, and that will serve about 1,500 students."

Forson explained that in recent years, the rapid expansion of the Nocatee

community has left schools in the area overwhelmed.

"Valley Ridge is well over capacity," Forson said. "It was actually built for 1,100 [students] and serves approximately 1,600, so the rapid growth and development of the Nocatee project has caused some stress in our ability to get schools online."

Forson was optimistic, though, about St. Augustine's new Picolata Crossing Elementary School, which opens today with the capacity for approximately 830 students

"One of the nice benefits of being able to have this school online is that it's a product of the half-penny sales tax that passed two years ago, so the support of the county has enabled this school to be built," Forson said.

With the influx of new students and the building of new schools also comes a need for more teachers, however. Forson advised that recruitment will be another important focus for the school district going forward.

"For us, unlike some other school districts, we have to be very assertive, and we have to be very proactive in our effort to recruit teachers and to get teachers in positions that we need them," he said. "We've held a number of job fairs, trying to invite and recruit candidates who may have just graduated or who have moved to the area who have teaching credentials. We make visits to a number of the colleges and





Photos courtesy of St. Johns County School District

"We're changing over our kinder-

garten to eighth grade to a different

diagnostic assessment tool," he said.

that will help teachers to know how their students are doing, and then of

"It's called 'i-Ready,' a great new tool

course modify instruction to respond to

that, so that's going to be a helpful tool

universities within those colleges of education to try to make contact with the community. And St. Johns County is a great community to raise a family in; it's not just about schools. If you want to raise a family, this is a great

In addition to these initiatives, Forson said that St. Johns County schools will also be implementing new technology for use in the classroom by both teachers and students.

future teachers and share the quality of place to be."

> "And in a number of our schools, we'll start to see...a plan that will allow students to bring their own technology tool or device, whether that's a laptop or an iPad," Forson added. "So that's an initiative that's really rolling out this year. We had piloted the idea of "one-to-one," where we were trying to have a laptop or a tablet for every student in a school, but the cost is prohibitive as a school system, so we're looking for another way to make that

While academic achievement is important, Forson said that his primary objective is to continue building the character of the next generation.

"It's not just about making kids have the tools academically," he said, "but it's helping kids to have the tools socially, emotionally, to build great character so they're going to be great young leaders when the time comes."

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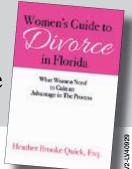
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Thursday, Aug. 10

Yoga for Survivors

The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a "Yoga for Survivors" class Aug. 10 at 11:30 a.m. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations are invited to join in this gentle and safe yoga practice, which is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www. baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.

Concerts in the Plaza

St. Augustine's Plaza de la Constitución will host the oldest city's summer-long concert series, "Concerts in the Plaza." The series will provide free concerts featuring local musical entertainment every Thursday night at 7 p.m. Aug. 10, the Grapes of Roth will play classic rock. All of the "Concerts in the Plaza" shows are free to attend and visitors are encouraged to bring lounge chairs for seating. Picnic dinners are allowed, but alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the plaza.

Vinny Jacobs at Kingfish Grill

Guitarist and vocalist Vinny Jacobs will be performing at Kingfish Grill Aug. 10 at 6 p.m. Jacobs is a versatile musician who specializes in solo acoustic classic rock, instrumental classical and Latin guitar. Kingfish Grill is located at 252 Yacht Club Drive in St. Augustine.

Family and Friends CPR

This American Heart Association course offers hands on practice for CPR and choking saving skills for infants and children. Skills are taught in a dynamic group environment using the AHA's (American Heart Association) research. In addition to CPR, this course will cover injury prevention and safety tips. Visitors do not have to be a Baptist Health patient to attend. An American Heart Association Certified BLS instructor teaches this class. Taking place Aug. 10 at 6 p.m., there is a \$25 fee per attendee. Call 904.202.2229 or visit baptistjax.com/ymca to register.

Friday, Aug. 11

Chad Calek Presents "Sir NoFace Lives!"

Chad Calek presents a paranormal documentary based on a 2013 Australian government investigation into a series of unexplained sightings. The documentary chronicles this investigation into the metaphysical to determine the validity of paranormal sightings and other anomalies. The event will be held at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Aug. 11 at 7:50 p.m. Visit www.pvconcerthall.com for more information, or call (904) 209-0399. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N.

Coastal Wine Market Wine Tasting

Coastal Wine Market hosts Friday wine tastings from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B, Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.

Curatorial's Choice Exhibition at the Cultural Center

The Curatorial Committee at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach has selected the works of Ronnie Burak, Helen Moody and Francesca Tabor-Miolla to be featured July 14 through Aug. 18. The exhibition will be comprised of photographs, paintings and mixed-media art. Admission is free. Located at 50 Executive Way in Ponte Vedra Beach, the Cultural Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cannon Firing Demonstration at Castillo de San Marcos

National Parks Service volunteers and personnel demonstrate a cannon firing at the Castillo de San Marcos museum / monument every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rangers and volunteers will demonstrate the weapons and tell the experiences of the colonial Spanish soldier of 1740s St. Augustine. Firing times are subject to change depending on weather conditions and staff availability. Castillo de San Marco is located on 1 South Castillo Drive in St. Augustine.

Saturday, Aug. 12

MOSH Boat Tours

St. Johns River Taxi and MOSH host a St. Johns River boat tour every Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. The tour features a history host who explains the historical signifigance of the river and various landmarks in Jacksonville. Tickets cost \$15 for adults and \$12 for children. MOSH is located at 1025 Museum Circle in Jacksonville.

Donald Fagen and The Nightflyers

Donald Fagen, musician, Rock & Roll Hall of Famer and co-founder of Steely Dan and the Dukes of September, presents Donald Fagen and the Nightflyers at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre Aug. 12. Joining Fagen (keyboard, vocals) is a new band, the Nightflyers. Doors open for the concert at 6 p.m. and it starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$54 to \$104. Call the box office at (904) 209-0367 for more information. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre is located at 1340C A1A S.

Old City Farmers Market

The Old City Farmers Market features fresh produce, baked goods, handcrafted items and plants along with live entertainment. Fresh seafood in season will be available for purchase as well. The farmers market takes place every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre on 1340 A1A South. Admission is free.

Militia Muster and Training at Fort Mose

Visit Fort Mose to be transported back to the 18th century. Learn from the members of the Fort Mose Militia as they practice firing drills and demonstrate how to use historic weapons. Admission into the park is free. Event starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 11:30 a.m. Fort Mose is located at 15 Fort Mose Trail, St. Augustine.

Eclipse Across America Discussion

Join NASA Solar System Ambassador Bharath Muthyala at 3:30 p.m. for a discussion on the upcoming total solar eclipse. Solar glasses will be given to the first 100 attendees. This event will take place at the St. Johns County Library at 1960 N. Ponce De Leon Blvd. in St. Augustine.

Sunday, Aug. 13

Sandals, Shorts and Steel Drum Service

Every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to noon., St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church invites guests to put on sandals and shorts for a more casual worship service featuring the tropical sound of steel drum music. The church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.

Life Enrichment Group

The Life Enrichment Group is designed for those with memory changes who want to remain mentally, physically and socially active, while giving caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. The program is offered daily, serving Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra area. For more information call (904) 417-7354 or email life_enrichmentgroup@yahoo.com.

Annie at Alhambra

The classic Broadway musical "Annie" continues its run at the Alhambra Theatre & Dining on Sunday, Aug. 13. The Alhambra's summer family show, "Annie," tells the story of a Depression-era orphan who is chosen to live with a millionaire for a short time. A three-course dinner will be served starting at 5:30 p.m., and the curtain will rise at 7:30 p.m. The show will run through Aug. 13. The Alhambra is located at 12000 Beach Blvd, Jacksonville Beach. For tickets and additional information, visit alhambrajax.com or call (904) 641-1212.

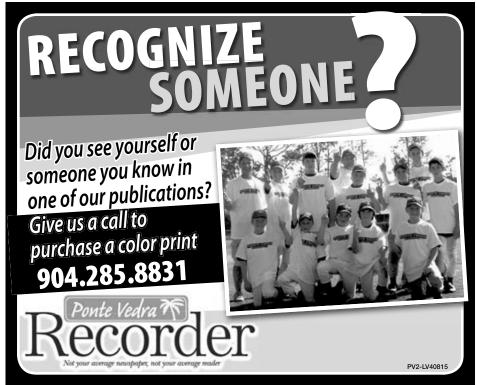
The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

The Limelight Theatre at 11 Old Mission Ave. in St. Augustine presents the "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" musical comedy Sunday at 2 p.m. This musical tells the story of six quirky students competing in the Bee at the fictional Putnam Valley Middle School and the three equally quirky grown-ups in charge of the competition. Tickets cost \$26. Visit www. limelight-theatre.org for more information.

Nature & Wildlife Exhibit

Located at 22 Marine St., this exhibit (running through Aug. 27) highlights nature and wildlife through the work of local and national artists. For more information, call (904) 824-3210.





Monday, Aug. 14

MOSH Daily Programs

Join Jacksonville's Museum of Science and History for its Daily Animal shows. On Monday at 2 p.m., explore "Skin and Scales" in the Florida Naturalist's Center, during which guests learn about the cold-blooded world of reptiles and amphibians. Prior to the program at 1 p.m., museum-goers can witness the exploration of space in the Bryan-Gooding Planetarium during "Astronaut," an interactive venture lead by a test astronaut named Chad. For tickets and additional information, visit www.themosh.org.

'Friends for the Arts'

Get involved in the arts by joining a team of fellow art supporters at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. Help develop and support fundraising projects and help initiate special projects to benefit and promote the Cultural Center and the arts in our community. For more information, visition www.ccpvb.org/friendsfor-the-arts.

Jacksonville Jaguars Training Camp

Watch the Jacksonville Jaguars get ready for the 2017-18 season in a joint training camp practice with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers Monday Aug. 14 at 10 a.m. The teams will participate in drills, scrimmages and conditioning exercises. Practice will be open to the public and held at the practice field adjacent to EverBank Field. Visit JaxEvents.com to register for free tickets.

Keys to Healthy Aging

Join Rachel Weinstein, MS Ed, with Baptist AgeWell Institute, to discuss ways to help you feel your best at any age. To be held at 6 p.m., this event is open to the community. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit baptistjax.com/hlc to reserve a spot. The Y Healthy Living Center is located at 170 Landrum Lane.

ELEVATE: Couples Workshop

ELEVATE is a free relationship class aimed at helping couples deal with stress, cope with conflict, meet financial goals and enhance love and closeness. A free light meal will be provided. Call (904) 255-7450 for more information or visit www. smartcouples.ifas.ufl.edu. Class will be held at Jacksonville Children's Commission at 1095 A Phillip Randolph Blvd.

Tuesday, Aug. 15

Free Admission at Cummer Museum

Every Tuesday, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens offers visitors free admission to its galleries and gardens, for its "Florida Blue Free Tuesday" promotion.

Tapas Tuesday

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Cafe every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. View the sunset on the Cummer Cafe patio while listening to local musicians and enjoying beer, wine or artfully inspired tapas for sale at the Cafe. Reserve your table by calling (904) 899-6022. For more information, visit www.cummermuseum.org. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave.

Prenatal Yoga

Prenatal Yoga class offers women the chance to destress through yoga, meditation and guided visualization. Participants are encouraged to bring a yoga mat, towel and water. There is a \$13 class fee per attendee. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit baptistjax.com/ymca to register. Class will be held at 170 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach.

The Art of Susanne Schuenke

The public is invited to view artwork from international artist and St. Johns County resident Dr. Susanne Schuenke. The exhibition is on display from Aug. 1 to Sept. 21. at the St. Johns County Administration Building at 500 San Sebastian View in St. Augustine. Visitors must pass through a security station to reach the building's main corridor. The facility is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Jax Beach Classic Car Cruise

View 40 vehicles from 1920s classics to modern muscle in the static display in Latham Plaza and the Seawalk Pavilion, plus dozens of other cars in the overflow parking just south of Latham Plaza (diagonal from City Hall). Cars will cruise 1st street N. to 6th Ave. starting at 8 p.m. This family event, to be held at 5 p.m., is free and open to the public. For more information, email info@betterjaxbeach.com

Wednesday, Aug. 16

Wednesday Market

Each Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., approximately 60 to 80 vendors participate in the Wednesday Market at St. Augustine Beach. Vendors and artists display produce, prepared foods, local seafood, art, crafts and more, placing an emphasis on home-grown and homemade items. The Market is held at the St. Johns County Pier Park at 350 A1A Beach Blvd, St Augustine Beach.

Toastmasters Club

Toastmasters Club #5199 of Ponte Vedra Beach meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at the Players Community Senior Center. These meetings will help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Email Carmen at carmenjsardinas@gmail.com for additional information.

Music by the Sea Concert Series

The "Music by the Sea" concert series returns to the St. Johns County Pier for its 15th year, bringing free weekly concerts in a variety of genres from 7 to 9 p.m. every Wednesday. Visitors are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket. Dinner is offered for \$10 or less beginning at 6 p.m. The Aug. 16 concert will feature the group JW Gilmore & Blues Authority. The St. Johns County Pier is located at 350 A1A Beach Blvd. in St. Augustine Beach. For more information, visit www.sabca.org.

'The Dixie Swim Club' at the Alhambra

The Alhambra Theatre & Dining will present "The Dixie Swim Club" from Aug. 16 through Sept. 24. Starring Morgan Fairchild, the comedy follows five southern women who met on their college swim team, through 33 years of friendship. The opening performance will take place Aug. 16, with a three-course dinner to be served starting at 5:50 p.m., and the show to follow at 7:50 p.m. The Alhambra is located at 12000 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville. For more information, call (904) 641-1212, or visit www. alhambrajax.com.

Yoga for Survivors

The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a "Yoga for Survivors" class Aug. 17 at 11:30 a.m. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations are invited to join in this gentle and safe yoga practice, which is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www. baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum

Thursday, Aug. 17

Concerts in the Plaza

St. Augustine's Plaza de la Constitución will host the oldest city's summer-long concert series, "Concerts in the Plaza." The series will provide free concerts featuring local musical entertainment every Thursday night at 7 p.m. Aug. 17, Ancient City Slickers will play big fun music. All of the "Concerts in the Plaza" shows are free to attend and visitors are encouraged to bring lounge chairs for seating. Picnic dinners are allowed, but alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the plaza.

Boardwalk Talk: Manhattan Beach

As part of its Boardwalk Talk series, the Beaches Museum & History Park will host a presentation entitled "Manhattan Beach: More than a Lost Landmark" Aug. 17 at 6 p.m. Speaker Brittany Cohill will give the story behind the creation of Florida's first African American beach and its impact upon Jacksonville's African American community in the early 20th century. The event is free for museum members with a suggested \$5 donation for non-members. The talk will be held in the Beaches Museum Chapel at 505 Beach Blvd in Jacksonville. For more information, call 904-241-5657.

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Before baby: how to prepare for your newborn



Guest Columnist

erhood:

By Jenny Malig, BSN, RN, **RNC-OB**

Special to the Recorder

Finding out you're pregnant is exciting, but at the same time, you might feel a bit overwhelmed, especially if this is your first baby. Being prepared can make a huge difference in your confidence and your experience.

Here are a few tips that should help during your journey to moth-

Choosing an obstetrician is step one. Look for one who supports the type of birth plan you want. Some women prefer natural births, perhaps with a midwife or doula, while others are more interested in a traditional birth. Research your options – there are many different birthing plans to consider – and make sure your obstetrician supports your plan. Remember, though, that even the best laid plans may need to change. The most important thing is a safe and healthy delivery.

Ramping up your nutrition will give you more energy and benefit your baby. Unfortunately, "eating for two" is a myth. Most women need 500 extra healthy calories a day. Try to eat mostly fruits, vegetables and lean proteins, including milk and cheese for calcium. Cut out caffeine and alcohol and take a prenatal vitamin that has folic acid, calcium, iron and Vitamin D.

Where to deliver your new little bundle is an important decision. Each hospital's labor and delivery center has its own feel and environment, so look for one that meets your needs for care and comfort. Keep in mind that your obstetrician will need to have privileges at the hospital you prefer, so take that into consideration when choosing an OB.

Baptist Medical Center Beaches recently renovated its birthing center with spa-like suites for moms to bond with their newborns. Each private suite has comfy sleeper sofas and recliners, large private bathrooms and select spa treatments, like massages.

The new center was redesigned with input from local moms who previously delivered at Baptist Beaches. You can register for a free tour at baptistbeaches.com to learn more about the new center. Baptist Beaches also offers classes on childbirth preparation, breastfeeding and baby care basics

Pack your bag for the hospital early. You don't want to scramble around trying to remember everything when you're already in labor! I recommend doing this early in your third trimester. Bring items that will make you comfortable – such as lip balm, socks, eyeglasses, your favorite bathrobe, hairbrush, nursing bra and a going home outfit for the baby and for you, too. (Leave your skinny jeans at home and go with maternity clothes for comfort!)

Jenny Malig, BSN, RN, RNC-OB, is manager of the Labor, Delivery, Postpartum & Recovery unit at Baptist Medical Center Beaches.

Jacksonville Beach preschool prepares children through play







Photos courtesy of The Playgarden

Inspired by Waldorf principles with teachers trained in LifeWays of North America Early Childhood Education, The Playgarden in Jacksonville Beach offers a unique educational approach for children and their families seeking a preschool in the area.

Believing young children learn best through physical activity, sensory engagement, imaginative play and imitation of the world around them, The Playgarden encourages young students to have plenty of outdoor time to play and learn, in addition to developing life and social skills in a home-like environment.

"The Playgarden's foundation in Waldorf principles lie in three key areas of child development," said Anna Butler, student parent and teacher at The Playgarden. "By focusing on the head through critical thinking and problem-solving skill development during inside and outside play, the heart by allowing children experiences to develop empathy for others, and the hands through the development of fine motor skills by offering crafts such as sewing, painting, and beeswax coloring as well as the development of gross motor skills and coordination, children are able to

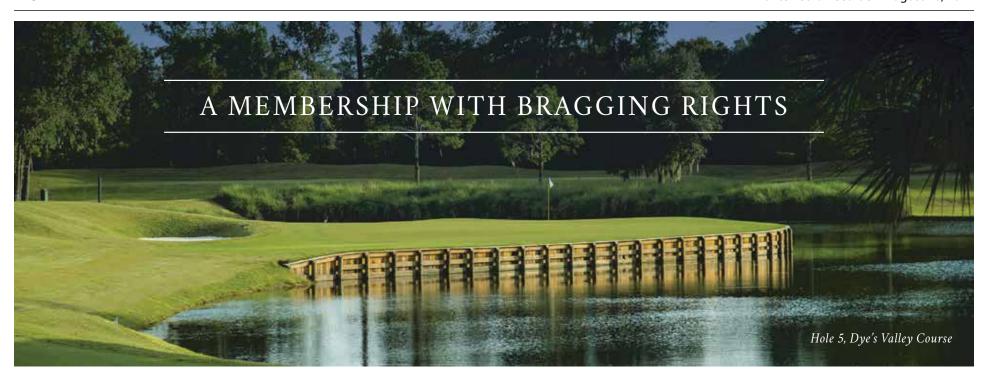
develop and grow by learning and doing...essentially through play.'

The Playgarden teachers attend LifeWays of North America training, which is grounded in the fundamental need for relationship-based care (bonding and continuity), neurological research and recognition of living arts (domestic, nurturing, creative and social arts). These are central to the advancement of a child's social, emotional and intellectual skill devel-

"We enrolled our children in The Playgarden preschool because our research into best-practices for young childhood education repeatedly emphasized the importance of free-play and exposure in a natural and comfortable setting," said parents Katie and Joe Alberti. "This experience evokes creativity, problemsolving skills and social, emotional and physical development that young children carry into adolescence and ultimately adulthood."

To tour The Playgarden and find out more, please call the school's office at (904) 241-3259 or visit theplaygarden.org.





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Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach donates to Mission House, welcomes home youth exchange students



Photos by Jon Blauvelt

Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach President Billy Wagner presents a \$3,000 donation to Mission House Executive Director Lori Anderson at the club's meeting Aug. 3. The contribution will enable the nonprofit organization to house six people. Mission House provides food, clothing, clinic services and overall support to the homeless in the Beaches area.



A group of local teens who participated in the Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) scholarship program recently returned from their international adventures to share their experiences with members of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach at the club's meeting Aug. 3. Each of the participants are from Ponte Vedra High School. From left: Carly Roberts, Brazil; Hayden Hulihan, Taiwan; Claire Flemister, Czech Republic; Kenzi Leonard, Norway; and Laura Cebulski, Greenland.

Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset inducts new member, hears from youth exchange students



Nease High School student Nicholas Jarrett presents at a recent Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset meeting about his experience in Germany as a Rotary Youth Exchange ambassador.



Photos courtesy of Cyndi King

Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset President Cyndi King (left) inducts Sadia Sindhu (second from right) as a new member at a recent club meeting. Sindhu, a financial professional at National Financial Services, was sponsored by IPP Janeene Hart (second from left). Also photographed is Membership Chair Carol Maurer (right).



Ponte Vedra High School student Mia Cleary shares about her experiences living in Sweden as part of the Rotary Youth Exchange program with the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset.

Ponte Vedra High School alumna to teach in low-income community as part of Teach For America program

By Benjamin Naim

Ponte Vedra High School alumna Ali Fehling, 24, will soon start teaching at Westside High School in Jacksonville as a member of Teach For America, an organization that enlists individuals to become teachers in low-income communities.

The stated goal of TFA, according to its website, is to "enlist, develop and mobilize" as many of America's future leaders to "grow and strengthen the movement for educational equity and excellence." After two years, teachers trained by TFA (called "corps members") can choose to remain in the classroom or pursue another endeavor.

"I would say, my whole life I had thought about teaching, and I have always thought about the impact a teacher could have on a student's life," Fehling said. "That [teaching] was something I thought I would really like to do."

Fehling realized she wanted to join TFA after attending a leadership conference at Clemson University. The 24-year-old PVHS graduate felt moved by a speech delivered by a Teach For America representative on the lack of resources and education offered to students in low-income communities.

"I was really taken aback," she said. "I grew up in Ponte Vedra and went to amazing schools in St. Johns County and always took that for granted and never really realized how special that was, how great of an education I got."

Fehling revealed she "just couldn't get out of her head" the fact that some children do not have access to the same education as those living in affluent areas.

"That was something I felt I could not ignore," she added. "And something I wanted to be a part of because regardless of how I grew up, I saw the influence a teacher could have and the influence a good school environment could have...so my drive is just being able to be a small part in the fight to help students get the education they deserve."

After completing a comprehensive training program, TFA placed Fehling at Westside High School in Jacksonville where she will start Aug. 14, the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.

"I'm excited to meet the community and see a part of Jacksonville I didn't grow up in and meet those students that live there and call that place home," she noted.



Photo courtesy of Ali Fehlina

Fehling poses with her students at a mini "graduation ceremony" after completing their final summer school class.

Fehling addressed the possibility of teaching with a lack of resources by taking advantage of outside opportunities and financial donations. For Fehling, the donations came through an online fundraiser.

"One thing that has been so cool that I've seen already is how people rally around education when you ask [for help]," Fehling said. "So, I put up a Facebook post. It was kind of like a GoFundMe page, and it was to raise money for my classroom...because we don't always get all the resources that we want."

Fehling raised over \$1,000 through her fundraising efforts on social media.

Additionally, she took advantage of the Aug. 4 teacher

market in which donors offered supplies and school materials for free to Duval County teachers.

Despite the perceived danger of working in an economically disadvantaged community, Fehling revealed that she is not afraid of the challenge.

"There's really nothing to be scared of," she said. "I think anywhere you go in life no matter what neighborhood you're in, there are certain precautions to take, of course, but overall that's not even a thought that crosses my mind."

Fehling suggested that there's "so much more to [low-in-come] communities and neighborhoods" than crime statistics, and that she can develop a harmonious partnership with locals by making connections and building relationships.

OPES ambassadors plant first trees for Giving Orchard

The Ocean Palms Elementary School (OPES) Ambassador Student Leadership Team recently planted its first orange trees for the Giving Orchard, a project organized by the team in which fruit from the trees will be donated to the hungry and local food pantries.

Rising sixth grader Grayson Rigby completed the ceremonial planting with Mike Barwald from Flying Dragon Citrus Nursery, who donated the delivery, topsoil and fertilizer for the project, as well as his help and guidance in planting and caring for the fruit trees

The Giving Orchard was the ambassadors' final act of service before graduation and moving onto sixth grade. To raise more money for the trees, the team of 18 ambassadors baked and sold homemade goods

during the past school year. Thanks to the donation of Barwald, there was bake sale money left over. The team has decided to donate those remaining funds to the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach to help fund the grant for music therapy benefitting special needs students at OPES and other local schools.

The Ambassador team completed several other projects last school year, including its donation collection of over 1,000 books benefitting a Title 1 school; making holiday treat bags for nursing home residents; and collaborating with Landrum Middle School and Ponte Vedra High School students to create homemade "thank you" meals delivered to local St. Johns County Sheriff's Office deputies and fire and rescue stations.



Photo by Monique Rigby

Rising sixth grade student Grayson Rigby plants the Giving Orchard's first orange tree with Mike Barwald from Flying Dragon Citrus Nursery.



Mediterranean estate overlooking the 12th hole of the Marsh Landing Country Club

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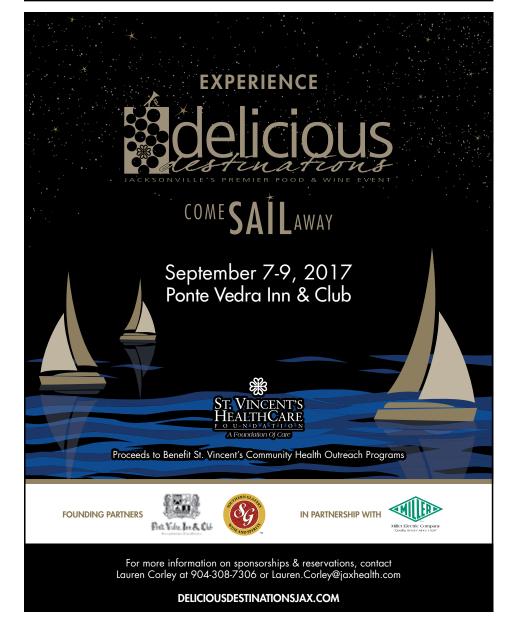
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20 COMMUNITY NEWSPonte Vedra Recorder · August 10, 2017

County utility director reflects on 10-year anniversary of Ponte Vedra service area acquisition

By Jon Blauvelt

10 years after St. Johns County Utility acquired St. Johns Service Company and Intracoastal Utilities to take over a large majority of the Ponte Vedra service area, Utility Director Bill Young said he's extremely proud of the county's efforts.

"I think it's quite a success story," said Young, who has worked for the county's Utility department for 32 years. "I think if you look back over the last 10 years, I can't find anybody who would say we haven't done a really good job."

The Utility director explained, however, that at the onset of the acquisitions, the public wasn't exactly on the county's side. Cynicism and uncertainty regarding the county's takeover and its ability to deliver quality service characterized public perception. The county had acquired each of the private utilities for about \$22-24 million, Young said, and several residents thought that price was too high. In addition, the county instituted a conservation rate structure, and high end users got hit hard, he noted.

Overall, however, Young said the results were not overly negative to residents, and service in the area has improved over time. The conservation rate structure, he also noted, largely contributed to the county winning the Northeast Florida Planning Council Environmental Stewardship Award in 2008, as a result of the Ponte Vedra service area saving 7 million gallons of water a month and 84 million gallons a year.

"That's what I'm proud of," said Young, whose department covers about 80 percent of the Ponte Vedra service area, with JEA covering the remainder in the northeast section of town near the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. "That's what we've done the last 10 years."

According to Young, the county Utility has spent about \$17 million on capital projects in Ponte Vedra, averaging a little over \$2 million a year. Major projects, he explained, include the addition of an odor control unit at the Sawgrass wastewater treatment facility that cost about \$1.6 million. In addition, he said the county has replaced all meters in the Ponte Vedra service area within the last few years, replacing old meters that had to be manually read with new radio technology that allows for remote monitoring and diagnostics. This project cost \$4 million.

Young added that his department has invested in a more modern billing system



Rendering courtesy of St. Johns County Utility

To be constructed in 2018, the new water reclamation facility at the county Utility's PLAYERS Club site will consolidate three of Ponte Vedra's aged wastewater treatment plants into one state-of-the-art facility made of concrete that will last for 30 to 50 years.

that allows for more payment options via phone and Internet. He also said the Utility has worked to automate monitoring and operations in the field.

Moving forward, Young said the construction of a new water reclamation facility will begin in early 2018 at the county's existing PLAYERS Club site, which is adjacent to the Woodlands Creek neighborhood and the large TPC parking lot.

"I think it will be something the community can be very proud of," he said. "We see ourselves as environmentalists so we're excited when we can treat wastewater to a higher level before we release it to our neighbors and neighborhoods."

The new facility will consolidate three of Ponte Vedra's aged wastewater treatment plants into one state-of-the-art facility made of concrete that will last for 30 to 50 years. He said that the new facility

will cover residents living in the southern end of the Ponte Vedra service area. Marsh Landing, he added, will continue to utilize its own wastewater treatment facility.

The three facilities to be phased out include the current treatment plant at the PLAYERS Club site, the Sawgrass waste water treatment plant and the Innlet Beach wastewater treatment plant.

The project, which is expected to be complete in mid-2020, will cost about \$30 million. Young said the county is hoping to receive funding for the project via the State Revolving Fund program. He added that the county will also utilize a \$2 million grant from the St. Johns River Water Management District's Cost Share-Funding program to support the project.

Young explained that a multi-year 8 percent wastewater rate increase approved by the Board of County Commis-

sion last year will also help fund the new facility. The Utility director noted that an average family in Ponte Vedra that uses 5,000 gallons a month now pays about \$57 a month, which he said is less than the \$64 rate average in the southern part of the county and in many other parts of Northeast Florida.

In addition, the director said the Utility will be closing its kiosk in the County Courthouse Annex on Palm Valley Road because so few people utilize it. He said less than 10 people visit the office per day, with most residents now using automated options to pay their bills. Young said the kiosk will close by Oct. 1.

In general, Young said the Utility will continue to invest in the Ponte Vedra system, with \$15 million allocated for it over the next five years.

"We're going to continue to upgrade the facilities in Ponte Vedra," he said. "We're there for the long run."

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Local companies report second quarter results

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

The Fresh Market to unveil refreshed shopping experiences in Jacksonville locations

On Wednesday, Aug. 16, The Fresh Market will unveil an enhanced shopping experience at its Ponte Vedra Beach and other Jacksonville-area locations, featuring an expanded selection of fresh food that furthers the brand's long-standing dedication to offering top quality and unique items.

As part of the refresh, the neighborhood specialty grocer will also introduce an interactive sampling station designed to inspire guests to try new items and flavor-packed recipes each week. From 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 16 through Sunday, Aug. 20, The Fresh Market guests are invited to check out the new shopping experience at the following locations:

840 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach

- 12795 San Jose Blvd., Jackson-
- 13493 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville
- 150 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville

"The refresh of our Jacksonvillearea stores helps redefine the shopping experience for our guests," said Brian Nicholson, interim chief executive officer of The Fresh Market. "A commitment to fresh has always been a priority, and our guests' love of food remains at the heart of what we do. We are pleased to invite our Jacksonville-area neighbors on a culinary journey filled with an exceptional, hand-picked selection of the freshest foods created from a host of international food artisans, farmers, fishermen and culinary creatives, as well as our own private label, in an environment that welcomes inspiration and delights the



Ponte Vedra's Fresh Market location is one of four in the Jacksonville area to unveil its refreshed shopping experience starting Aug. 16.

Additional features of the refreshed locations include an enhanced collection of artisan and traditional cheeses in the deli department; new, seasonal specialty products; and a new Mind & Body section featuring hundreds of items to help support a healthy lifestyle, among several other additions.

The four area locations listed above will hold a number of events and activities throughout the week to celebrate the refresh, including cooking demonstrations, in-store samplings, live entertainment, special deals and free giveaways.

Who pays when someone without health insurance goes to the ER?



Harry Pappas

By Harry Pappas

Special to the Recorder

I read an interesting article from a recent USA Today piece discussing this subject matter. Did you know that a 1985 federal law requires that an ER must treat anyone entering its doors, regardless of the patient's ability to pay? Yep, that is correct. The **Emergency Medical Treatment**

and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) states that patients will be taken care no matter their financial circumstances. You will never, ever be turned away because of that. Consequently, the year the Affordable Care Act passed, hospitals provided about \$40 billion in uncompensated care, according to the USA Today article. In other words, they provided care without being paid.

On the surface, one might think that this is a sweet deal for the uninsured, but not so fast eager beaver! If someone does not have insurance to cover the cost of an ER visit, I learned that the joke really is on him or her. Said differently, he/she is responsible for the bill. Period. Over and Out! Regardless if one has insurance or not, the hospital is more than likely to bill the

uninsured for services rendered. Sure, the hospital might not collect, but they will nonetheless, let the patient know there is no free lunch. As a result, the article states that according to a 2016 study by the National Bureau of Economic Research, someone who goes into the ER without insurance doubles his or her chances of filing for bankruptcy over the next four years. As you might expect, these "poor" folks will have collection agencies hounding them for money that they may not have. Therefore, bankruptcy may be their only viable alternative.

I learned after reading another article on ShareCare.com, that regardless of one's ability to pay, patients visiting an emergency room are examined to make sure they do not have a serious condition. If the ER physician identifies an emergency condition, the patient will be given the necessary treatment. However, what happens if the Doc identifies the uninsured condition as a "non-emergency?" Now what? According to Dr. Mark E. Caputo, a spokesperson from Holy Cross Hospital who is quoted in the article, that patient would be referred to a physician or community resource that may be able to assist him/her further.

Yes indeed, the notion that there is no free lunch still exists in my world!

Harry Pappas Jr. CFP® **Managing Director-Investments** Master of Science Degree Personal Financial Planning Certified Estate & Trust Specialist Certified Divorce Financial Analyst™ Pappas Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advi-

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BUSINESS WEEKLY 23

NAI Hallmark Partners brokers \$10.5 million sale of Fleming Island Business Park

Keith Goldfaden and Daniel Burkhardt of NAI Hallmark Partners recently announced that they represented the seller in the sale of Fleming Island Business Park. Located in Fleming Island, 20 miles southwest of downtown Jacksonville, the business park consists of 143,669 square feet within six single story office buildings.

"Fleming Island Business Park is one of the few institutional quality office properties in Clay County," said Burkhardt, vice president of NAI Hallmark Partners. "We expect to continue to see positive leasing absorption within Fleming Island Business Park and the submarket as a whole as this area continues to benefit from strong growth." Goldfaden, a principal with NAI Hallmark Partners, added that they were able to attract numerous qualified buyers during the process given the property's strong in-place income, diversified rent roll and value add opportunity.

"Ultimately, Interra Capital won the deal because they saw the great long-term potential for this business park and the overall growth dynamics of Clay County," he said.

Fleming Island Business Park is currently 66 percent leased to a diversified group of tenants, including Balfour Beatty, Embry Riddle, Dream Finders Homes and several government agencies. The buyer, Interra Capital Group, is a private equity real estate firm based in Houston, which



Photo courtesy of NAI Hallmark Partners

Located 20 miles southwest of downtown Jacksonville, Fleming Island Business Park consists of 143,669 square feet within six single story office buildings.

focuses on commercial, industrial, retail and healthcare real estate investments. This is the group's second acquisition in Jacksonville, and they have retained NAI Hallmark Partners as the leasing agent for the property.

NAI Hallmark Partners was formed in 1993 as a full-service commercial real estate company offering sales/leasing brokerage, property management and turnkey development services. NAI Hallmark Partners is currently involved in the leasing and/or management of a portfolio in excess of 4 million square feet in the Jacksonville market. In addition, the company has developed more than \$400 million in commercial projects throughout Northeast Florida.

Advanced Disposal announces second quarter results

Ponte Vedra Beach-based Advanced Disposal Services, Inc. (NYSE: ADSW) recently announced that its revenue for the second quarter was \$381.1 million, compared to \$358.2 million during the same time period last year

Net loss for the company during the second quarter 2017 was \$0.2 million or \$0.00 per diluted share, versus net income of \$0.2 million or \$0.00 per diluted share in second quarter 2016.

Advanced Disposal's 7 percent revenue growth for second quarter 2017 is its largest quarterly increase in three years. Acquisitions drove nearly half of the increase led by the company's recent purchase of CGS Services, Inc., a vertically-integrated waste collection and disposal company in central and eastern Indiana, along with seven tuck-in acquisitions completed during the first six months of 2017. Organic volume also turned positive during the second quarter at 0.6 percent, driven by growth in disposal revenue. Average price yield was 1.4 percent.

Gains from the company's organic growth and new acquisitions coupled with interest expense savings of \$11.1 million year-over-year drove increas-

es in the company's core profitability. Adjusted net income improved \$7.1 million in the second quarter of 2017, which does not include a \$13 million non-cash impairment charge incurred during the quarter. Additionally, lower cash interest payments along with working capital improvements and increased profitability drove a \$27.1 million increase in cash provided by operating activities during the second quarter, and adjusted free cash flow improved \$16.8 million.

For the six-month period prior to June 30, 2017, Advanced Disposal recorded \$730.5 million in revenue versus \$692.0 million during the same time period last year. Net loss improved \$6.8 million to \$7.2 million, and adjusted net income increased \$11.9 million to \$17.5 million.

"Advanced Disposal continues to attain significant year-over-year improvements in cash from operations and adjusted free cash flow as we execute on our strategy," said CEO Richard Burke. "At the same time, we have found profitable opportunities to reinvest in our business along with achieving organic growth that has driven strong-year-over-year revenue gains."

FirstAtlantic Financial Holdings, Inc. reports second quarter results

FirstAtlantic Financial Holdings, Inc. recently reported that its net income in the second quarter of 2017 was \$1.064 million, a 2 percent increase compared to \$1.046 million for the second quarter of 2016. Diluted earnings per share were \$0.17 in the second quarter for both 2016 and 2017.

Earnings for the second quarter of 2017 were affected positively by net interest income which grew by \$244,000 compared to the second quarter of 2016. Non-interest income for the second quarter of 2017 declined by \$298,000 compared to the second quarter of 2016, which included a \$373,000 non-recurring gain on a sale of investment securities.

The company's loan portfolio grew by \$13 million for the first six months of 2017 to \$324 million or an annualized growth rate of 8.4 percent. \$10 million of the growth occurred during the second quarter. The company's total deposits grew to \$372 million, an increase of \$19 million, or an annualized growth rate of 11 percent for the first six months of 2017. Growth in

deposits included \$9 million in noninterest bearing checking accounts, an annualized growth rate of 17 percent.

Book value per share and tangible book value per share for the company at June 30, 2017 were \$10.30 and \$9.91, respectively. The stock price per share was \$13.25 at quarter-end. This is an increase of more than 27 percent over a one year period.

"We are very pleased to share our second quarter results as we continue to build shareholder value," stated FirstAtlantic Bank President and CEO Mitchell W. Hunt, Jr. "Our second quarter successes are a direct result of the hard work and dedication of the team members at FirstAtlantic Bank."

FirstAtlantic Financial Holdings, Inc. (OTCQX: FFHD) is the holding company for FirstAtlantic Bank, which is a full-service community bank, headquartered in Jacksonville, Florida. FirstAtlantic Bank has approximately \$462 million in assets and eight financial centers located in Jacksonville, Orange Park, St. Augustine and Ponte Vedra Beach.

Morgan Fairchild returns to the Alhambra for Dixie Swim Club

Morgan Fairchild will make her return to the Alhambra as Lexie in "Dixie Swim Club," the story of five southern women and their unfolding lives, which runs Aug. 16 to Sept. 24.

Dixie Swim Club is a comedy spanning a period of 33 years. It chronicles the lives of five women who met on the college swim team and rely on one

another to get through life's challenges.

Morgan Fairchild, who plays Lexie, is an actress from Dallas whose breakout performance as Constance Weldon Carlyle in "Flamingo Road" landed her a Golden Globe Best Actress nomination. She recurred on "Friends" as Chandler Bing's mother and most recently in "Days of Our Lives" as

Angelica Deveraux.

Tickets for Dixie Swim Club start at \$35 and include dinner, show and parking. Doors open at 5:50 p.m. for all evening performances with dinner starting at approximately 6 p.m. and the show beginning at 7:50 p.m. For Saturday matinees, doors open at 10:50 a.m., meals begin at 11a.m., and the show

begins at 1:15 p.m. For Sunday matinees, doors open at 11:50 a.m., meals begin at noon, and the show begins at 1:50 p.m.

To purchase tickets, call the box office at (904) 641-1212 or visit www.alhambrajax.com. The Alhambra Theatre and Dining facility is located at 12000 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville.

Arts 4 Charities to host live auction to benefit nine Florida charities

Ponte Vedra-based Arts 4 Charities is hosting a live silent art auction and dinner Aug. 18 at the Palencia Club to raise money for nine North Florida charities.

Alpha Omega Miracle Home, Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech, Dreams Come True of Jacksonville, Learn to Read of St. Johns County, Mission House, PACT Prevention Coalition, St. Augustine Youth Services, the FLYCA Foundation and Vilano Beach Main Street will receive 40 percent of the proceeds of all sales from the event.

Arts 4 Charities will offer a buffet dinner of lasagna, salad, bread, dessert and wine along with museum-quality reproductions of The Masters, artwork and photography from around the world.

Dinner begins at 5 p.m. Professional auctioneer Terry Pacetti will begin the live art auction at 6:30 p.m.

The Palencia club is located at 600 Palencia Club Drive in St. Augustine. Visit Art4Charities.net to purchase tickets or call (904) 469-7428.

SJCC to send group to Memphis for National Arts Marketing Project Conference

The St. Johns Cultural Council (SJCC) is forming a six-person "Arts Culture & Heritage (ACH) Marketing Team" to attend the National Arts Marketing Project Conference in Memphis in November.

The goal is to assemble a cross section of St. Johns County ACH leaders representing the performing arts, visual arts, literary arts, festivals, and museums. Following the conference, the ACH marketing team will hold one or more workshops to share the learning tools with other members of the ACH community

The registration fee of \$575 per person will be funded by SJCC. Hotel and travel will be each team member's responsibility.

If interested in being considered, send an email to SJCC at sjcc@historiccoastculture. com, outlining how your participation will help your organization's marketing efforts. Deadline for requests is August 21. Call (904) 808-7330 for more information or visit http://namp.americansforthearts.org/.



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OBITUARIES

Alice H. Moore

Alice H. Moore, 79, of Ponte Vedra, died July 30, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www. pontevedravalley.com.

Dale Henry Mott

Dale Henry Mott, 68, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died July 24, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery - (904) 285-1130 www.pontevedravalley.com.

Paula Jean Woodward

Paula Jean Woodward, 67, of Ponte Vedra, died July 29, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery - (904) 285-1130 www.pontevedravalley.com.

Richard Schumann

Richard Schumann, 82, of Ponte Vedra, died Aug. 5, 2017. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery - (904) 285-1130 www.pontevedravalley.com.

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PVHS football's Duncan VanKuteran commits to West Point

By Jim Moyes

Special to the Recorder

Although much of the attention last year during Ponte Vedra's historic run into the football playoffs was focused on the Sharks' vaunted offense, college recruiters did not overlook the team's star performer on defense.

Duncan VanKuteran became the first of the Ponte Vedra Class of 2018 to commit to a Division 1 program, when he recently announced that he has accepted a scholarship offer from Army. The rising senior set a single season record for tackles with 81, with a career high 16 of those tackles coming on high school's biggest stage: the state championship game last December in Orlando.

VanKuteran not only excels on the gridiron but also in the classroom, as the 6'3 210-pound son of Mark & Tara VanKuteran had numerous opportunities to continue his football and academic talents at a number of top academic institutions in the country.

After a whirlwind tour during the summer, VanKuteran, who sports a healthy 4.4 GPA, elected to attend Army, where he is planning to pursue engineering as well as play football on Saturdays at West Point.

"Ultimately, the opportunity to play football at a highly competitive level, while getting a degree from one of the best schools for engineering in the country, played a huge part in his decision," said his proud father Mark. "He also wanted to have the decision made before the season starts so he can concentrate on helping PV have another great season."

VanKuteran now becomes the third Ponte Vedra line-

backer to play at college's highest level, following in the footsteps of former Sharks Dillon Bates (Tennessee) and Joe Carter (East Carolina).

VanKuteran is not only a whiz in the classroom; his intelligence carries over to the football field.

"Our coaches do not call the stunt plays on defense," said Ponte Vedra head coach Matt Toblin. "We have all the confidence in the world in Duncan and our linebackers to make better calls than us coaches.

"He is unbelievable when it comes to football sense," added Toblin. "They (Army) can see from film what he can do on the field, but what they don't know is just how smart he really is. He has conversations with the coaching staff that we don't even have with the coaches."

Boasting a storied tradition in football that includes three Heisman Trophy winners, Army improved to 8-5 last year and snapped a 14-game losing streak against archrival Navy with an exciting 21-17 victory. The Cadets than concluded their successful season with a bowl victory over North Texas in Dallas.

Army coach Jeff Monken has turned things around in just his third season as the head coach of the Black Knights. Monken had previously served as the head coach at Georgia Southern, where his Eagles stunned the many local Florida Gators faithful with a 26-20 upset victory in Gainesville in 2013.

The commitment of VanKuteran to Army is the second Ponte Vedra football player to recently commit to West Point. 2017 Nease graduate Michael Leisle will enroll at West Point this fall as a cadet, with hopes of earning a job as a punter for the Black Knights.



Photo courtesy of Mark VanKuteran

Duncan VanKuteran (right) sports his new Army jersey alongside his father, Mark VanKuteran.

Local fans can get their first glimpse of this year's PVHS squad when it hosts Fletcher High in a preseason game at Shark Stadium Aug. 18. The following week will see Ponte Vedra begin the 2018 season when it hosts Nease

Toblin believes that Army is getting a great player as well as an outstanding student in VanKuteran.

"I'm really excited for him to be going to such a prestigious institution as West Point," he said.

Sports Spotlight: Michael Leisle

By Jon Blauvelt

We're excited to start a new series in our sports section called "Sports Spotlight," in which we connect with a different local athlete each week and ask him/her a few quick questions.

Similar to our "One of Us" series that you read on page six, our "Sports Spotlight" profiles will feature both former Ponte Vedra and Beaches area athletes, as well as current student athletes attending our local schools.

For the first part of this new series, we caught up with Michael Leisle, a Nease High School alumnus and new cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Leisle, a two-time All-State football punter for Nease, was recruited to the Academy to punt for the Black Knights. A few weeks into fall camp, Leisle recently took a few minutes after practice to answer some questions for us.

How's camp going so far?

"It's been going pretty well. I'm excited to be out here. It's a cool experience playing at this level. It's exciting to be able to play with all these people who have been playing for three or four years on TV. It's cool and humbling."

When did camp start, and when does it end?

"Camp started the 31 of July, and it's three weeks long. We were in basic training for four weeks before that."

What are you specifically working on during camp?

"Consistency. I'm just trying to get back into things. I'm just trying to get back to good form and continue to improve from there."

What's been your favorite part of being on the team so far?

"Getting to know the other specialists. I've gotten to meet a couple of them before. Getting to know the incoming specialists as well as the kids that have been there... they're all good kids. And it's really cool to get to know them. "

What's been most challenging?

"The speed of the game. It's a lot quicker getting the punts off."

What are expectations for the team?

"They're pretty high. Everyone is confi-

How would you describe West Point to someone that's never been there before?

"I've only been here for about a month. It's a beautiful area. It's a military academy focused on a bunch of things, mainly academics and 'building leaders of character' and instilling values in every capability. The ultimate goal for what they want to prepare you for is being a platoon leader in the Army. It's an institution that is aiming to make the best leaders possible."

It's pretty different compared to Ponte Vedra, huh?

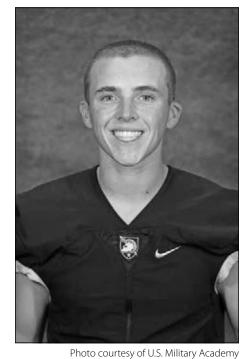
"Yes. There are these things called hills, and running up them sucks. It's also a bit cooler"

What do you plan to study?

"Pre-med."

How did Nease prepare you for being a new cadet and football player at Army?

"Coach Krause has been a huge part



Michael Leisle

in getting me mentality right for getting through every stage of training so far. Coach Stephens, my specialist coach, also definitely prepared me."

If you have suggestions for future "Sports Spotlight" candidates, please email Jonb@opcfla.com.



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PVHS's Fasanelli excels at AAU Junior Olympic Nationals in heptathlon

Ponte Vedra High School Track and Field's Gabriela Fasanelli recently placed seventh in the women's 17-18 heptathlon at the AAU Junior Olympics in Ypsilanti, Michigan

In only her fourth start of her career, Fasanelli set six personal records out of seven contested events, including a school record in the 100m hurdles (15.34); 5'3" in the high jump; 32'6.25 in the shot

put; 27.29 in the 200m; over 80 feet in the javelin; and a seven-second personal record in the 800m, running a final time of 2:32.07. Overall, she scored 4,168 in total

Fasanelli overcame a pulled quad muscle at last season's 3A Region One meet that prevented her from qualifying for states. That injury played a big part in her motivation to do well at nationals.

Most days, she would put in two to three workouts in preparation for the demanding two days and seven events of the heptathlon, according to her coaches. She has increased her point total nearly 1,000 points over the last year and over 600 since late June.

Fasanelli plans to compete in college specializing in the heptathlon at the NCAA Division 1 level.



Ponte Vedra High School Track & Field Head Coach Zane Guile joins Gabriela Fasanelli following the competition.

Oak Bridge Club to host couples golf tournament to benefit Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra

couples golf tournament Sept. 22 for all skill levels to benefit the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra.

The event, starting at 4 p.m., will feature two and a half hours of golf and a reception on the club patio. The Couples Championship Tournament will cost \$150 per

after-party with prizes for gross and net winners hosted by Honorary Chair David Miller, heavy appetizers from 3 Palms Grille and four wine and beer tickets.

Net proceeds from the event will go directly towards children's arts programs at the Cultural Center at Ponte

The Oak Bridge Club at Sawgrass is located at 254 Alta Mar Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach. Register online at www.ccpvb.org or call (904) 280-0614 x 205.

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57. *Capital named for Sir Walter 61. *State with the smallest capital by population 65.007, e.g.

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69. Set in motion 70. Break a com-

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74. Bothersome

DOWN

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AOL and Time Warner

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7. Leo mo. 8. Movie trailer, e.g. 9. More than one solo

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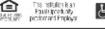
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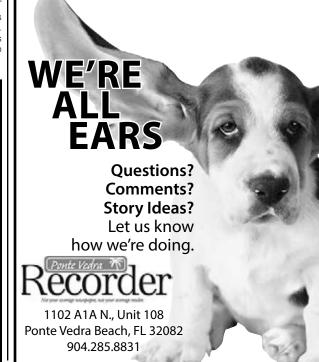
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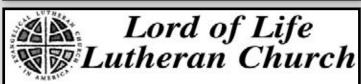
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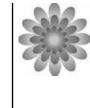
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