

Ponte Vedra Recorder



March 1, 2018
Volume 47, No. 60
75 cents

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MAKING AN IMPACT



The PGA TOUR recently hosted local high school students of lower socioeconomic situations at an educational forum where they learned about job opportunities in the sports industry. The event was sponsored by THE PLAYERS Championship, who also donated vans to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida. **For more, go to page 10.**

Photo by Benjamin Naim

Business Weekly
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2018 Signature Event
Keynote Speaker
Amy Pope Wells
Entrepreneur, Professional Speaker, Community Leader
Morning Session 11 am till Noon
Suzanne Lemen, CEO ncei



Kids Springin' for Fun Guide
Page 22

Sports Pages 23-28



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One of Us

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

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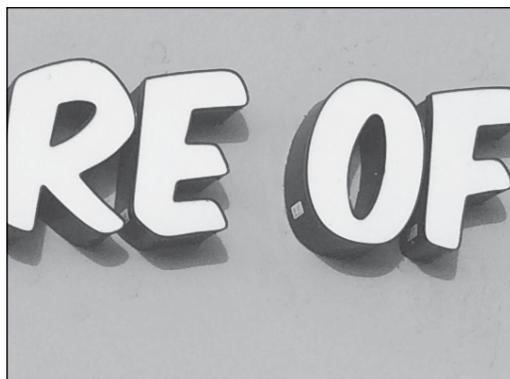


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WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

Email your answer 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.

Seven readers correctly identified last week's photo as the Ocean's Edge sign. The winner of the random drawing was **Jaitlyn Grinstead**. Congratulations, Jaitlyn – you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Mouse, and I am a 1-year-old female cat who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center because my owners could no longer care for me. I love treats and to play with toys and other animals. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #41921



DOG OF THE WEEK

My name is Chase, and I am a 3-year-old male dog who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center as a stray, which means there may be some traits that are unknown at the time. I get along well with other dogs and am eager to please. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #41871



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

St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions 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 Road off U.S. 1 between County Road 210 and International Golf Parkway. Business hours are Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is closed to the public on Sunday. On Monday, the office is open by appointment only to claim a lost pet. For more information, please call the **St. Johns County Pet Center at (904) 209-6190.**

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

S	P	A	W	N	E	L	D	K	I	L	T	
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1	2	4	9	6	7	8	5	3				

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.



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U.S.P.S. (705-300) Periodical Postage Paid at Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Postmaster: Send change of addresses to: Ponte Vedra Recorder, P.O. Box 501, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, 32004. (904) 285-8831

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TOWER OF POWER
50TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR
MARCH 2

AN EVENING WITH
JOHN HAMMOND
MARCH 3

FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC
PROJECT PRESENTS
WEBER & SCHUBERT
MARCH 4

ANA POPOVIC
MARCH 7

ANDY MCKEE
MARCH 8

COMEDIAN
BIANCA DEL RIO
MARCH 10

INDIGO GIRLS
w/ THE TXLIPS
MARCH 11

ROBIN TROWER
MARCH 13

NAHKO
"MY NAME IS BEAR TOUR"
w/ THE LATE ONES
& XIUHTZCATL
MARCH 16

TIFFANY
MARCH 17

MIKE + THE MECHANICS
MARCH 21

BOOKER T. JONES
w/ AMPLÉ ANGST
MARCH 25

THE MAVERICKS
MARCH 29

LOUDON WAINWRIGHT III
w/ LUCY WAINWRIGHT ROCHE
MARCH 30

BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE
w/ THE BELLE GAME
APRIL 1

TOMMY EMMANUEL
w/ ANTHONY SNAPE
APRIL 6 & 7

FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC
PROJECT PRESENTS
SCHUBERT
APRIL 8

AMANDA SHIRES AND HER BAND
APRIL 13

THE WAILERS
w/ ZANDER
APRIL 14

DR. DOG
w/ KYLE CRAFT
APRIL 15

THE LONE BELLOW
APRIL 16

ONE NIGHT OF QUEEN
PERFORMED BY
GARY MULLEN & THE WORKS
APRIL 17

AN EVENING WITH
BRUCE COCKBURN
APRIL 19

OLD 97's
w/ JAIME WYATT
APRIL 22

10,000 MANIACS
APRIL 25

TODRICK HALL AMERICAN
"THE FORBIDDEN" TOUR
MAY 4

FLORIDA CHAMBER MUSIC
PROJECT PRESENTS
MOZART & SMETANA
MAY 6

THE PAUL THORN BAND
MAY 12

AN EVENING WITH
THE MARC COHN TRIO
MAY 13

BAHAMAS
MAY 14

OH WONDER
w/ ASTRONOMYY
MAY 15

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MAY 18

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JULY 27

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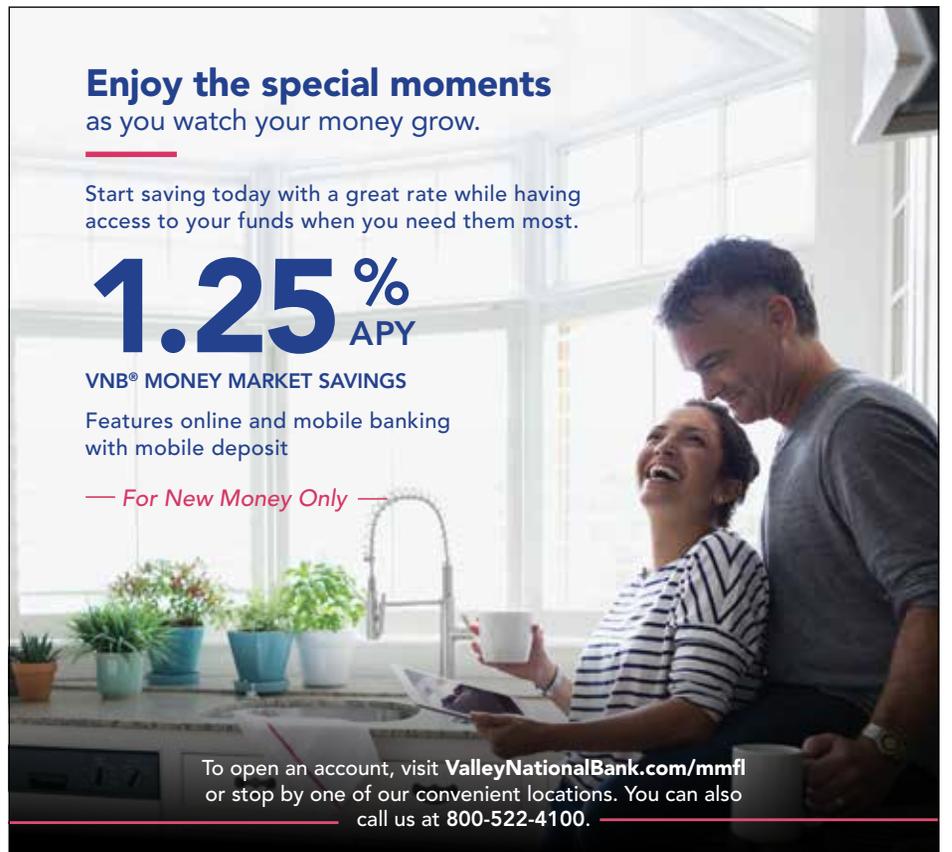
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'If they don't feel safe, nothing else matters'

SJCSD officials address efforts to prioritize safety following Parkland shooting

By Jon Blauvelt

More than two weeks after a gunman killed 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, St. Johns County School District (SJCSD) officials say steps are being taken locally to maximize school safety and security.

This article is the beginning of a series on St. Johns County's response to the recent shooting that took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland. Pick up next week's Recorder to read about a local nonprofit's efforts to address cyber and social media safety in the community.

"For the last week-and-a-half or two, we've put other things that are important aside because safety is the absolute priority," said SJCSD Superintendent Tim Forson at a school board workshop held Tuesday, Feb. 27. "As we heard from students yesterday, if they don't feel safe, nothing else matters."

Along with Forson, representatives from school services, facilities and safety attended the workshop and

presented to the school board and public the district's plans to protect area schools. Forson also presented input from students that was provided at the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council meeting on Monday, Feb. 26.

As for what is to come, Paul Rose, executive director for facilities and new construction, shared that \$5 million from the school board's half-cent sales tax revenue is being dedicated to safety and security improvements over the next 10 years. Over \$1 million, he said, is earmarked for the 2017-2018 school year for enhancements to monitoring systems at seven schools; security door systems at seven schools; single door entry at 14 schools; security cameras at 24 schools; fencing at nine schools; and GPS technology on all school buses. Cathy Mittelstadt, deputy superintendent of operations, added that the district is paying particular attention to the county's older facilities. The district is hoping to allocate more funds to safety provided that Gov. Rick Scott's plans come to fruition. He announced last week that he wants the state to allocate \$450 million for school safety, as well as \$50 million for mental health initiatives.

Paul Abbatinuzzi, senior director for school services, explained that plans were already established prior to Parkland to



ABOVE: Paul Abbatinuzzi, senior director for school services, addresses the school board and public about the district's safety plans at the Feb. 26 workshop.

LEFT: Paul Rose, executive director for facilities and new construction, discusses school safety.

Photos by Jon Blauvelt

provide the district's principals, assistant principals, faculty, staff and students with active shooter response training. He noted that the district's principals completed that training with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office (SJSO) on Feb. 1, as did assistant principals on Feb. 8. Faculty and staff are starting to receive the training, he said, and district officials are currently designing programs for students ranging in age from high school to elementary school.

"We're really going to work hard on what that delivery looks like for a 7-year-old versus what that looks like for a 17-year-old," Abbatinuzzi said.

He also noted that an active shooter response training for local law enforcement is scheduled for March 29 at Creekside High School. The district has coordinated with SJSO to allow administrators and school board members to observe the training or participate themselves.

Safety measures already in place

Also at the workshop, district officials shared several of the measures that are already in place to keep schools safe.

Abbatinuzzi explained that each school completes an annual emergency operations plan that identifies roles and responsibilities for the school and includes guidelines for managing crisis situations, as well as contact information for key district, law

enforcement and agency officials. A copy of this plan, he said, is provided to law enforcement.

In addition, the school services director noted that leadership and support is provided from the district level in crisis situations so that schools are not left on an island. He said the district crisis management team has direct contact with law enforcement and first responders during crisis incidents, and assists with staff and student counts, off-site evacuation, provision support, counseling support and media/information coordination.

District Safety Coordinator Steve Ray spoke about safety teams, noting that each school has one that is comprised of principals, assistant principals, youth resource deputies, athletic directors, deans, guidance counselors, nurses and more. Each team, Ray said, meets at least four times a year and focuses on strategies to reduce risk and hazards. He noted that he receives an audit at the end of each year that reviews the takeaways from those meetings.

Ray also addressed CPTED, or Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. He said he conducts CPTED inspections with SJSO at 18 schools per year, identifying potential hazards around the perimeter of the school buildings, such as issues with fencing, lighting, visibility, signage, etc.

On a similar subject, Rose said annual

life cycle visits are conducted annually at each school to review the safety, security and functionality of fencing, entry control points, monitoring and camera systems, door access and controls, intercoms and radio and cell phone coverage. Rose noted that each high school in the district has over 100 cameras on their respective campuses. Youth resource deputies monitor these cameras, but Forson said later in the meeting that no one is hired to sit and monitor the cameras at all times.

After addressing the district's various vehicles for communication, such as School Messenger, radios and email, Abbatinuzzi discussed the district's relationship with SJSO.

"Our partnership with the sheriff's department separates us from other districts," he said. "We have an incredible relationship with not just the sheriff's department but all of our law enforcement agencies and first responders."

Abbatinuzzi also noted that SJCSD has a liaison from SJSO, Lt. Mike Strausbaugh, who works directly with the district.

Input from students

To close out the workshop's safety discussion, Forson shared input that he received from local students at the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council meeting on Monday, Feb. 26, which was also attended by City of St. Augustine Chief of Police Barry Fox, St. Augustine Beach Chief of Police Robert Hardwick and Lt. Strausbaugh.

Students broke into groups to answer the following question: What would remove the fear of not feeling safe in your school environment? Suggestions from the students included the addition of more mental health counselors and resource officers; an increase in the number of lockdown drills; required classes/curriculum that address safety; a culture of "see something, say something;" a reduction in the number of entries into a school; increased security at doors; and a requirement that student IDs be worn at all times, among other input.

After the discussion, the school board provided closing comments on the subject. District 4 member and board chair Kelly Barrera noted that there isn't just one answer to this looming societal problem. District 5 member Patrick Canan said he believes it's unlikely for someone to fall through the cracks in St. Johns County, as he said was likely the case with the Parkland shooter. He referred to the district as a "great organization" and cited the strength of the relationship between the schools and SJSO. Canan also said the district should not allow money to be an inhibiting factor in working to make schools safer.

"Money shouldn't be what's holding us back here," said Canan. "The priority, as Mr. Forson said, is safety of the kids."



Photos by Samantha Logue

St. Johns County Commission-District 4 candidates Dick Williams (from left), Erika Alba and Jeremiah Blocker

County Commission hopefuls share backgrounds, platforms with Beaches Coalition

By Samantha Logue

Three of the four candidates for the District 4 seat of the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners spoke before the Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition Monday, Feb. 26, highlighting their qualifications for the position while identifying some of the county's most pressing concerns. Participating candidates included Erika Alba (R.), Jeremiah Blocker (R.) and Dick Williams (R.), while Catherine Hawkinson Guevarra (D.) was unable to attend due to a work conflict.

For Alba, a corporate lawyer who also practices campaign finance and political law, infrastructure was the driving force behind her decision to run. As the mother of a child who plays travel baseball, she said it was at Davis Park in Ponte Vedra that she first realized the need for a change.

"Our baseball field here at Davis Park in Ponte Vedra is not ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant for baseball," Alba said. "They used to have sidewalks, apparently, but I guess they wore out. One day, it was last spring, after writing letter after letter and trying to meet with people, I saw a group of people standing over where the parking lot ends, where the curb is roped off and there's just uneven gravel. ... I realized they were carrying a man in a wheelchair all the way to the back field, so he could watch his older boy play baseball, and I was instantly furious."

Blocker, an attorney and combat veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, said his military experience made him well-equipped for the position of county commissioner.

"I had an opportunity to lead troops in the Army, from platoon leaders, to company commanders, to battalion staff, so I'm used to dealing with large numbers of troops, large resources, intense situations and making tough decisions," he said.

Blocker agreed with Alba that infrastructure is an area of concern, but also focused on the problem of growth from the perspective of first responders.

"We have a fire department that's under a tremendous amount of strain," he said. "We're not adding fire fighters quick enough to keep up with the growth, and when you're adding about 10,000 new residents a year, that's a tremendous strain on the fire department. You don't want to have a cardiac arrest, a drowning

on the beach and then a child choking to death, and the fire department not be able to respond. We need to make sure that they're equipped and have the resources necessary to get that job accomplished."

Williams opened his remarks by outlining his qualifications for the position, citing more than 30 years of experience managing radio stations around the country, as well as several years leading and working with the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach and serving on the St. Johns County Planning and Zoning Agency. He also included the fact that he is retired among his qualifications, setting himself apart from his three opponents.

"The job of being a county commissioner is not a part-time job," Williams said. "There are 1,200 employees, and even though you're not managing those 1,200 employees, you are totally involved in the policies and the strategies moving forward. So, I think it's important that the candidate you select is willing to make this a full-time position, and give it the hours, and take the chance to go out and meet with the public and work with staff."

One issue that all three candidates acknowledged as pressing was the erosion of Ponte Vedra Beach.

"Our beaches are an absolute mess," Alba said. "There is no Mickler Beach at high tide. Spring break is coming, Memorial Day is coming, and I think at that point there's going to be a critical mass of people saying, 'Oh my gosh, what are you guys going to do about the beach?'"

Blocker, echoing Alba's sentiments, pointed out that other coastal counties in Florida have managed to find effective ways to maintain and renourish their beaches. Williams, however, was the only candidate to address the issue of finding funding for such a project, and expressed his support for the Save Ponte Vedra Beach initiative, as well as the proposal to increase the bed tax to 5 percent to raise funds.

Coalition Chair Lisa Cook closed the comments by pointing out the importance of getting the community involved in upcoming elections.

"We are at a very crucial point, fiscally, for our county," she said. "To get sidewalks fixed, and get things done, and get the beaches and things like that taken care of, it is a collective issue. Everyone in this room needs to be working on these issues, and that's why we're all here."

BRIEFS

County to host South Ponte Vedra and Vilano Beach dune restoration project community meetings

St. Johns County is hosting two informational community meetings to discuss updates to the proposed South Ponte Vedra/Vilano Beach dune restoration project.

The meetings are scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. on March 7 and 10 a.m. to noon on March 10 at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, located at 505 Guana River Road. Each meeting will provide property owners with the opportunity to obtain information and ask questions related to the proposed dune restoration project and its potential funding sources.

In addition, surveys regarding the project will be available at the meetings and will be mailed to homeowners in the area in the near future. For additional information regarding the proposed project, community meetings or the survey, please email ddouglas@sjcfl.us or call (904) 209-0266.

County to host meeting on Community Development Block Grant

St. Johns County is hosting several public meetings to provide information regarding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), gather community input and explain project eligibility under the CDBG program.

The Citizen Participation Plan will be available, and residents will have an opportunity to discuss questions or concerns regarding the CDBG program. St. Johns County residents are encouraged to attend the CDBG community meeting March 13 at 11 a.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center, 175 Landrum Lane.

For more information on CDBG or the community meetings, call (904) 827-6897 or visit www.sjcfl.us/housing/cdbg.aspx.

Coast Guard Auxiliary to offer boating safety courses

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's Jacksonville Beach Flotilla 14-4 is offering boating safety courses in the Jacksonville area over the next several months.

Courses will be offered March 10, April 14 and Sept. 15 at the Palm Valley Community Center at 148 Canal Blvd. in Ponte Vedra Beach. A course will also be held Oct. 6 at the Sea School located at 14180 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville. All classes are held from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Titled "About Boating Safety," the class includes demonstrations of boating basics and covers such topics as navigation, in-water survival, knot tying, state and federal boating laws and regulations and more. A Florida and federal course examination is given at the conclusion of the course.

Successfully passing the course will earn participants the Coast Guard Auxiliary Course Completion Card and Florida Boating Safety Education ID Card.

The fee for the course is \$25 (cash or personal check), which covers training materials. Two students can share course materials for a total registration fee of \$30. Participants can enroll as an individual or with family members and/or friends. Attendees should bring lunch and refreshments with them.

For more information and to enroll, contact Bill Vaughan at (904) 955-7077 or at Boatsafety04@gmail.com.

Ponte Vedra Beach man sentenced to 30 years for sexual assault and battery

A Ponte Vedra Beach man was recently sentenced to 30 years in prison for the sexual assault and battery of a Jacksonville woman at her Beach Boulevard home in April 2017.



Travis Jakubowski

According to a Feb. 15 news release from the state attorney's office, Travis Christopher Jakubowski, 28, was found guilty by a jury of armed sexual battery and burglary with intent to commit assault or battery.

On April 17, 2017, Jakubowski entered the woman's home where she was babysitting a 2-year-old and attacked the victim, who he did not know, according to the release. He forced her to the bathroom at knifepoint where

a struggle ensued. He then forced her into the bedroom where she was sexually assaulted. He then took some of her belongings and fled the scene, the report stated.

Neighbors of the woman described Jakubowski's vehicle to police, and the victim identified him following his arrest.

Jakubowski will be designated as a sexual predator.

Dr. Roberto Garcia, FACS, is the founder and principal of Contoura Facial Plastic Surgery serving the Jacksonville area. His main plastic surgery practice is in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Dr. Roberto Garcia

By Jon Blauvelt

Can you please tell us about your background?

I graduated locally from The Bolles School and went on to graduate magna cum laude from Jacksonville University. I studied medicine at Medical College of Wisconsin (Marquette University), and then went on to complete a five-year intensive training in otolaryngology/head and neck surgery at Syracuse University. As plastic surgery of the face had always been my passion, I sought a highly competitive one-year subspecialty training in facial plastic and reconstructive surgery, and was one of 38 nationally to graduate within this specialty.

What distinguishes your practice from others?

I have always strived to set myself apart, not only with my commitment to my patients but with my attention to detail. Being a plastic surgeon of the face allows me to really dig into the details and the nuances of facial aesthetic and reconstructive surgery. We are the only specialty that focuses solely on the face. Our staff is above and beyond and the most dedicated, friendly group of committed individuals you will ever meet. I have been with my staff for nearly 13 years and can tell you that our success is entirely because of their efforts. I am honored to work with such a team of professionals every day.

What makes you so passionate about what you do?

My passion is driven by wanting to be better and never complacent with the status quo. Our specialty has an ever-evolving groundwork and as a principal in the development of new techniques, I take personal responsibility for our specialty's growth. I feel that the people of North Florida are really beginning to realize that a better sub-specialty exists solely dedicated to issues of the face, and I am overjoyed to see that our city is catching on to the national trends of our specialty.

We understand you also work to help children. What's the story there?

Years ago, we developed a 501(C) (3) nonprofit organization called F.A.C.E, which afforded us the ability to travel to less fortunate countries and perform pro bono surgery on underprivileged children. Due to varying changes in political climates in these countries, we have been forced to utilize our efforts here with less fortunate children within our borders. F.A.C.E has been the most grounding thing we have done and has been a constant reminder to our team how fortunate we are to live in a country like ours where we can share our talents in the aid of those with less.

What are some of the challenges facing the plastic surgery industry today?

I can only speak for plastic surgery of the face, but I can tell you that on one hand, it brings me joy that these services are becoming more accessible to the average person and not just for the wealthy. But on the other hand, because of the draw of our specialty, it is beginning to get diluted. I believe that we need to have stricter guidelines on who



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

is performing said procedures of the face, as if done incorrectly, can yield fairly harmful long-term effects. I have always been a strong advocate of our patients doing their due diligence and really researching who they choose to work on their face. I have written several books intended for patients so that they might become better educated on the subject and have some light shed on these challenging decisions. One final challenge that our specialty has is trying to keep up with technological advances. As an advocate for patients, it is very important to first look at any technology and consider what real benefit it will serve for that patient and potential improvements to the quality of care.

What do you enjoy most about living on the First Coast?

I was raised here, so this has always been home. I love the weather, the schools, the outdoor hobbies and most of all the people. Jacksonville and the surrounding areas now have a potpourri of different people from around the country, which makes my job very exciting to get to meet new people every day.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I have three young children and a wonderful wife with many hobbies and activities of their own. Most weekends are spent watching them play a variety of sports and activities. I am very blessed to have the family and career that I have.

K9s For Warriors celebrates 400th service dog team



Photos by Benjamin Naim

K9s For Warriors celebrates the graduation of its 400th service dog team on Feb. 22.



ABOVE: Veterans gather with friends and family after the ceremony.



RIGHT: A veteran who was part of the graduation ceremony speaks with a K9s For Warriors representative.

By Benjamin Naim

K9s For Warriors – the nation’s largest provider of service dogs for American veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI) and/or military sexual trauma (MST) – graduated its 400th service dog team at the organization’s Ponte Vedra-based headquarters Thursday, Feb. 22.

The K9s For Warriors program helps veterans mitigate their symptoms and reintegrate into civilian society through professionally-trained service dogs. The three-week program features 120 hours of instruction on the nonprofit’s campus.

Following the pledge of allegiance and a rendition of the national anthem, K9s For Warriors veterans and their dogs each posed for a photo with their certificate in hand.

One of the graduates in the class, Jason Hudgins, said his K9s For Warriors experience has been life-changing.

“It’s just been amazing,” he said. “The staff here is amazing, being paired with an animal like George – when I first got him I didn’t know what to expect – but he’s changed my life.”

Nicknamed King George, Hudgins’ dog is a rescue that has been a friend to the veteran since day one.

“He’s become a life saver,” Hudgins said. “He’s always there, he’s always got love to give even when I don’t think I need it.”

Michael Rodriguez is another graduate who said his dog, Trooper, offers him comfort when he needs it most.

“He likes to play,” Rodriguez said, “but he’s very focused. He can sense when there is something wrong with me, which is something amazing that I found out one night when I was feeling upset and out of nowhere he just came and gave me comfort.”

Rodriguez said Trooper helps him feel more confident to get out and enjoy life.

“I was in a place that I wouldn’t want to be out anywhere,” he said about his previous disposition. “But [Trooper] gives me the confidence to go out there.”

Founded in 2011 by Shari Duval, K9s For Warriors was initially established to help Duval’s son, Brett Simon, recover from PTSD. Since then, the organization has assisted veterans in 46 states and more than 150 cities. Most of the service dogs used for the program have been rescued from homelessness or shelters. For more information, visit www.k9sforwarriors.org.

Visit pontevedrarecorder.com for video coverage of the graduation.

Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset holds off-site meeting

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset recently held an off-site meeting at La Pentola Restaurant in St. Augustine.

Located at 58 Charlotte Street, the event provided club members the opportunity to enjoy good food, drinks and company.

‘Comedy for a Cause’

The club is also preparing for the second annual “Comedy for a Cause” event, an evening of laughter and fun to be held on Saturday, April 21 at the University of North Florida’s Robinson Theater.

Comedian Danny Johnson and friends will serve as the entertainment of the night. A Jacksonville resident, Johnson has won several comedy competitions and has starred on Comedy Central’s “Laugh Riots.” Throughout his career, he has shared the stage with Chris Rock, Bob Saget, Billy Gardell and Richard Lewis. In addition to being a comedian, Johnson has enjoyed a career in Corporate America.

The fun will begin with Johnson at 8:15



Colleen Rutkowski, Cyndi King and John Rutkowski

p.m. The event, which starts at 6:30 p.m., will also feature a silent auction, hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar. The drawing for a cash raffle prize and payment for the silent auction will take place at 9:30 p.m. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Sunset club’s key beneficiaries, including The Rotary Foundation, the End Polio Now campaign and several local charities.

Cost of admission is \$35.

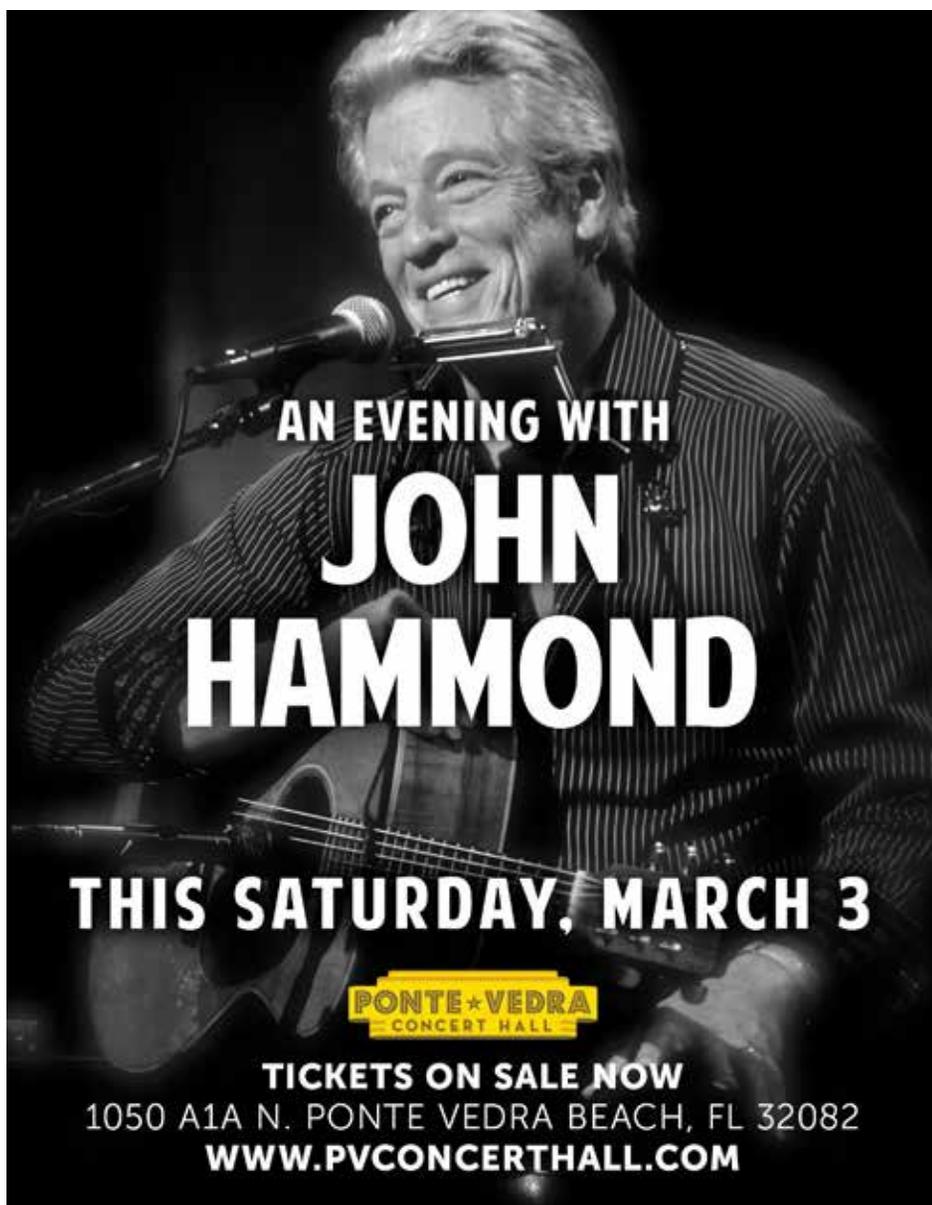


ABOVE: Molly and Zeke Paxton, Colin Mead, Carol Maurer and Waine Banyas



LEFT: Jonatha and Bob Swatek, Susan Goldring and Horton Hickerson

Photos by Susan Griffin



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OPES STUDENTS PROBLEM SOLVE FOR PRIZES



Photo courtesy of Pam Riley

Students from Ocean Palms Elementary School recently enjoyed a week of HoPS, or Hands on Problem Solving. Hosted by Emily Stephens, the activities enabled students to engineer, decode and problem solve for fun prizes. Moms kept score as the kids flipped mats (while still standing on them), twirled space ships and tackled transparency puzzles to find clues. Pictured above are third graders during the session on Feb. 12.

PVPV-Rawlings' Spring Carnival set for March 10

PVPV-Rawlings Elementary School will host its Spring Carnival presented by Lazzara Orthodontics on Saturday, March 10.

Starting at noon and running until 4 p.m., the school invites the public to join in celebrating the occasion, which will

feature games, rides, food and friends. Wristbands are needed for entry for children ages 3 and up. They cost \$10 each, if purchased before March 5.

Visit www.pvpvrawlingspto.wildapricot.org for wristband and raffle ticket purchases.

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PGA TOUR hosts business education forum for local underprivileged students

THE PLAYERS Championship donates vans to Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida

By Benjamin Naim

The PGA TOUR recently hosted over 150 local high school students of lower socioeconomic situations who learned about job opportunities in the sports industry at an event sponsored by THE PLAYERS Championship.

The Training U: Sports and Business Education Forum was held Friday, Feb. 16 at TPC Sawgrass. Attendees included students and faculty from Duval and St. Johns County schools. The event, an initiative of the PGA TOUR's MOSAIC Group (multi-culturalism employee resource group), started with a welcome ceremony before a panel discussion and question and answer session. Students spent most of their time in breakout sessions viewing presentations and learning about potential career paths. The forum also featured a networking opportunity with 16 employers, including Florida companies, various universities and representatives from the Jumbo Shrimp, the Jacksonville Icemen, the Jacksonville Jaguars and more.

Additionally, THE PLAYERS Championship's Executive Director Jared Rice announced the donation of three new vans to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida. Students and their teachers then posed for a photo in front of the TPC Sawgrass clubhouse building with the vans to conclude the event.

"Events like today's sports and education forum exemplify how our team, and volunteers, hope to have an impact on the bright potential leaders of our community," Rice said. "These events directly tie back to THE PLAYERS' \$50 million pledge to youth-oriented charities set in 2011. The tournament has a long-standing relationship with The Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida and having the opportunity for our team to donate these vans is truly special. These vans will provide a means to succeed for a younger generation."

Stacia Mahoney, an 11th grade student currently attending Terry Parker High School in Duval County, said the event was "interesting" and a good opportunity to learn about future job opportunities. After high school, Mahoney plans on getting her bachelor's degree from an accredited university.

"I plan on going into the Navy, and then maybe going into photography and fine arts," Mahoney said. "I may be a psychology major, journalism is one, I have a few things in mind."



Photos by Benjamin Naim

The career fair featured several universities and Florida companies who spoke with students about opportunities in sports.



ABOVE: One of the vans donated to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida



RIGHT: THE PLAYERS' Executive Director Jared Rice delivers closing remarks.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida President and CEO Paul Martinez noted that the event was "amazing" and THE PLAYERS Championship's donation was a "godsend" and a "blessing" that amounted to an investment of over \$100,000.

"Transportation is so important," Martinez said. "If we can't get to the kids, we can't serve them, and we have an old fleet [of vans] and this is absolutely what the doctor ordered."

According to the Boys & Girls Clubs president and CEO, the organization offers youth hope and a sense of belonging. Students get opportunities to engage in different activities such as arts and crafts, computers and robotics through the organization, Martinez said.

"When you look at crime now, these kids, especially the teenagers, there's no place for them to go after school," he added. "You leave idol minds like that and they'll stray, and it won't be good. If we've done our job, at the end of the period that they're with us we will have exposed them to college, taking them to a college showing them what it's like, expose them to entrepreneurship, talk to them about trade schools because not everybody goes to college and then let them know what great opportunities there are serving our country in the military."

For more information on THE PLAYERS Championship, visit www.THEPLAYERS.com. For more information on the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida, visit www.bgnf.org.

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Project SOS surpasses \$200K fundraising goal at annual Grand Anchor Gala

By Benjamin Naim

Project SOS, now a Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida program, surpassed its \$200,000 fundraising goal at the New Orleans-themed Grand Anchor Gala held at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club on Saturday, Feb. 24.

The annual fundraiser celebrated 25 years of serving First Coast teens and raised money for Project SOS programs and new Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida facilities designed to assist the community. The two organizations merged in the summer of 2017.

Following an invocation from Pastor Marc Dickerson of Abundant Life Church and an introductory speech by Project SOS founder Pam Mullarkey Robbins, guests enjoyed a three-course meal, a live and silent auction, dancing, speeches and more.

The live auction, sponsored by The American Fundraising Foundation, featured a 4-month-old puppy, an African photo safari, a cruise from Venice to the



Photos by Benjamin Naim

Guests enjoy the Annual Grand Anchor Gala at the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club on Feb. 24.

Greek Islands and other high-priced ticket items.

After the live auction, Robbins returned to the stage to deliver a speech on the importance of protecting and investing in youth.

“Every year we have a reduction in teen suicides and that’s extremely important to all of us because these are 100 percent of our future,” Robbins said. “In 1993, [the drug culture] was pot, maybe cocaine and a lot of alcohol. Well, guess what? It has escalated to an unbelievable epidemic of prescription drugs, cocaine, heroin.”

Robbins said charitable organizations such as Project SOS are fighting to keep young people away from drugs by helping

them deal with stress, anxiety and temptation.

Later, Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida President and CEO Paul Martinez spoke about ending the cycle of teen violence and gang-related activity through prevention rather than new law enforcement programs.

“Everyone is content until that cycle starts all over again,” he said. “That’s called law enforcement, and we need it, but we also need prevention. That’s where we come in. I say we change that cycle; our kids are fighting in the streets and they need our help.”

PROJECT SOS continues on Page 14



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Thursday, March 1	Friday, March 2	Saturday, March 3	Sunday, March 4
<p>Yoga for Survivors The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a Yoga for Survivors class March 1 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.</p> <p>Dixie Dregs Dawn of the Dregs Tour at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will host six-time Grammy-nominated instrumental pop group Dixie Dregs and the Dawn of the Dregs tour March 1, featuring the Dregs' original band lineup for the first time in 40 years. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the performance starts at 8. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pvconcerthall.com or call (904) 209-0399. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N.</p> <p>Sunset/moonrise at the St. Augustine Lighthouse Enjoy the sunset and moonrise from the top of the St. Augustine Lighthouse March 1 at 5:30 p.m. Admission costs \$30 and includes a champagne toast provided by San Sebastian Winery, hors d'oeuvres from The Reef and an overview of the history of the St. Augustine Light Station. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.staugustinelighthouse.org. The St. Augustine Lighthouse is located at 81 Lighthouse Ave.</p> <p>Council on Aging party Swing to the songs of the 50s, 60s and 70s at this Council on Aging event, set for March 1 at 11 a.m. The event, taking place at The PLAYERS Community Senior Center at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra, will also feature a peanut butter surprise in celebration of National Peanut Butter Lover's Day. For more information, contact Danielle Johnson at (904) 280-3233 or djohnson@stjohnscoa.com.</p>	<p>Coastal Wine Market wine tasting Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room hosts Friday wine tastings from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B in Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p> <p>Cannon firing demonstration at Castillo de San Marcos National Park 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 demonstrate the weapons and relate 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 Marcos is located at 1 S. Castillo Drive in St. Augustine.</p> <p>'Nature Reconstructed' exhibit at Beaches Museum & History Park The Beaches Museum & History Park is hosting "Nature Reconstructed," an exhibit by Lana Shuttleworth, until June 3. Shuttleworth uses common plastic castoff materials, particularly traffic safety cones, to create landscapes and sculptural figures that challenge the viewer's comprehension. This event is free to museum members with a suggested \$5 donation for non-members. For more information, call (904) 241-5657 or visit www.beachesmuseum.org. The Beaches Museum & History Park is located at 381 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>'Black Panther' at World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX Theater After the events of Marvel's "Captain America: Civil War," King T'Challa returns home to the reclusive, technologically advanced African nation of Wakanda to serve as his country's new leader. However, T'Challa soon finds that he is challenged for the throne from factions within his own country. This film is showing at the IMAX Theater at World Golf Hall of Fame March 2 at 1:15, 4:15, 7:15 and 10:15 p.m. The World Golf Hall of Fame is located at 1 World Golf Place in St. Augustine.</p>	<p>March to Get Screened The Borland-Groover Foundation and 1st Place Sports will host the ninth annual March to Get Screened 5k Run/Walk March 3 at the Seawalk Pavilion in Jacksonville Beach. The event will raise awareness of colon cancer and the importance of regular screenings. Registration for the event is \$15 for untimed runners and walkers and \$25 for timed runners. To pre-register and for more information, visit www.marchtogetscreened.com.</p> <p>Sip, Shop & Sample at St. Augustine Premium Outlets St. Augustine Premium Outlets invites shoppers to Sip, Shop & Sample March 3 from 3 to 6 p.m. The official St. Augustine Fashion Week kick-off event will feature light bites and cocktails, personalized styling sessions at the Banana Republic Factory Store, a photo booth, a \$250 gift card giveaway and more. St. Augustine Premium Outlets is located at 2700 State Road 16.</p> <p>First Coast Car Council spring car show Anheuser-Busch Jacksonville Brewery will host the First Coast Car Council spring car show March 3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guests are invited to peruse the brewery grounds while viewing classic cars and trucks, and car enthusiasts can register their car to be on display. The event is free to attend, but all car-registration proceeds will benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville. Additionally, guests can relax with a beer in the Tap Room, grab a bite to eat from local vendor Tasty Dog and partake in a variety of brewery offerings. For more information, call (314) 552-6747. This event will take place at 111 Busch Drive.</p> <p>Catholic Charities ball for emergency assistance Catholic Charities will host a Black & White Ball for emergency assistance March 3 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the U.S. Assure Club West at Everbank Field. All proceeds will benefit community members in need of emergency assistance. Tickets cost \$200 each. For more information, call (904) 262-3200 ext. 110.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Cummer Museum free admission The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens offers free admission on the first Sunday of the first full weekend of the month to all Bank of America or Merrill Lynch cardholders through the Museum's On Us program. For more information, call (904) 899-6038. The Cummer Museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Woody's Bar-B-Q promotion Woody's Bar-B-Q will offer its Super Stacked Spuds promotion at the Southern barbecue chain through April 6. The promotion features two dishes, fully loaded fries and totally topped tator tots. For more information, visit www.woody's.com.</p> <p>Florida Chamber Music Project at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall The Florida Chamber Music Project will perform at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall on March 4 at 3 p.m. Admission costs \$25. The performance will feature Webern's Langsamer Satz and Schubert's String Quartet No. 14 in D minor and D. 810 'Death and the Maiden.' The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N.</p> <p>Night at the Oscars Celebrate the 90th annual Oscars at the Corazon Cinema and Cafe with a red carpet affair and cocktail attire. The event will feature heavy hors d'oeuvres, a glass of champagne, photo opportunities, prizes and performances by Howard Post Trio and guest singer Alison Michel. Admission costs \$25 and doors open at 6 p.m. RSVP by phone at (904) 679-5736. The Corazon Cinema and Cafe is located at 36 Granada St. in St. Augustine.</p>

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Monday, March 5	Tuesday, March 6	Wednesday, March 7	Thursday, March 8
<p>Suddenly Single This program is designed to provide support and encouragement for individuals who are "suddenly single." Mary Ortiz, a relationship coach/speaker/author will be the featured speaker. Attendees will learn about physical, nutrition, legal, finance and parenting issues related to being single. RSVP by contacting Trudy Toche at (973) 819-6581. This event will take place March 5 from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Recorder office, located at 1102 A1A N., Unit 108.</p> <p>Caregiver support meetings The St. Johns County Council on Aging will host caregiver support meetings Mondays (except holidays) from noon to 1 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center at 1048 A1A N. For more information, call Paulette Kozlowski at (904) 209-3674 or email pkozlowski@stjohnscoa.com. The meetings will provide a supportive environment for people who are experiencing similar challenges in which they can share problems, ideas and solutions.</p> <p>National Multiple Sclerosis Society Awareness Week Kickoff Silent Auction The sixth annual National Multiple Sclerosis Society Awareness Week Kickoff Silent Auction will take place March 5 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Bogy Grille, located at 150 Valley Circle in Ponte Vedra Beach. The auction will feature 200-plus items and a 50/50 drawing. All proceeds will benefit the MS Society.</p> <p>Free law school classes The St. Johns Legal Aid Staff will present free law school classes on the exploitation of the elderly and vulnerable in Florida, foreclosure defense, how to avoid the need for guardianship, landlord/tenant laws, avoiding predatory lending and other consumer scams, the rights of a debtor and more through April 30. Classes take place Mondays from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Southeast Branch library, located at 6670 U.S. 1 S. in St. Augustine.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Prenatal yoga Prenatal and postnatal yoga is designed to help women cope with the changing needs of their body before and after pregnancy and birth. The public is invited March 6 at 6 p.m. to share individual experiences with other women and gain empowerment through yoga, meditation, and guided visualization. This approach is gentle and safe for women in all stages of pregnancy, and once recovered from birth, but prior approval from a healthcare provider is advised. This event will take place at the Y Healthy Living Center, located at 170 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>History of American art Explore art history through this monthly series of lectures that includes time in the galleries. Brush up on art history with Director of Education Lynn Norris, who will lead a special presentation on the history of Western Art March 6 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Space is limited. The Cummer Museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave. in Jacksonville. For more information, email education@cummermuseum.org or call (904) 355-0630.</p> <p>13th Annual All-County High School Show exhibition This exhibition at the St. Augustine Art Association, located at 22 Marine St., features 2D and 3D pieces by local ninth through 12th grade students. The exhibition is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are Tuesday to Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m.</p>	<p>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 help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Email Lucy Reep at lucyreep@gmail.com for additional information.</p> <p>Dune restoration project community meetings St. Johns County will host two informational community meetings to discuss updates to the proposed South Ponte Vedra/Vilano Beach dune restoration project on March 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. and March 10 from 10 a.m. to noon. The meetings will take place at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, located at 505 Guana River Road in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>'Symphonic Odyssey' concert The St. Augustine Orchestra will travel back in time, 178 years to be exact, March 7 at 8 p.m. to provide the audience with a musical journey across Europe during a time of social change, upheaval, wars and rebellions. The concert will feature well-known European composers such as Mozart, Verdi, Shostakovich and more. Tickets cost \$22 for adults (18+), \$12 for teens (11-17) and free for children 10 and under. Visit https://staugustineorchestra.ticketleap.com/a-symphonic-odyssey to purchase tickets online. This event will take place at The Lightner Museum, located at 25 Granada Street. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>'Progress' at Lewis Auditorium Flagler College's Theatre Department will perform "Progress" in the Lewis Auditorium at Flagler College. Directed by the Theatre Department's Technical Director Britton Corry, "Progress" is a dark and biting comedy set in London that exposes the "social ills besetting contemporary Britain." Performances will take place Wednesday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. General admission is \$15. Tickets can be purchased online at flagler.universitytickets.com.</p>	<p>Andy McKee at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will host acoustic guitar virtuoso Andy McKee March 8 at 8 p.m. McKee is among the world's most skilled acoustic guitarists. Doors open at 7 p.m. For more information, call (904) 209-0399 or visit www.pvconcerthall.com. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N.</p> <p>Ponte Vedra Wellness Center anniversary party in Nocatee The Ponte Vedra Wellness Center will host an anniversary party and wellness event at its Nocatee office to celebrate two years of operation there. The event, to be held March 8 from 3:30 to 6 p.m., will feature fitness demos, chair massages, food, beverages, displays and giveaways from neighboring Nocatee businesses and more. The party is free and open to the public. The Ponte Vedra Wellness Center in Nocatee is located at 205 Marketside Ave.</p> <p>'A Wrinkle In Time' at IMAX Theater at World Golf Hall of Fame Meg Murry and her little brother, Charles Wallace, have been without their scientist father, Mr. Murry, for five years, ever since he discovered a new planet and used the concept known as a tesseract to travel there. Joined by Meg's classmate Calvin O'Keefe and guided by the three mysterious astral travelers known as Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who and Mrs. Which, the children brave a dangerous journey to a planet that possesses all the evil in the universe. This film premieres March 8 at the IMAX Theater at World Golf Hall of Fame. For more information on showtimes and tickets, visit www.worldgolfimax.com. The theater is located at 1 World Golf Place in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to ben@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</p>

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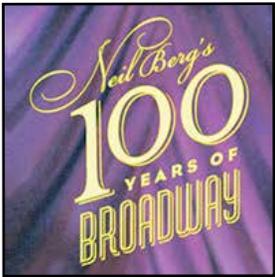
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Women Of Acoustics Music Series returns to Jacksonville Beach March 6

Women Of Acoustics returns to Jacksonville Beach in a weekly Artist's Series beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, at Whiskey Jax, located at 950 Marsh Landing Parkway.

A weekly dinner event, Women Of Acoustics will feature North Florida women singers/songwriters from a variety of genres every Tuesday night from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

"North Florida has one of the most unique music communities in the nation and the level of talent here is staggering," said Mike Kaufmann, a Ponte Vedra native known for spearheading the local Blues resurgence over the past five years. "Our women of song can compete on any stage with any named artist and hold their own any day."

Women Of Acoustics is being offered as a program of the Beaches Artist Series and will rotate more than a dozen different female artists each week for as long as

the run continues.

"The Tuesday Night Blues Club just took a break from a four-and-a-half-year run and our other flagship event, Sunday Sessions (a rhythm & blues revue at Whiskey Jax in Baymeadows) is in its fourth year and still going strong," Kaufmann said. "We expect a long successful run with Women (Of Acoustics)."

Opening the run are two popular artists, Debbie Johnston and Carole Mayedo, known as The Great Dames Duo. Johnston is well known for her long run as an acoustic soloist, and Mayedo is a Northern California transplant who made a name for herself as an electric rock violinist. Mayedo was nominated for a Grammy, and has played with names such as Jefferson Starship, Neil Young and The Lucas Orchestra (of "Star Wars" fame).

For more information on the series, call Kaufmann at (904) 362-3397 or email mike@mikekaufmann.com.

Project SOS

Continued from 11

Martinez said the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida plans on opening four to six state-of-the-art teen centers in the

toughest parts of Northeast Florida to help alleviate the problem.

The event ended with entertainment from the Chris Thomas Band and the Monarch Dancers, followed by closing remarks from Ben Weurffel, Project SOS' chairman of the board of directors.





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Shoppers peruse the many purses up for auction.

Sixth annual Bag Lady Luncheon raises \$18,000 for Cultural Center

By Samantha Logue

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach hosted its sixth annual Bag Lady Luncheon last Wednesday, Feb. 21, raising \$18,000 for the nonprofit's arts education programs, including a music therapy program for elementary students with special needs.

Held at Sawgrass Country Club in Ponte Vedra Beach, the event invited local ladies to come and bid on a variety of new and used purses that had been donated by members of the community. From vintage styles to designer labels, more than 100 bags were up for grabs, including a brand-new Tory Burch tote that was raffled off to one lucky lady.

"Our mission statement is to bring the arts into the life of the community through arts education, exhibitions and outreach by honoring a donor-driven philosophy," said Donna Guzzo, executive director of the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. "I want to thank all the donors that provided those bags that were crying in your closet and needed a new life, and I want to say thank you to all of you for your support to the Center. You are truly friends of the Cultural Center."

Proceeds of the event will help to fund the Cultural Center's Sound Connections program, which provides music therapy for children with special needs. The program, which uses music as a therapeutic stimulus to achieve non-musical goals, currently serves students at PVPV-Rawlings Elementary, Ocean Palms Elementary, Valley Ridge Academy and Cunningham Creek Elementary.

"We've been a program now for about 11 years," said Minda Gordon, a board-certified music therapist with the program.



Bag Lady Luncheon Chair Becky Jewett and Cultural Center Executive Director Donna Guzzo

"The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years to support our program. Without the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach, music therapy in our schools would not be."

While the purses are a plus, for many of the Bag Lady Luncheon's annual attendees, it is the Cultural Center's dedication to providing such programs that keeps them coming back.

"It's such a novel event," said Ponte Vedra Beach resident Clare Berry, who attended last year's luncheon as well. "You come away with something of value for yourself, but you also get to support something that's of such value to the community, what with the programs the Cultural Center offers for children, so it's a great event for everyone."



LEFT: A tote bag by designer Tory Burch was the raffle prize at the Bag Lady Luncheon.

RIGHT: Attendees had the opportunity to admire an ice sculpture of a Tory Burch purse as they browsed and bid on items.



Photos by Samantha Logue

Departmental restructuring brings two new positions, one new face to Cultural Center

Recent restructuring at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach has resulted in the creation of two new positions, one of which is being filled by a new employee.



Catherine Tatem



Sara Bass

University of North Florida (UNF) public relations graduate Catherine Tatem has been hired to manage and develop programming, including adult classes and workshops as well as youth classes and camps. She will also oversee outreach programs like Sound Connections, which provides music therapy in local schools for children with special needs. Tatem developed her programming skills working as a dance instructor at Mark Spivak's Institute and as a substitute teacher in Duval County.

"I'm looking forward to developing my career alongside the talented team at The Cultural Center of Ponte Vedra

Beach," said Tatem. "The people are encouraging, and I love to be surrounded by art every day."

Tatem will be working closely with Sara Bass, the new exhibitions & communications manager. Bass has been working full time at the Cultural Center as program & gallery manager since August 2016. She has a master's degree in exhibition design from the Corcoran School of the Arts & Design.

"We definitely chose an exciting week to start our new positions," said Bass. "A new exhibition featuring the art of Angela Casini, Joe Crozier and Larry Moore will be opening March 9, and Catherine took over programs just in time for three workshops taking place on Feb. 24 and the start of Winter II classes the week of Feb. 26."



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Ponte Vedra Inn & Club showcases spring trends at 'Fashion Bash'



The models of Denise Carol Models & Talent Agency strike their final poses on the runway.

By Samantha Logue

The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club's Fashion Bash on the Boulevard made its return to Ponte Vedra Boulevard last Saturday, Feb. 24, showcasing the various spring ensembles now available for purchase at the club's Surf Shop, Golf Pro Shop and Men's Shop.

Attendees of the Fashion Bash were treated to mimosas and refreshments as they took in the show, and several viewers also took home raffle prizes, which included wine totes, candles and clutches. Held at the historic inn's typically exclusive Surf Club, the event was open for the public to attend and learn more about what the Inn & Club's shops have to offer.

"We had it last year, and we had such a great turnout and such a great response that we brought it back this year," said Jessica Mootz, retail manager for the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. "We're going to do it every year, just to bring people into our shops – mainly the Surf Shop and our men's store – and to raise awareness that we are open to the public for the stores. They're open for anybody to shop."

Put together with the help of Denise Carol Models & Talent Agency, the fashion show featured items from such high-end designers as Lilly Pulitzer, Tory



A floral embroidered dress by Alice & Trixie and a white ruffle shawl by Minnie Rose are modeled at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club's Fashion Bash on the Boulevard Feb. 24.

Burch, Bailey 44 and Southern Tide, which are now on sale at The Surf Shop, The Golf Pro Shop and The Men's Shop at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. For more information about the stores' retail offerings, visit www.pontevedra.com/recreation_and_activities/shopping.



Attendees take in an ensemble by designer Peter Millar, comprised of a sport shirt and five-pocket pant, which are now available at The Men's Shop at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

Photos by Samantha Logue

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Ponte Vedra Wellness Center to celebrate two years in Nocatee

Ponte Vedra Wellness Center will host an anniversary party and wellness event at its Nocatee office on March 8 to celebrate its second year of operation there.

Free and open to the public, the family-friendly and fun event will take place from 3:30 to 6 p.m. and will showcase many Nocatee business neighbors and the services they provide.

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

Also, all guests will receive – at no charge – a ticket for a Kona Ice treat, as well as a ticket to be entered into the raffle drawing with prizes ranging from a new beach cruiser to gift baskets and gift certificates. The first 50 people to arrive will also receive a gift bag.

“The Nocatee community has been so welcoming and supportive of this practice and it is so exciting to be able to celebrate how this practice has grown in the two years since we opened the Town Center location,” said practice owner Dr. Erika Hamer. “The goal of the party is to say, ‘Thank you,’ to all our patients and to the Nocatee residents who have been an integral part of our success. In addition, our desire is to help foster a strong business relationship with our Nocatee business neighbors, so we are very pleased to have their participation once again in this second anniversary celebration.”

Some of the businesses participating in this year's Nocatee anniversary party are Anytime Fitness, Blue Water Dental, GNC, Ponte Vedra Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics, Trompe L'oeil Salon, Watson Realty, Wise Women Gynecology, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and the Ponte Vedra Recorder.

The event will be held outside of Ponte Vedra Wellness Center's office, which is located in the heart of Nocatee Town Center at 205 Marketside Ave., next to Watson Realty and down the street from Publix. The event is free and open to all ages. For more information, please call (904) 834-2717.



Photo courtesy of Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room

Ryan Pace of Nielson Wines

Coastal Wine Market to hold 'Meet the Winemaker' event March 22

Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room will host the next installment of its “Meet The Winemaker” series on Thursday, March 22, with Ryan Pace of Nielson Wines.

To be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m., the

tasting is \$20, or free with the purchase of \$100 or more. Pace will sign bottles of his wines at the event, which is only open to ticketholders.

For more information on tickets, visit cwmmeetthewinemaker.eventbrite.com.

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Business Weekly

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Berkshire-Hathaway
honors top producers

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Business and community leader to share experiences, ideas at WBO's signature event

By Paris Moulden

Jacksonville business owner and community leader Amy Pope-Wells will be the featured speaker at the Women Business Owners (WBO) of North Florida's signature event on March 8 at the University of North Florida.

Pope-Wells is the owner of a LINK Staffing franchise in Jacksonville, and was recently appointed by President Donald Trump to a committee that supports the Canada-United States Council for Advancement of Women Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders. She was part of a select group of women business owners to meet with Trump, his daughter and advisor Ivanka Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and other leaders to discuss issues affecting women in business.

Pope-Wells plans to share the message of what she's learned throughout building her business and through her community and advocacy involvement at the WBO event March 8. The title of the event is "G.R.I.T.," which stands for "Growth, Resilience, Integrity, Tenacity," which is based on the book "Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance," by Angela Duckworth.

"I think we need to hear a message on this," Pope-Wells said. "Women nowadays, we have to be pretty gritty. We not only need to talk about how we're gritty, but where our weaknesses are and where our passions are. It's not just reading the book but relating it to our own personal lives."

Pope-Wells said it was a series of twists and turns in life that led her to the where she is now. She grew up in a small town outside of Charlotte, North Carolina, and earned a nursing degree. She worked for almost a decade as a critical care nurse, which helped prepare her for a future of advocacy.

"I have a huge drive and passion to take care of people," she said.

In 2007, Hope-Wells and her husband purchased a LINK Staffing franchise in Clay County, which "focuses on providing temporary, contract and full-time



Photo courtesy of Monahan Management

Amy Pope-Wells will be the featured speaker for the Women Business Owners signature event March 8.

placement within the general staffing industry."

Pope-Wells said one of the keys to her success is a lack of fear, and willingness to take advantage of opportunities, which helped land her a spot at the White House meeting.

"When an opportunity arises, I will always contribute where I can," Pope-Wells said. "One of the things I've always tried to do is carry myself with kindness and grace: Having respect for those around me, sharing lessons that I've learned, whether it's with kids or other leaders."

Hope-Wells said just knowing when, and how, to take advantage of business opportunities is important, and she aims to share that know-how with other women entrepreneurs.

"If you're not engaged, you don't have those opportunities," she said. "I try to recognize each opportunity, and try to be valuable and honest and transparent, and, most importantly, do right by people at the table."

She said one board she sits on has just five women from the entire United States, so she wants to make sure Northeast Florida gets noticed.

"You only have a handful of people at the table and you represent that marketplace and that voice," she said. "I can give them Northeast Florida's voice."

Pope-Wells said she's looking forward to talking to women in business and sharing the lessons she learned, but also encouraging them to not give up when the going gets tough.

Atlantic Self Storage open for business at Nocatee location

By Benjamin Naim

Atlantic Self Storage is now fully operational at 2400 Palm Valley Road in Nocatee, where the company opened the location in November 2017.

According to Randall Whitfield, the vice president of property management and development for Ash Properties, Inc., Atlantic Self Storage opened in Nocatee last year because of the area's rapid growth and influx of new residents. He also noted that the location opened to meet the demand of Ponte Vedra boat owners in need of a place to store their crafts.

"It's a new and growing area," Whitfield said. "We try to keep up with the demands of the needs of the different communities and different areas of Jacksonville, and Nocatee needed this type of facility both for self-storage and also for the boat and RV storage."

Ash Properties, Inc., the development and property management company that operates Atlantic Self Storage, is still seeking to add a few minor details to the Nocatee location over the next few months. The property management company has filed a request with St. Johns County's Growth Management Division to add a wall sign that exceeds the minimum dimensions, requiring a non-zoning variance and architectural review approvals, according to county planning and zoning official Beverly Frazier.

"The planning staff has always been supportive and we have had good relations there and always will do things according to county wishes and desires," Whitfield said.

What makes Atlantic Self Storage unique, he added, is that it's a locally-owned and operated business aimed at serving the community.

"We can make decisions quickly," Whitfield said. "We're not having to go out of state to have questions answered. We care about our product, we reinvest in our product and we're a part of the community."

The Ash Properties vice president noted that Atlantic Self Storage has participated in several programs that provide services to local neighborhoods, such as Toys for Tots. Additionally, Whitfield asserted that the company has become entrenched within Northeast Florida after operating for close to 40 years.

"We are part of Jacksonville," he said. "We plan to continue to be part of the Jacksonville growth, we love the community and we're going to continue to support the community in different avenues and we hope the community in turn will support us."

For more information on Atlantic Self Storage, visit www.atlanticselfstorage.com. Call the Nocatee location at (904) 930-4300.



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Photos courtesy of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently honored its top producers at the company's Glitz and Glitter Gala at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. From the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office were Linda Sherrer (from left), Tina Webster, Priscilla Johnson, Kevin Waugaman, Tonya O'Quinn, Deb Pettry, Lisa Barton, Marsha Keller and Christy Budnick.

Berkshire Hathaway honors top producers at Glitz and Glitter Gala at Cummer Museum

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently honored its top producers with a "Glitz and Glitter" celebration at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens.

The exclusive gala honored the company's elite realtors who achieved significant success in 2017.

"We congratulate our award-winning associates, who are the best of the best, on their tremendous accomplishments," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Founder, President and CEO Linda Sherrer. "We have the finest team of realtors in the world, and we can't thank them enough for their loyalty and contributions to the company's success."

The festivities honored more than 80 Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices sales associates and their guests from the company's branch offices throughout Northeast Florida.



From the Beaches office were Scott Allen (from left), Don Cline, Linda Sherrer, Jennifer Sexton, Lynne Lupole Allen, Tansy Moon, Donna Warpool, Lea Underwood, Beverly Hecht, Myrna Brannon, Victoria Troupe, Cathy Bade, John Bade, Dawn Niermann, Joe Collerd, Christy Budnick and Lee Elmore.

"Our company is comprised of incredibly talented, passionate and successful agents, for whom we are most grateful," said Broker/Executive Vice President Christy Budnick. "It is because of their contributions

our company is the market leader in Northeast Florida."

For more information about Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, visit www.FloridaNetworkRealty.com.

Pope-Wells

Continued from 18

"Time after time, I've been in situations where I've had to dig deep," she said. "It doesn't always feel good, but it's the right thing to do."

She said she plans to offer options and ideas, but she also plans to tell it like it is.

"I'm not the person that says it's all going to be butterflies and rainbows," she said. "But what I will say is, 'Look it is tough, but when these opportunities come along, you've got to take advantage of them.' And you've got to learn how to recognize

when they're there."

The event will also feature other successful business women in the area, including Suzzane Lemen, CEO of Dynamic Corporation Solutions (DCSI), and a panel consisting of Brandi Bass, CEO of Jacksonville Dixie Blues; Kelly Straub, senior vice president of global accounts at sgsco; and Heather Quick, CEO of The Quick Law Group. Pope-Wells said among the panel discussions will be the topic of trying to juggle being a wife, mother, daughter and business woman.

Pope-Wells said the issue isn't just about women's rights but "about doing what's right and sharing experi-

ences and allowing opportunity for change to happen."

And one of the biggest changes she hopes to see is building a solid foundation for the next generation of women in business.

"We have to create a bond and support structure, not just for ourselves, but to start training the next generation," she said. "Our real job is not just what we're doing now but preparing them. If we can prepare them to take it to the next level, then I'm perfectly good."

For more information or to register for the WBO's signature event on March 8, go to www.wbonfl.org/signature-event.

How tax-alpha is your financial advisor's advice?



Harry Pappas
Columnist

By Harry Pappas

You may have heard about the concept of "alpha," which essentially is the extra bit of performance, for example, a stock manager can generate through skill, on top of ordinary market returns. Tax alpha, on the other hand, is a fancy word, but a rather simple notion regarding the after-tax benefit from implementing tax-

smart strategies. Perhaps stated more simply, tax efficiency is a measure of how much of an investment's return is left over after taxes are paid.

Regrettably, too many financial advisors and investors do not fully appreciate the hindrance on returns caused by taxes. To the contrary, client-centric financial advisors can be worth their weight in gold by assisting clients to construct a tax-efficient investment portfolio. A 2015 survey of U.S. financial advisors conducted by global asset manager Russell Investments found that fewer than one in five advisors (19 percent) implement tax-loss harvesting, or the practice of selling securities at a loss to offset taxes on capital gains. This tax-efficient strategy is one of the easiest and most effective ways to reduce client taxes now, yet most advisors do not attempt to harvest client losses.

In fact, the value of implementing tax efficient strategies could far exceed a client's annual advisory fee! I often explain to less experienced financial advisors that great client service costs almost nothing. In other words, employing tax efficient tactics for clients is a great client service that costs virtually nothing!

Speaking of cost, arguably the best feature of engaging a tax efficient investment approach, such as tax loss harvesting, gain deferral, clever asset location and intelligent withdrawal strategies, is it should cost you nothing! Therefore, it begs the question: If it does not cost the financial advisor or client anything to implement tax efficient strategies, why is this critical methodology of managing money not executed as normal procedure in an investment planning practice?

I put forth that since there is no immediate monetary compensation for the advisor to implement such tactics, there is little to no motivation to do so, especially since many clients are not aware that these vital tax planning approaches are available in the first place! Go ahead: I will give you a minute to "unpretzel" your brain while you read that last sentence again.

When potential clients engage with our complimentary second opinion service, I often show them how they are leaving money on the table by not incorporating rather simple and straightforward tax efficient tactics. Said differently, these folks are paying more taxes than necessary.

I suggest that all of us, advisors and clients, should look at all financial decisions through the lens of maximizing one's after-tax returns. Of course, we do not want to be penny wise and dollar foolish. In other words, we should not allow the tax tail to wag the dog. Nevertheless, it is paramount that we, as financial advisors, help encourage clients to transition to a

Salty & Soulful to open women's fashion boutique at the Beaches

Salty & Soulful, Inc. recently announced that it will open a women's fashion boutique and showroom Saturday, March 3 at 1602 Third St. North in Jacksonville Beach.

"We are so excited to expand our brand to include this new boutique and showroom," CEO Lisa Swindell Batts said. "Our home parties and trunk shows, hosted by our tribe of 'Soul Sisters' that launched in November of 2017, has been an incredible success and we are excited to announce that we will be adding additional Soul Sisters to our tribe in the spring of 2018. We offer online shopping as well with our online store at SaltyandSoulful.com. We look forward to continuing to grow our brand, and we hope to lift up, inspire and celebrate women along the way."

Founded by Batts in 2015, Salty & Soulful specializes in boutique-style clothing, jewelry and personal items as well as home décor, but without typical boutique pricing. Headquartered in Jacksonville Beach, the company intends to expand into Georgia and Central/South Florida next with its Soul Sister concept, and then nationwide after that.

"We offer a very unique shopping experience where we literally bring the boutique to you, no catalog orders, presen-

tations or hesitations," Batts said. "When it comes to shopping, women love instant gratification and that is what we deliver. Our Soul Sister concept is also very unique in the fact that we offer the opportunity for women to have a business in fashion – whether they are looking for full-time, part-time, a second job or just an opportunity to get out, meet new people and make new friends – all while being a part of a beautiful sisterhood we call our 'tribe.'"

"The Soul Sisters embody what the brand stands for, and it is their incredible passion and vibe that people seem so attracted to," Batts added. "We offer great incentives and it costs absolutely nothing to get started. Our goal is to build women up, not drag them further down in financial debt. That is why I started this endeavor. We're on an incredible journey and we're excited to share it."

The boutique will be open to the public Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The showroom will be open for private shopping by appointment only during non-boutique hours. For more information, visit www.SaltyandSoulful.com or contact Lisa Swindell Batts at SaltyandSoulful@gmail.com.

Pappas

Continued from 20

lower-cost, more tax-efficient portfolio. Although, one would think that a CPA would be the safety net for clients regarding identifying more tax efficient investing approaches. Yep, another comforting fantasy but not reality, as some of these bean counters often disregard this critical aspect of investment planning.

In the final analysis, there is often a substantial difference between our portfolio's pre-tax performance and its after-tax performance, and if we take an active approach to tax management as part of our investment strategy, we may be able to reap significant rewards over the long-term.

The takeaway message is simple: Ask your advisor to explain to you how he or she is utilizing various tax-smart strategies, such as tax loss harvesting, to help reduce the amount of taxes that your Uncle Sam takes from you. If you want to pay less, that should be your financial advisor and CPA's business. Perhaps an advertisement that I recently saw said it best, "You must pay taxes. But there's no law that says you gotta leave a tip."

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Kids Springin' For Fun Guide

Women's Food Alliance to host kids' cookie contest

Invites entrants to create their own cookies

The Women's Food Alliance is hosting a "Why I Like to Bake for my Family" kids' cookie contest for children ages 8 to 12. Prizes will be awarded to the top 12 finalists, with one designated grand prize winner.

To be considered, each entrant will need to create and name a unique cookie, submitting the recipe along with a story describing "Why I Like to Bake for my Family." Entries will be judged based on originality, deliciousness, cookie presentation, cookie name and story.

Finalists will be invited to attend the Official Cookie Judging on Monday, June 25 at 5 p.m., which will take place at Jax Kitchen at 1850 Emerson St. in Jacksonville. All children must be accompanied by an adult, and they must bring a piece of paper listing the cookie's name and recipe, as well as the entrant's name. The paper will accompany the entrant's cookies on a presentation serving plate, which must hold a minimum of 12 cookies. Cookies



Photos courtesy of Leigh Cort

will be judged based on taste, creative use of ingredients and appearance.

Every finalist will receive a culinary-themed swag bag from Sugar Snob Chocolates and a kids' meal at Your Pie Southside at Tapestry Park. The second runner-up will receive: Sunday brunch for four at the Casa Marina Hotel in Jacksonville Beach, admission to the Colonial Experience & Pirate Museum in St. Augustine for four guests and a kids' meal

at Players Grille in Jacksonville. The first runner-up will receive: Sunday brunch for four at the Casa Marina Hotel, admission to the Colonial Experience & Pirate Museum for four guests, a kids' meal at Players Grille and a \$25 gift certificate to Williams-Sonoma Cookware from the Women's Food Alliance.

The grand prize winner will receive: Sunday brunch for four at the Casa Marina Hotel in Jacksonville Beach,

admission to the Colonial Experience & Pirate Museum for four guests, a party for ten at Your Pie Southside at Tapestry Park (\$100 value), "The Everything Pizza Cookbook" by Belinda Hulin, a kids' meal at Players Grille and a \$25 gift certificate to Williams-Sonoma Cookware from the Women's Food Alliance.

Submissions should be emailed to Leigh Cort at leighcort@bellsouth.net. Each recipe must include the child's name, address, telephone number, email (parent or guardian contact), cookie recipe name and a brief story describing "Why I Like to Bake for my Family." The deadline for entry is May 15, 2018.

Entrants must be 8 to 12 years old. There will be no substitutions or transfer of prizes. Prizes are not redeemable for cash. By acceptance of prizes, winners consent to use of their names and/or photographs for publicity purposes without further compensation. Winners will be notified by June 1, 2018. Following the competition, names of winners will be posted online at www.womensfoodalliance.com. For more information, visit www.leighcortpublicity.com/family-bake.htm.

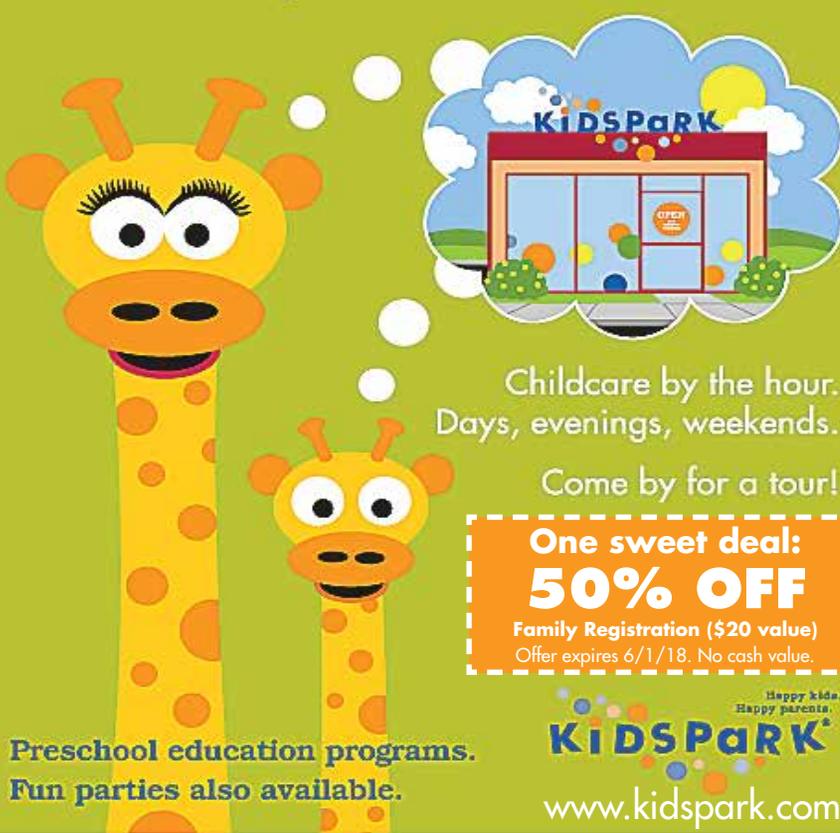




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Sports



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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

Sharks open home baseball season March 1 against two-time state champion Bolles

By Jim Moyes

Special to the Recorder

If an old quote attributed to former major league patriarch Connie Mack stating, “Pitching is 80 percent of winning baseball,” is correct, then Ponte Vedra baseball fans have to be optimistic about their team’s chances for the 2018 season.

The Sharks open their home season on Thursday, March 1 when they host two-time state champion Bolles at Sharks Park. The team is hopeful that this year’s experienced pitching rotation will replicate the staff from the state championship squad in 2013. Despite posting a minuscule team batting average of .242 — easily the lowest average in Ponte Vedra baseball history — the 2013 Sharks won the 5A state championship with a pitching staff that was “off the charts” in talent.

This year’s team can boast of a potent 1-2 combination that would make the 2013 group proud. Senior Kevin Faulkner, a Jacksonville University commit, and Junior Tony Roca have been nearly perfect in each of their appearances to begin the 2018 season. Roca worked four hitless innings, while striking out six in four innings of work in the Sharks’ season opening 4-3 victory over Bishop Kenny. Faulkner took the mound Friday, Feb. 23 against a 7-0 Valdosta team and gave up a lone single, while also fanning six batsmen in his four innings. Unfortunately, the Sharks were unable to hang onto the 1-0 lead after Faulkner finished his stint on the mound and fell to an undefeated Valdosta team 3-1.

In 2017, Faulkner accumulated seven straight victories before suffering his only loss in a hard luck 2-0 defeat to Paxon in the first round of the regionals. Roca flourished on the mound throughout his sophomore season for the Sharks. He capped his season by coming in relief to shut out a heavy-hitting Clay County in 6½ innings, and picked up the victory in the marathon 10-inning district championship. Faulkner and Roca net a combined won-loss record of 12-2 in 2017 and posted an ERA of less than 1 earned run per game.

Beginning his 10th season as the Sharks manager, coach Tom Stanton is hopeful of finding some pitching depth, particularly early in the season, when his two aces are not on the mound.

While the dynamic duo has not given up a run in their eight combined innings, the



The 2018 Ponte Vedra High School baseball team
Photo courtesy of Darcy Maynard

Sharks do have some pitching concerns. Eight other pitchers that have seen action on the mound have given up 15 runs, 15 walks, 14 hits and have hit seven batters in only 11 innings.

Stanton and his pitching coach Elliot Warford — a former Shark great and Furman pitching stalwart — are hopeful Brody Maynard, currently sidelined with a “stinger” injury will join the already-deep pitching staff shortly. Maynard, one of seven left-handed pitchers on the staff, appeared in seven games last year as a sophomore and posted a very respectable ERA of 2.19.

Although the Sharks’ hitters have gotten off to a slow start to the season, Stanton is confident he has enough experienced play-

ers returning to soften the loss of Eric Aleman, Quinton Brehm and Jack Hahnemann, a trio that all batted above .300 last year.

Headlining the list of returnees is centerfielder Jacob Young. A starter since his sophomore season, Young has swatted a healthy .380 in his two years of varsity action, good for fourth place in Sharks baseball history. Young, who will play his college baseball for the defending NCAA championship Florida Gators, has also swiped over 40 bases during his career.

The Sharks will also return to their lineup their leading hitter from last year’s nine in junior Carter Page, who sported a healthy .352 batting average. A .333 hitter last season for the Sharks, Zach Chappell should provide a steady bat and will also see plenty

of work as a pitcher.

The biggest holes to replace in the lineup will be on the left side of the infield at third base and shortstop, where Brehm and Aleman previously called home. Stanton has moved the versatile Young into the infield this year where he can be a fixture at either second base or shortstop.

The Sharks are hopeful that sophomore Matt Barnhorst, a late season call up in 2017 who nailed down a starting berth at second base, will recover shortly from an injury and regain his spot in the lineup.

Competition for spots in the infield for playing time currently exist for sophomores Alex Ortiz and Porter Jordheim, and much

BASEBALL continues on Page 24

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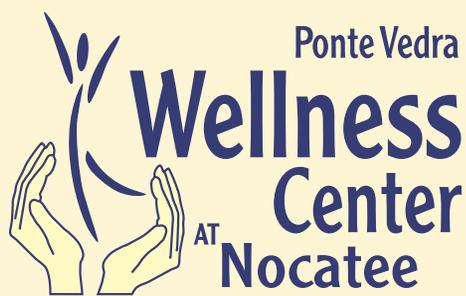
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Baseball

Continued from 23

improved junior Sebastian Rothman. After three games into this campaign, it appears that Roca, when not pitching, has nailed down the first base job.

While many area schools have flourished from transfers, that has not been the case over the past decade at Ponte Vedra. However, Stanton has welcomed the addition to this year's team of junior catcher Mason McLeod, a transfer from South Carolina. Although McLeod is off to a slow start at the plate, the junior has been solid on defense and has displayed an accurate and strong throwing arm.

Rarely has Stanton begun the season with a freshman in a starting role, but such was the case for this year's season opening victory over Bishop Kenny with Cody Nelson penciled into the starting lineup.

"With Cody taking over the leadoff spot, this gives us the opportunity to move Jacob Young into the third hole where he can

knock in some runs," added Stanton.

Chappell, Page and Thomas Barnhorst all started several games in the outfield last year, which gave Stanton the luxury to move Young into the infield.

Despite the 1-2 start this year, Stanton has very few concerns for this year's Sharks squad.

"I think our talent level is really good but if I do have a concern, it's that we need to create a better familiarity with our new crop of catchers and our pitching staff," he said. "We still have some things to do to get better, as everybody feels good about themselves early, but it's in May when we want to be playing our best."

It is likely that in addition to a large crowd anticipated for the upcoming match-up with Bolles, a number of major league scouts could be in attendance to watch a possible pitching duel between either the Sharks' Roca or Faulkner and preseason 1st team All-American Hunter Barco of Bolles.

Those who cannot make the 6 p.m. game can watch the contest live on Facebook by typing in PVHS Broadcasting.

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LOCAL TEEN CELEBRATES HOLE-IN-ONE WITH LATE UNCLE'S CLUBS

Matthew Quintal celebrates making a hole-in-one at No. 8 at Oak Bridge Club on Sunday, Feb. 17. Quintal played with clubs that once belonged to his uncle, who recently passed away due to cancer. Quintal and his uncle frequently played golf together before his passing.

Photo by John Fleming



PINK TEAM DEFEATS RED TEAM IN MARSH LANDING WGA TOURNAMENT

The Pink Team stands victorious after defeating the Red Team 284-283 in the Marsh Landing Women's Golf Association's (WGA) Pink vs. Red Tournament on Tuesday, Feb. 20. Shown right are Pink Team members Jan McManus (from left), Pat Tancredi, Peggy Stanley, Leigh LeMoynes, Florrie Redick, Ginny Dunn and Peggy Reale (Missing: Isobel Spink).



Photo courtesy of Marsh Landing WGA

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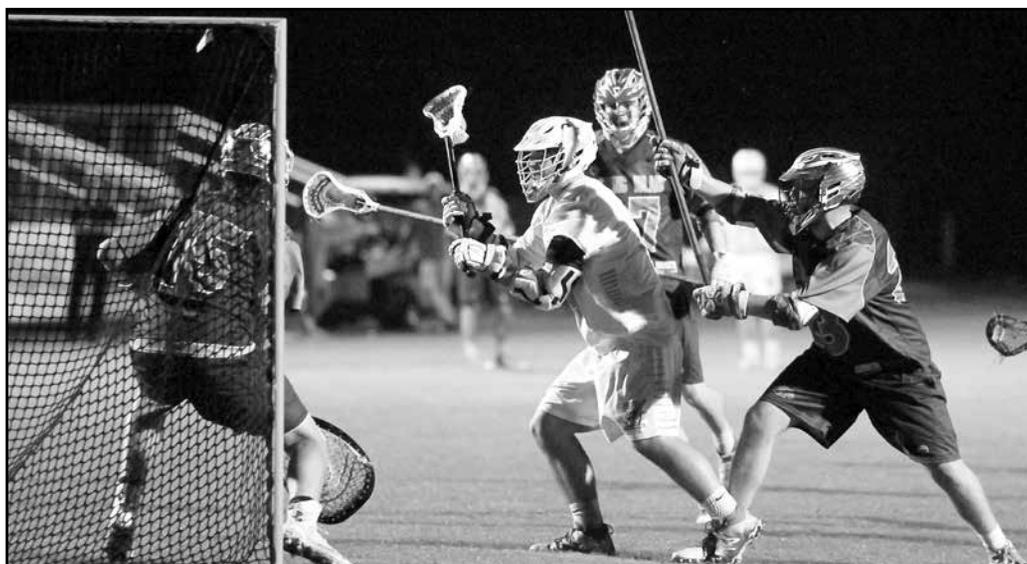
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PVHS boys lacrosse team dominates Fleming Island

The Ponte Vedra boys lacrosse team defeated Fleming Island 15-2 on Friday, Feb. 23, behind five goals from CD James. Other scorers for the Sharks included Jack Burke, Carter Palette, Cam Welch, Joe Taraboletti and Dylan Hess.



CD James (3) scores for the Sharks. He finished with five goals in the 15-2 win over Fleming Island.



ABOVE: Cam Welch scores for the Sharks against the Golden Eagles.



LEFT: PVHS freshman Joe Taraboletti (19) avoids the Fleming Island defender as he circles behind the visitor's goal.

Photos by Jerry and Chris Norton

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71						72				73					

THEME: MARCH MADNESS

ACROSS

1. Birth-related
6. Post-U.S.S.R. acronym
9. Like white-headed eagle
13. ____ and desist
14. In the manner of, French
15. F, unit of electrical capacity
16. Blood line
17. Neighbor of Ger.
18. Upright
19. *San ____, 2018 Final Four spot
21. *NCAA's selection day
23. Color of Scare
24. Bring home the bacon
25. ____ cry
28. ____ ex machina
30. ____ the hook
35. Big-ticket ____
37. Play parts
39. Gulf of Naples resort
40. Flick part
41. Peruvian beast of burden
43. Nonfatty meat, e.g.
44. States of agitated irritation
46. Nucleus plus electrons
47. Montgomery of "Pretty Little Liars"
48. House music
50. Between ids and super-egos
52. 100%
53. Beware of these in March
55. Shoshonean
57. *Winningest NCAA basketball coach
60. *Game tracker
64. Slight amount
65. One of a set of dice
67. Garlic unit
68. Curl one's lip
69. South American edible tuber
70. Curly-leaf and Plain-leaf ____
71. Mannequin Challenge state
72. Kind of nurse
73. *Jump ball, e.g.

DOWN

1. *Non-profit org.
2. Eon, alternative spelling
3. Queen of Hearts' pastry
4. Brooke or John Jacob, of New York
5. Tilted
6. Head of family
7. U.N. workers' grp.
8. Chip dip
9. Shakespeare, e.g.
10. A in A=ab
11. Like a tatting product
12. Banned insecticide
15. Tiny fox with large ears
20. Like utopia
22. Web address
24. Subjects of wills
25. *____ Four
26. Make amends
27. Indiana Jones' find, e.g.
29. *Team with most titles
31. Samoan money
32. Phantom's favorite genre?
33. Physically weak
34. *____ Four
36. Illegal kind of lab
38. Urban haze
42. Affair in Paris
45. Dee of "Twisted Sister"
49. Percy Bysshe Shelley's poem
51. Book storage at a library
54. Furnish with a fund
56. "Bravo! Bravo!"
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Bailey Wagoner delivers a base hit to the left, one of just two hits by the Sharks.

PVHS falls to Ridgeview in softball

The Ponte Vedra Sharks softball team came out on the short end of a 1-0 pitchers' duel to Ridgeview on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at the Shark Tank. Sharks pitcher Michelle Holder allowed an unearned run while striking out six.

Visit pontevedrarecorder.com for more photos from this game, as well as photos from the Sharks' 9-0 victory over Pedro Menendez last week.



Ponte Vedra's Catherine Beaton stretches to get the Ridgeview runner out at first base.

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ABOVE: Nease's Peyton Carter shoots against Gainesville in the Region 1-7A semifinals on Feb. 20. Carter finished with seven points in the game.

RIGHT: Nease's Stephanie Manherz drives past Gainesville defenders in the regional semifinals. Manherz scored seven points for the Panthers.



Photos by Jeff Heinemann/
theimagecaddy.com

Nease girls basketball beats Gainesville, falls to Choctawatchee in regionals

The Nease girls basketball team beat Gainesville 71-45 in the Region 1-7A semifinals on Tuesday, Feb. 20, for its 14th consecutive victory. The Panthers' winning streak ended with a narrow 47-42 loss to Fort Walton Beach-based Choctawatchee in the regional final on Friday, Feb. 23, to finish the season 26-4.



ABOVE: Nease's Kiya Turner drives past Gainesville defenders during the Region 1-7A semifinals. Turner had 15 points in the game.

LEFT: Nease's Mykah Eshbough (34) attempts to block a shot by Gainesville's Madison Johnson during the regional semifinals. Eshbough had 12 points and 12 rebounds in the win.

NEASE GIRLS LACROSSE ROUTS BOLLES



ABOVE: Nease's Shannon Carter (7), Shelby Fox (19) and Autumn Baker (14) fight Bolles players for control of the ball during the Panthers' 18-4 victory over the Bulldogs on Monday, Feb. 26.



LEFT: Nease's Erin Cotter prepares to shoot the ball against Bolles. Nease's next game is against Menendez on Tuesday, March 6.

Photos by Jeff Heinemann/
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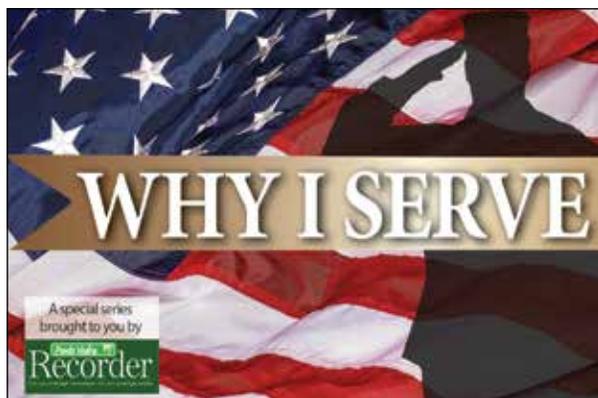
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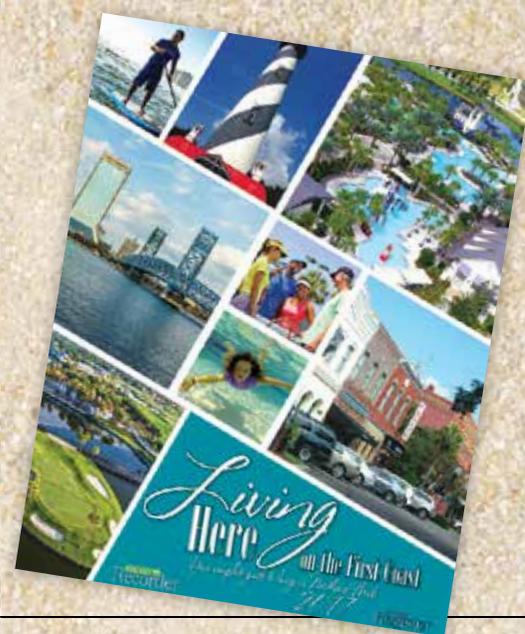
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