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OF COMMUNITY NEWS



# Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

San Jose - San Marco - Nicholas



## Teeing off for Jacksonville Area Legal Aid

Marcus, Paola and Robert Harris with Jack Pearson, were among dozens of golfers and supporters of Jacksonville Area Legal Aid who came out to enjoy the 5th annual fundraiser for JALA, hosted by Pajcic & Pajcic. The May 20 event was split between two venues this year and guests had the option of boating from one course to the other. **READ MORE, PAGE 35**



### CULTURAL COUNCIL BESTOWS ANNUAL HONORS

Jorge Brunet-García, David Engdahl and Kirsten Engdahl pause for a photo at the 41st Annual Arts Awards May 6. Brunet-García's wife, Diane, was an honoree at the event. **READ MORE, PAGE 25**



### CELEBRATING THE KINNE CENTURY

Former Jacksonville University president and chancellor, Dr. Frances Bartlett Kinne celebrated her 100th birthday with friends, like Linda and David Stein, in the lobby of the Howard Administration Building, May 23. **READ MORE, PAGE 35**



### RIVERFRONT ESTATE PROVIDES SUNSETS, PERFECT BACKDROP

For the second straight year, gracious hosts Elaine and Mike Ashourian opened their home for the North Florida School of Special Education River Hops fundraiser.

**READ MORE, PAGE 25**

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## SAN MARCO RESIDENTS PREVIEW JACKSON SQUARE PLANS

By Marcia Hodgson,  
Resident Community News

Parking, security, and the density of the as-yet unplanned second phase of a new Jackson Square development were a few of the concerns posed by San Marco residents during a town hall meeting May 22 at Preservation Hall.

Chance Partners Judd Bobilin of Orlando and Jeff Rosen of San Jose were on hand to answer questions and present the plans for their new \$42 million multi-use development at 2600 Philips Highway, a track of 17.3 acres which lies on the other side of the railroad tracks from many San Marco residents.

Also attending was Buck Pittman, a landscape architect, and two representatives from the

**READ MORE, PAGE 9**

## CITY FINALLY FUNDS RIVERFRONT PARK BULKHEAD RESTORATION

Perhaps hearing the frustrations of many San Marco residents, the City of Jacksonville came one step closer to fixing the bulkhead in San Marco's Riverfront Park when City Council voted unanimously May 9 to appropriate approximately \$1.99 million to repair the bulkhead.

By passing Ordinance 2017-266, the Council voted to fund the replacement of the failing bulkhead at the park on River Road by amending the 2017-2021 Five Year Capital Improvement Program and decreasing funds from several accounts to move the money over to the St. Johns River - Riverfront Park Bulkhead Replacement Project.

City accounts from which the money was moved to fund the project included the St. Johns River

**READ MORE, PAGE 13**



### NFSSE PROM COURT CELEBRATED BY PEERS

The North Florida School of Special Education prom was a special one for students like Evie Schellenberg and Alicia White. A local celebrity made a surprise "appearance" at the dance.

**READ MORE, PAGE 44**

# Player Appreciation Weekend

Friday, June 23 - Sunday, June 25

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## Letter to the Editor

Re: Martin A. Goetz Letter to the Editor May 2017 issue

Dear Editor,

If Mr. Goetz's assumptions are correct, I agree with him regarding the FHCA plan. Kill it!

However, he shows his true colors when he writes "All of this for the benefit of corporate profits (italicized by Mr. Goetz), so that Wall Street can boost stock prices and give dividends to shareholders and bonuses to administrators." It reads to me like Mr. Goetz is a Bernie Sanders socialist as he attacks capitalism. Non-profit, Foundation, University and Government "elites" have no clue what's involved in turning a profit.

Without capitalism, Resident Community News Group, Inc. wouldn't exist for Mr. Goetz to reach an audience. Think about it, how many citizens read the River Garden Senior Services website, if there is one. How many 10 to 12 hour days does Mr. Goetz spend like *Resident News* reporters and editors do in meeting a publishing deadline? Next time, Mr. Goetz, I hope that you keep your opinions on capitalism out of an otherwise illuminating Letter to the Editor regarding big corp lobbyists and nursing home funding.

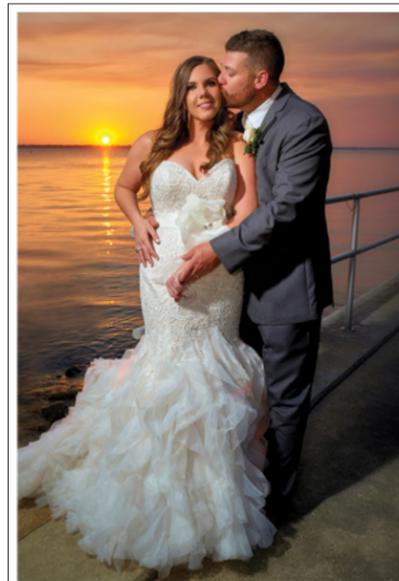
Without capitalism, there is no United States of America, Mr. Goetz.

*E. Rogano, Empire Point*

FYI: I sponsor the Burton "Sarge" Showers Scholarship in Illinois. The \$2,500 scholarship for graduating seniors in high school is awarded based on an essay with the title "Why Democracy, Capitalism and History Count." I've been amazed at the quality work of 18-year-olds who really understand the topic.

**Editor's Note:** Florida's legislators did not pass the state's new fiscal year budget in late April, but will return to Tallahassee this month to resume discussions on whether to expand Medicaid through private insurers, which the Florida Senate proposed, or leave the program as it is, preferred by the Florida House. In the meantime, Gov. Rick Scott created a Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding to examine the issue.

## Publishers' Note



photography by Dan Harris PhotoArt

**C**ongratulations to Tarryn and Brandon Poling! A beautiful evening greeted our guests along the banks of the St. Johns River at Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club as we celebrated a milestone – our daughter's wedding. Close friends and family members gathered for the special day, May 7.

Tarryn Lee Bradford, our daughter, and longtime staff member at *The Resident*, married the love of her life – Brandon Ryan Poling. We welcomed Brandon as our son-in-law, as the Polings welcomed Tarryn into their family.

Elizabeth Slade was the Maid of Honor and Brandon's brother Shawn Poling was the Best Man. Longtime family friend Fred Isaac, a Lay Eucharistic Minister, officiated the ceremony and blessed our family with an outstanding service and vows for the newlyweds.

Tarryn and Brandon both grew up in Ponte Vedra Beach and attended Nease High School only a few years apart. Having never met in high school, the newlyweds met years later at the wedding of mutual friends and were engaged shortly thereafter.

We wish them a blessed, lifelong commitment to marriage and look forward to them raising a beautiful family.

*Seth and Pamela Williams*

## Clarification

In an article about the April 5 TEDxJacksonville salon in *The Resident's* April 2017 issue, City Council President Lori Boyer was quoted as saying the St. Johns River was not conducive to kayaking. "I was not trying to communicate that you can't use non-motorized watercraft downtown. Of course you can," Boyer clarified. "But for an inexperienced user it is better to locate those facilities slightly away from the Acosta-Main Street Bridge currents and further downstream or upstream, as the case may be."

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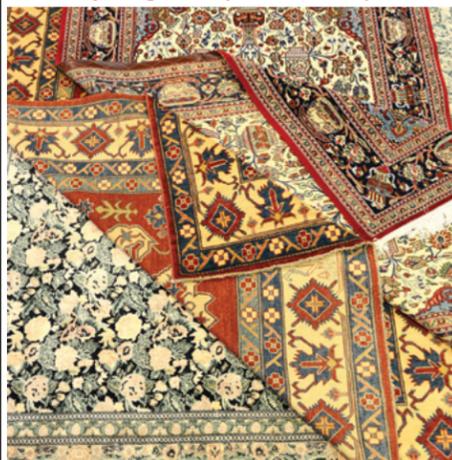
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## Residents discuss Mitchell Avenue traffic calming proposal at Town Meeting

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

“For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction,” is the way Matthew Carlucci of San Marco summed up the dilemma facing San Marco residents, who were presented a proposal to change the traffic pattern at the intersection of Hendricks and Mitchell Avenues.

At a town meeting hosted by City Council President Lori Boyer May 22 at Preservation Hall, more than 25 San Marco neighbors came together to discuss the proposal to eliminate the dedicated right-turn lane northbound from Hendricks onto Mitchell and convert part of Mitchell Avenue into a one-way street as it heads west toward Hendricks.

The meeting came on the heels of another Town Hall discussion about the proposed Jackson Square Development. Joining Boyer at the second meeting were Jacksonville Operations Director of Public Works William Joyce and Nelson Caparas, Jacksonville chief of traffic engineering.

In June, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) plans to resurface Hendricks Avenue and San Jose Boulevard. As part of the project, FDOT intends to eliminate arrows marking the dedicated northbound right-turn lane on Hendricks that allows traffic to turn onto Mitchell Avenue, Boyer said. “You will still be able to turn right, but it won’t be like ‘hey, turn this way,’” explained Boyer. “Hendricks will be two straight-forward lanes without a dedicated right-turn lane,” she said.

To assist with traffic calming and to discourage cut-through traffic seeking a way to bypass the intersection of Hendricks and Atlantic Boulevard, Jacksonville Public Works has proposed eliminating the right turn from Hendricks onto Mitchell by posting appropriate signage and striping over the existing right-turn lane on Hendricks and partway on Mitchell.

For residents with driveways bordering Mitchell Avenue, the street would remain a two-way, except for a short, striped portion of the road near its intersection with Hendricks. That small portion would become a one-way street, allowing motorists only to turn right from Mitchell onto the busy Hendricks thoroughfare.

Although many Mitchell Avenue residents favored the plan because a long stream of traffic prevents them from leaving their driveways in the early morning, it was not received well by others who live on adjacent streets in the Whatley Park area neighborhood.

“If you shut off the right turn onto Mitchell you will put more traffic on Marco Place,” said Robin Robinson, a Marco Place resident. “We also have to sit in our driveways to back out because there is so much cut-through traffic. Now there are 10 residences on Mitchell Avenue that have a problem, but there are 15 on Marco Place with driveways that have a problem. It’s not fair to dump more traffic onto our street,” she said.

Don Halil, an Alexandria Place resident with a driveway adjacent to Mitchell Avenue, approved of the plan and said it was good to be proactive in anticipation of the new

East San Marco development and Publix, which may be built in the future. He also noted that, once the grocery store was built, heavy delivery trucks would be arriving down the span at 5:30 a.m.

Gordon Mott, a San Marco resident, also approved of the idea saying that the right-turn lane was a danger to pedestrians because “people swing around the corner at a speed that is not appropriate.”

But Robinson had none of it. “Right now, the project is on hold and not happening. Let’s readdress the whole issue when East San Marco is actually going to happen,” she said, adding that she was fine with the idea of FDOT removing the arrows marking the right-turn lane.

Recognizing it was impossible to get a consensus, Boyer moved on. She spoke of multiple meetings, which had occurred over the past few years, where residents discussed building a median down Marco Place to slow traffic as well as plans to reduce the speed limit from 30 to 20 mph or to install a series of one-way streets through the area as a deterrent to outside traffic. “All these options have been floated and met with opposition and have not been implemented,” she said.

“I think what we need to get to in terms of a mindset is that we are an urban neighborhood, and we need to realize it is not about how many cars there are but how fast they go. There will be traffic, and it will be backed up. But if you look at the traffic in Washington D.C. and the Georgetown neighborhood, and other urban neighborhoods, there are a lot of cars and it’s slow, which Jacksonville drivers don’t want to do. The reason they are cutting is because they still want to go 45 mph and get there in five minutes,” she continued.

“We need to convince people that once you get into this area, it is better to stay on the interstate if you want to go fast. Once motorists get off and onto surface streets, we need for them to slow down so they can be aware of cars backing out or turning into businesses, and kids crossing the street. That’s where we need to go mentally, because I don’t think we are going to be able to move the quantity of cars that are coming into this bottleneck at a rapid speed. Everybody is going to have to accept a slower speed.”

The group discussed the petition procedure for reducing the speed in the neighborhood to 20 mph, with Boyer stating that 75 percent of the homeowners on each street needed to sign in favor of the petition.

Boyer said some San Marco merchants and other residents have requested on-street parking replace the dedicated right-turn lane at the Hendricks-Mitchell intersection, and she would have Public Works study its feasibility. Having parked cars there may serve as a deterrent, she said.

Boyer’s office will send anyone who requests it a copy of plan to install one-way streets through the area. Before any plan is implemented, notices will be sent to all residents on adjacent streets notifying them of the proposed change and another town meeting would be called, she said. “If I get emails back showing there is an interest in the neighborhood, I will do it again,” she said.



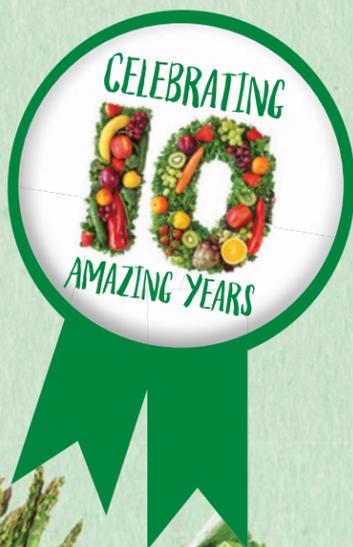
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# Handling of JSYO business leaves donors, students puzzled

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

For more than two decades, Scott Gregg, 51, has lifted the baton for thousands of young musicians – 2,250 to be exact – as principal conductor of the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Despite accolades from his students, Maestro Gregg, as he is called, was notified of his release from the JSYO just prior to his last concert of the season. Gregg was notified April 29 via email that his contract would not be renewed after 22 years of musical influence and impact.

The termination notice, impersonal or otherwise, struck a sour note with his current crop of students. According to Sammy Park, an English horn and oboe player since 2013, the email indicated Gregg would be retiring.

But Park, who immediately launched a petition on change.org to reinstate Gregg, indicated retirement was not on Gregg's mind. "Mr. Gregg told us the real story later that day," Park stated in the petition. "He had never planned on retiring after this concert."

The petition seeks for Gregg to continue as principal conductor of the JSYO and, as of May 30, 633 had signed the online petition.

However, according to the Jacksonville Symphony, the plan is to hire a third full-time conductor to be both principal conductor of the JSYO and work with the symphony, citing the need to have an additional qualified staff conductor.

The Resident reached out to Kathryn Rudolph, director of education and community engagement, for comment on the petition to reinstate Gregg. In response, The Resident received an email from Brian Aull, an attorney with Cole, Scott and Kissane, which represents the Symphony. "The Symphony will not comment on this matter while it is under active investigation," he said.

Parents of the maestro's students don't understand the move. Abby Howard Murphy, whose son, Brendan, played with the youth orchestra for eight years, was also very much involved with the group, serving as guest actress and chaperone. Murphy said she is disappointed in symphony management.

"Until recently an ardent supporter of the JSYO as a season ticket-holder, I am for the first time deeply disappointed in JSYO management and pray Mr. Scott [Gregg] can continue his extraordinary leadership and expertise leading these fine young musicians professionally," she said in the online petition.

"It was always Scott's vision and devotion that made the orchestra program, and especially the two top tiers, 'world class' youth orchestras. Scott and his wife worked tirelessly getting corporate sponsorships, engaging parent volunteers, and identifying conductors for each level, keeping it a viable program," Murphy said in an email following the May 2016 Major-Minor concert. "I cannot imagine anyone else at the helm. Scott was brilliant and inspirational to so many kids who went on to study music seriously. He was credible as a great orchestra conductor and as a musician who still occasionally played violin."

Supporters of the JSYO are not happy about the termination, either. Pete Carpenter, who together with Jim Winston and Larry Zenk formed the JSYO in 1993, said this was not what you would expect from a place "where you go to feed your soul."

"Given what I know about Scott, I think the matter was very poorly handled. Having been around at the start of the youth symphony, I know how far he's taken it," said Carpenter. "We've been blown away by the progress he's made with the orchestra. It was a ragtag beginning, but Scott and his team were able to pull together a first-class performance. It's a major disappointment to have things handled in this manner."

Susan C. Masucci said Gregg's removal is a great loss for the JSYO.

"I think it's a very bad move on the part of the JSYO to retire Scott," Masucci said. "The admiration, love and respect Scott has for his musicians and they for him is indescribable. Very sad for all involved and for our community."

Gregg and his wife, Camille, were candid about their heartbreak over the Symphony's action.

"I have been in this town for 22 years. My wife, Camille, has been in this town for 40 years. I met her at the symphony. If it were



Scott Gregg, principal conductor of the Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestra, shakes the hand of the concertmaster after the Major-Minor concert in May 2016.

not for the symphony I would not be married," said Gregg. "We have pretty much known everybody in town for decades. It's not surprising that we have heard from many of them. They had no idea this had happened until they saw reports in the news and secondhand from the memo from the Symphony."

Although Gregg is under contract until the end of June, his last activity as JSYO principal conductor was the May 14 final concert.

"It was a complete blur," he recalled. "The kids were upset, but I wanted it to be a positive event as my last act and didn't want it to be marred by any protest."

At the very end of the concert, the members of the JSYO Philharmonic took roses they had stashed under their seats, marched to the

podium and put them on the stand in front of Gregg. "That was an amazing gesture," he said.

Ironically, Camille Clement Gregg had recently established a scholarship fund in memory of her mother and launched it with nearly \$25,000 to provide \$1,000 each to the two annual winners of the concerto composition. She has concerns about the future disposition of the fund.

"I am insistent that the Symphony makes sure that every year I can give each winner a thousand dollars," said Camille, who has been a volunteer with the Symphony for decades, as well as Patron Services Manager. "My mom was always a very big donor to the JSYO; she always did that, and always sponsored retreats and would send money privately to kids who didn't have an instrument."



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# JEA begins roadwork on State Road 13

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Driving along Hendricks Avenue/San Jose Boulevard (SR-13) may be complicated for some time to come as the Jacksonville Energy Authority works to improve the water and sewer lines in the San Marco area prior to the start of the Florida Department of Transportation resurfacing project.

Construction began May 8 on San Jose Boulevard near Grosvenor Square and will continue along the west side of SR-13 in the stretch between San Marco Boulevard and Cornell Street, the same stretch of road that FDOT plans to begin resurfacing this fall. The work will involve replacing and upgrading a portion of the water and sanitary sewer lines in the area to provide “better system reliability” for JEA customers, according to information supplied by JEA Project Outreach Manager Greg Corcoran.

The utility work is scheduled to be complete October 31, before the start of FDOT’s resurfacing project.

Motorists will be permitted to drive with caution through the construction area during the pipe installation. Construction will occur in the city’s streets, rights of way and easements.

United Brothers Development, Inc. is the subcontractor in charge of the project. It will be required to temporarily close one lane of traffic and the parking area along the shoulder of the road while



Road work on a JEA Water and Sewer Improvement Project began in May on San Jose Boulevard near Grosvenor Square Drive.

working in the immediate area to install the new pipe.

The project area will be restored soon after the pipes are installed, with grass, curbing, gutters, driveways and sidewalks returned to their pre-construction condition. FDOT will schedule the final milling, paving and restriping of the area once its resurfacing project is completed. FDOT estimates its roadway project to be completed by the summer or fall of 2018.

# Millers Creek dredging project clears first hurdle

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

The Millers Creek Special Tax District came one step closer, during its meeting May 15 at the Havana Jax Café in St. Nicholas, to hiring an engineering firm to do the work of its dredging project.

With only one firm responding to its Request for Proposal by the April 21 deadline, the board voted unanimously to accept the proposal of the engineering consulting firm Amec Foster Wheeler, which submitted a comprehensive 49-page document establishing its qualifications regarding the scope of the project.

The next step for the Board is to meet with representatives of Amec Foster Wheeler and negotiate a contract, said Board Attorney Wayne Flowers of Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.

Prior to the deadline, Board Secretary Sharon Johnson said she had received three inquiries from vendors concerning the dredging project’s request for proposal. Amec Foster Wheeler was the only firm to submit its qualifications by the deadline, she said.

Joe Wagner, a senior dredging engineer with Amec Foster Wheeler’s water resources environment and infrastructure division, is a regular attendee of many monthly Millers Creek Special Tax District Board meetings, and often supplies the board with helpful information.

Even so, Johnson was dismayed that his was the only engineering firm to be considered, and she questioned whether the Millers Creek board should wait in case other firms might respond with qualifications. “Are we at a major disadvantage to only have one respond?” she asked.

However, Flowers nixed that idea saying once the deadline had passed, the board could only consider firms which had submitted proposals prior to the deadline. If the board was not satisfied with the qualifications of Wagner’s firm, it could completely redo the RFP process and seek other proposals, he said.

“Once you set a deadline, if they don’t come in by that date, they’re out of it,” he said. “You will have to do another RFP and start over.”

“My opinion is that his firm (Amec Foster Wheeler) is immensely qualified to do this work,” Flowers continued, when asked directly by Johnson for his thoughts on the matter.

So as not to violate the Sunshine Law, which states that board business must be transparent to the public, only one board member can be involved with the negotiation process outside of an advertised public meeting, Flowers said. After discussing the Sunshine Law at some length, the board decided to appoint Chris McMorrow, the husband of Board member Barbara McMorrow, and Millers Creek resident Bobby Baker, an engineer with experience with dredging projects, to join Board member Jonathan Wright in conducting preliminary negotiations with Wagner’s firm. The trio will discuss the specifics of the contract and return to the board with its recommendations.

The board will discuss the negotiations and possibly vote on a contract at its next regularly scheduled board meeting, Monday, June 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Havana Jax Café. The board also plans to vote on the amount of its next neighborhood tax assessment during its upcoming meeting in July.

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# Jackson Square plan

FROM PAGE 1

engineering firm Kinley-Horne. Humphreys & Partners will be the architectural firm and Universal Engineering will serve the geotechnical aspects of the project. Pegasus Residential will be the property manager. Because the Planned Unit Development (PUD) was approved by City Council in 2008, local attorney T.R. Hainline, Jr. will help shepherd the project through the Jacksonville Planning Commission, which has the last word on minor changes to the project.

The developers, who also own and are repurposing St. Johns Village and the Commander Apartments near the Shoppes of Avondale, said they intend to close on the Jackson Square property the third week of May. They are seeking a minor modification to the PUD from the Jacksonville Planning Commission, Thursday, June 8, at 1 p.m.

“We are purchasing this property this week. We are not coming in and just putting in a piece of paper to see if we can get it approved. We are putting our own money down to purchase this property,” said Bobilin. “We believe in it. As Chance Partners, we’ve been in business since 2009, and we have a 95-percent success rate in taking projects from concept to completion.”

At the start of the meeting, the developers, who specialize in infill properties, outlined their plans for the blighted property that was once a Jerry Hamm Chevrolet dealership.

The existing PUD allowed the original developers to build 750 multi-family units and 350,000 square feet of commercial space, but what Chance Partners has planned for the property is considerably less, Bobilin said.

In asking for the minor modification, Chance Partners hope to swap the location of Phase 1 and Phase 2 in the existing PUD so that Phase 1 would lie on nine acres north of the access road into the property. The remaining eight acres near River Oaks Road would comprise Phase 2 and remain undeveloped at this time, they said. They also plan to eliminate the ground-floor retail under the residential buildings, and “lower the density of the project completely,” Bobilin said.

“Our project vision is less density, less construction impacts to the neighborhood, and less intense vehicular traffic,” Bobilin said.

A standalone 10,000-square-foot commercial building will front Philips Highway. Three four-story buildings, comprising 286 units within a gated community, will lie north and behind the commercial structure. Two-thirds of the apartments will be one-bedroom, with the remaining as two-bedroom and three-bedroom units,



A rendering of Phase 1 of the new Jackson Square development proposed by Chance Partners Judd Bobilin and Jeff Rosen, which was displayed during a San Marco town meeting May 22 at Preservation Hall.

*“Our project vision is less density, less construction impacts to the neighborhood, and less intense vehicular traffic.”*

— Judd Bobilin, Chance Partners

Rosen said. The one-bedroom apartments are expected to rent for \$1,000 a month and the two-bedrooms for \$1,300, he said. The project will follow stipulations for the existing PUD with approximately 1.33 spaces of surface parking per unit. The gated main entrance for the residential community will border on Philips Highway with an additional residents-only entrance onto Mitchell Place.

“It will be a Class A apartment complex with granite countertops, a resort pool, and a bike-share program so residents can head into San Marco,” Rosen said. “We’ve spent a lot of time trying to find a property that from a design standpoint would fit overall into the neighborhood.”

Jackson Square’s economic impact on the San Marco community will be huge, said Bobilin. Currently the area comprising Phase 1 generates \$35,000 in taxes, but once the property is developed and stabilized it should generate \$620,000 in taxes, he said. “That’s a pretty significant impact – a 1,700-percent increase. The residents that we expect to live here should have a spending power that will exceed \$4 million annually, and a lot of that should be spent in the San Marco community. The project from an operational standpoint will spend over \$1 million as well.”

### Addressing the concerns

During the meeting residents expressed several concerns, which the developers promised to spell out explicitly within the minor modification. The first was to state that all recreation per unit required by the city’s comprehensive plan for the PUD be

satisfied onsite, and not by including FEC/Alexandria Oaks Park in San Marco as implied by the existing PUD.

The second concern, brought up by San Marco resident Robin Robinson and City Council President Lori Boyer, was that the balance of the 750 residential units and 340,000 square feet of retail not be built in Phase 2 when it is finally developed.

“To clarify, are you reducing density on the whole PUD or just not building it in Phase 1?” asked Boyer, a San Marco resident. “If there are 750 units altogether allowed, are you just putting 286 on this parcel and reserving the right to put the entire remainder on the other parcel closer to River Oaks Road? The way a PUD works, it’s not if you don’t use the 501 in Phase 1 that they go away. It’s simply 750 total,” she explained. “By reducing what you are doing on the north, you are intensifying the south.”

Hainline admitted legally that was a possibility, but said it was not the developers’ intention. “Yes, it could go like that, but that’s not what their intent is,” he said. And Bobilin also assured the group it is not Chance Partner’s intention to stuff the remainder into the second phase. He also said he was willing to put it in writing before the Planning Commission meeting.

“We’re not planning that. We haven’t even focused on planning Phase 2 yet. Our intent is to de-intensify the project. We think it was a very grand and ambitious project that was going to be done previously. We have no plans to do 350,000 square feet of commercial on this space or the additional units that would make up the 750,” he said.

Also of concern to Boyer was parking for the site. “Originally the reason this

project had a significant reduction in parking requirements was that it was to have a mandatory mixed-use component and assumed some percentage of people would work onsite in retail or offices,” she said, noting if the developers complied with the existing PUD requirements for parking they would run about one space per unit based on mixed use and not 1.33 or more based on the zoning code requirements for multi-family development. She said she wanted the clarification spelled out in the minor modification.

Missie Sara LePrel, a realtor and San Marco resident, expressed concern about the development’s security. “There is constant foot traffic in San Marco with pedestrians breaking into cars,” she said, adding that a huge “comfort zone” is needed to draw renters to the Philips Highway environment.

“We understand the No. 1 concern of residents is security. If they don’t feel secure they won’t live here,” said Bobilin. “We will have gated and security systems in place and each unit will be pre-wired for a security system. If we have issues we will be throwing money at it to make sure. We are investing a lot of money in this project and the last thing we want is to see it degraded by elements outside the community that will cause problems for our residents.”

“We realize we are pioneering, which is why we are purchasing the property,” said Bobilin. “We’re excited. We think this is a great opportunity to be in the San Marco area. Hopefully we will be a catalyst for some other areas on the eastern side and will help to modify and redevelop some things north of here on Philips as well.”

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# Downtown Dwellers to log volunteer hours in “partnership” with city

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

The Downtown Dwellers, a group seeking to be the “voice” of the residents living Downtown, has decided to cement its partnership with the Jacksonville Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department by asking its members to log the “volunteer” hours they spend monitoring the Southbank Riverwalk outside of their homes.

In a meeting April 28, in the ninth-floor lounge of The Peninsula Condominiums, the Dwellers met with Daryl Joseph, director of Parks and Recreation, and Jill Enz, City park development and natural resources manager, to discuss issues related to the Riverwalk, a City park.

The Dwellers is headed by Sandra Fradd and Susan Strauss, who live in The Peninsula, and Tom Dumas and John Smith, who live in The Plaza. In addition to The Plaza and Peninsula, the meeting included residents from The Strand and San Marco Place as well as two local businesses – Art Casey, general manager of The Lexington Hotel and Nannette Sutton, owner of the Southbank’s oldest building, located at the corner of Kings Street and Prudential Boulevard.

The Dwellers’ group came into existence in November 2015 when a group of concerned Downtown citizens met with City personnel to “inform those responsible for the Southbank Riverwalk of construction problems.” Since then, the group has tried to work closely with Parks and Recreation personnel to resolve problems affecting the Riverwalk.

“At every single meeting since its inception, Daryl Joseph has been a part of it, and

we’ve always worked as friends,” said Fradd. “It’s awfully easy to find fault, and there are many faults and we are good at finding them. But it is much more important that we find our commonality and work together to resolve these issues.”

Willing to work with the residents, Joseph and Enz have agreed to meet with the Dwellers once a month so they can update the group of progress the City has made to address Riverwalk-related issues. To keep up its end of the bargain, the Dwellers will distribute to Downtown residential locations sign-up sheets for volunteers to log the hours they spend monitoring the Riverwalk. Fradd said she will compile the data from the sheets and report back monthly to the Parks Department.

“Walking the Riverwalk with the intention of looking at it to see if something needs to be fixed would qualify as a volunteer hour. Now if you pick up trash, that counts especially. But it doesn’t demand that you pick up trash, it is simply walking with the intention to ensure that our Riverwalk is up to par and at the level that we would want it to be,” Fradd explained.

Residents interested in helping can forward their volunteer hours to [TheDowntownDwellers@gmail.com](mailto:TheDowntownDwellers@gmail.com).

During the meeting, Joseph said the leaking Sailor Fountain on the Southbank has been fixed and problems with the fountain’s lighting, which seems to require maintenance, is still a concern. “Water and electricity don’t always work well together,” Joseph said. “We were thinking of installing some lights that are elevated and actually shine down on the fountain so we don’t have the ongoing maintenance and issues.”

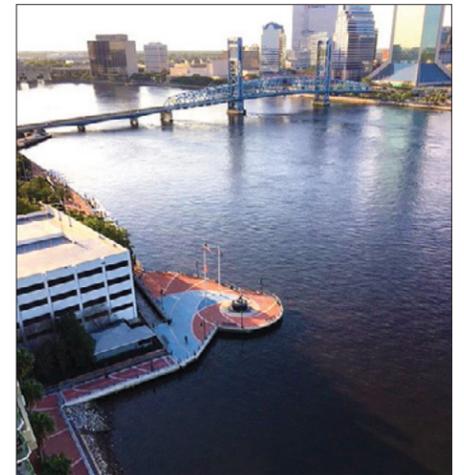
The original commemorative plaque for the Sailor fountain has been located and the City is working on a mounting location and frame structure, reported Fradd. Also, the pavers near the fountain, which were stained while it was leaking, need to be removed and this project is expected to be tackled by the City this summer, Joseph said.

In May, the City began working on the gaps and shifting of the pavers by adding polymeric sand, a project that will occur in five stages. “We want to start down at the School Board Building and work our way back,” said Joseph. Pavers that were replaced with the wrong color for the Riverwalk will be replaced with those of the correct color this summer.

Fradd said the Dwellers were excited the City had cleaned out detritus left from the homeless in a garden area adjacent to their Southbank building, and that by June 30, 2017 rip-rap is to be installed near the restroom building to prevent homeless from roosting there.

Another goal that’s been realized is the installation of “No Fishing” signs along the Riverwalk so that the law can now be enforced by the Jacksonville Sheriffs Department. “With the No Fishing signs, it’s enforceable now. If you see someone fishing you can call the police. And JSO is now stationed at The Landing, so they are close by,” said Fradd.

This summer, the City plans to reinstall missing and broken sail shades on the Riverwalk, which were damaged by Hurricane Matthew. “They are specialty shades. I actually ordered extra, but somebody vandalized them so we are down by two,” Joseph explained.



View of the leaking Sailor Statue on the Southbank Riverwalk which has been fixed by the city.

During the meeting, Joseph said he was grateful to the Dwellers and their willingness to work with the City. “Thank you for the partnership. I truly believe communication is the key,” he said.

“There may be things we are working on that you guys could care less about, but there are others you think need to be prioritized – I get the emails on that. We have a task force now, we can track what’s going on, and we are developing a document so we can say this is our game plan and give you the estimated dates,” Joseph said. “A lot of times we say we are going to do X, Y, Z, but there is no follow-up. Some things are out of my control, and I will tell you that, but there are certain things in my control that I can handle and you guys can tell me if that is not happening.”

Fradd agreed. “Our goal is to make this Riverwalk an amenity that we all are proud of,” she said.

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# Neighbors spearhead Largo Well Park makeover

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

San Marco's 92-year-old Largo Well Park, home to many a neighborhood Easter egg hunt and other informal community gatherings over the years, is in dire need of a makeover.

Plants in the park are overgrown and scraggly. The irrigation system is on the fritz and the artesian well, which sits in the center of the park, no longer flows steadily, indicating it's in need of repair.

To remedy the situation, Largo Road neighbors, spurred on by San Marco activist Zimmermann Boulos, have willingly opened their wallets to join with the Jacksonville Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department to refurbish the park this spring.

"Largo Park was last revitalized in 1993," said Ron Ritchie, who lives adjacent to the park. "About a year ago, the park started to look tired and in need of another revitalization."

Boulos agreed. "I know that landscaping is about 25 years old, because I remember catching tadpoles out of the fountain with my daughter, and now she is 25," he said.

In 1993, when the park was initially rejuvenated, the neighborhood funded the effort. Nine of the homeowners that contributed at that time still live on Largo Road, said Ritchie. "All nine of these neighbors have stepped forward once again and happily wrote checks for this second revitalization," he said.

In all, \$7,500 was collected from as many as 20 residents to purchase plants and fix the irrigation system, said Boulos, noting that longtime Largo Road resident Ernie Saltmarsh III donated the lead gift. "Over the years, the Saltmarsh family has always supported all the projects we've undertaken," Boulos said.

After meeting with Daryl Joseph, director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services, Boulos and Ritchie consulted with Scott Dowman, a landscape architect at Phillips Garden Store, to draw up a landscape plan.

Dune sunflowers, "Emerald Goddess" Liriope, Autumn Angel Encore Azalea, and Crinum asiaticum will be planted. The Live Oak trees will be thinned to allow more light in the park so the grass will thicken. "Everything we picked out is very hearty and almost indestructible," Boulos said. "It's all stuff that will survive."

The park's artesian well once served the Gamble and Stockton brickyard, which mined clay from the area where Marco Lake now stands, said Boulos. Years ago, as the neighborhood began to fill in, the developers dug a canal to link the clay pit with the St. Johns River, flooding it to create Marco Lake, he said.

The artesian well still works but has been purposely turned down to a trickle because it was using too much water, Boulos said, adding the revitalization plan entails stocking it again with aquatic plants, water lilies, and tadpoles.

Largo Road resident Ginny Stein, a San Marco interior designer, agreed to select new furniture, which will be installed around the fountain, Boulos said.

The city will plant the new foliage at the end of May, Joseph said.

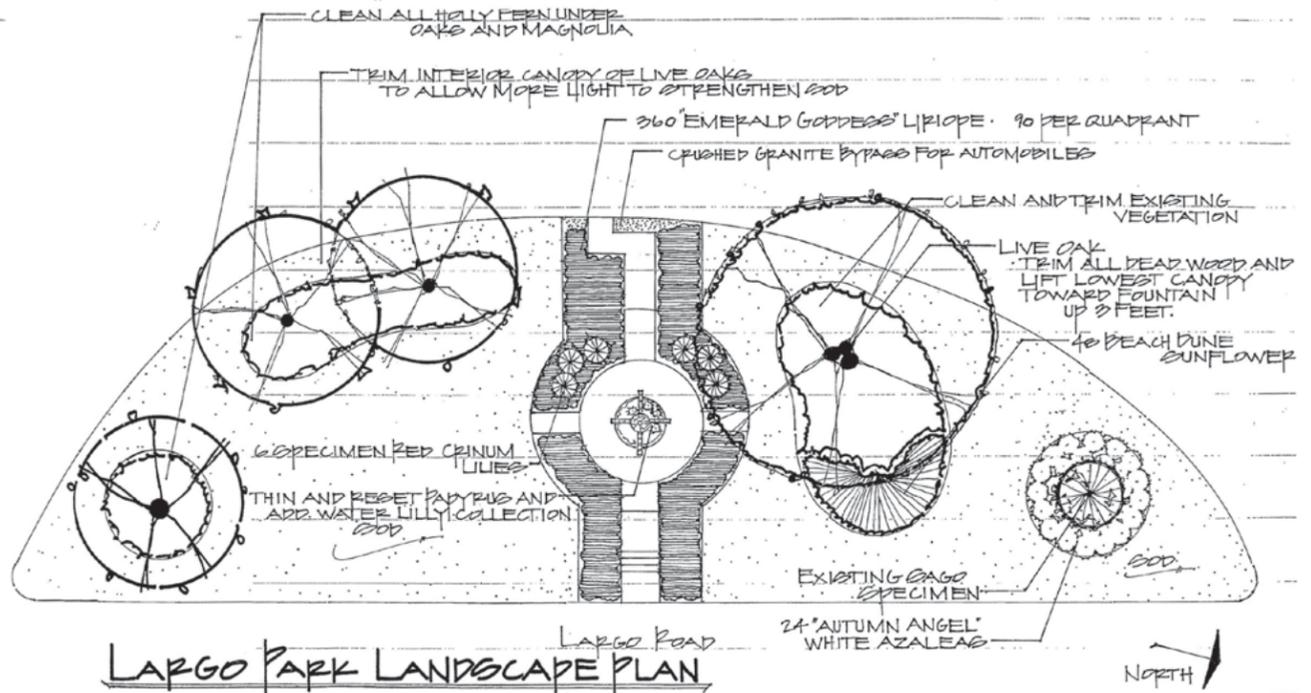


Thanks to a neighborhood initiative, Largo Well Park in San Marco is going to be re-landscaped with native plants.

"There is a lot of good energy around this park," said Boulos. "Everyone who was asked contributed. All of us can do more together than anyone of us alone," he said.

And even though he doesn't live on Largo Road, Boulos said he was happy to be the

catalyst on the park project. "I just like things in the neighborhood to look as nice as they can. This is a great neighborhood. People respond to projects like this, and that's what makes San Marco such a wonderful place to live."



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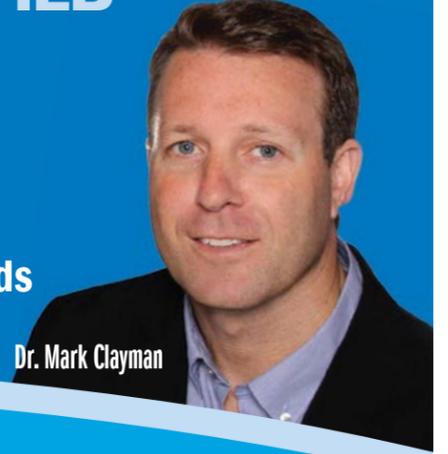
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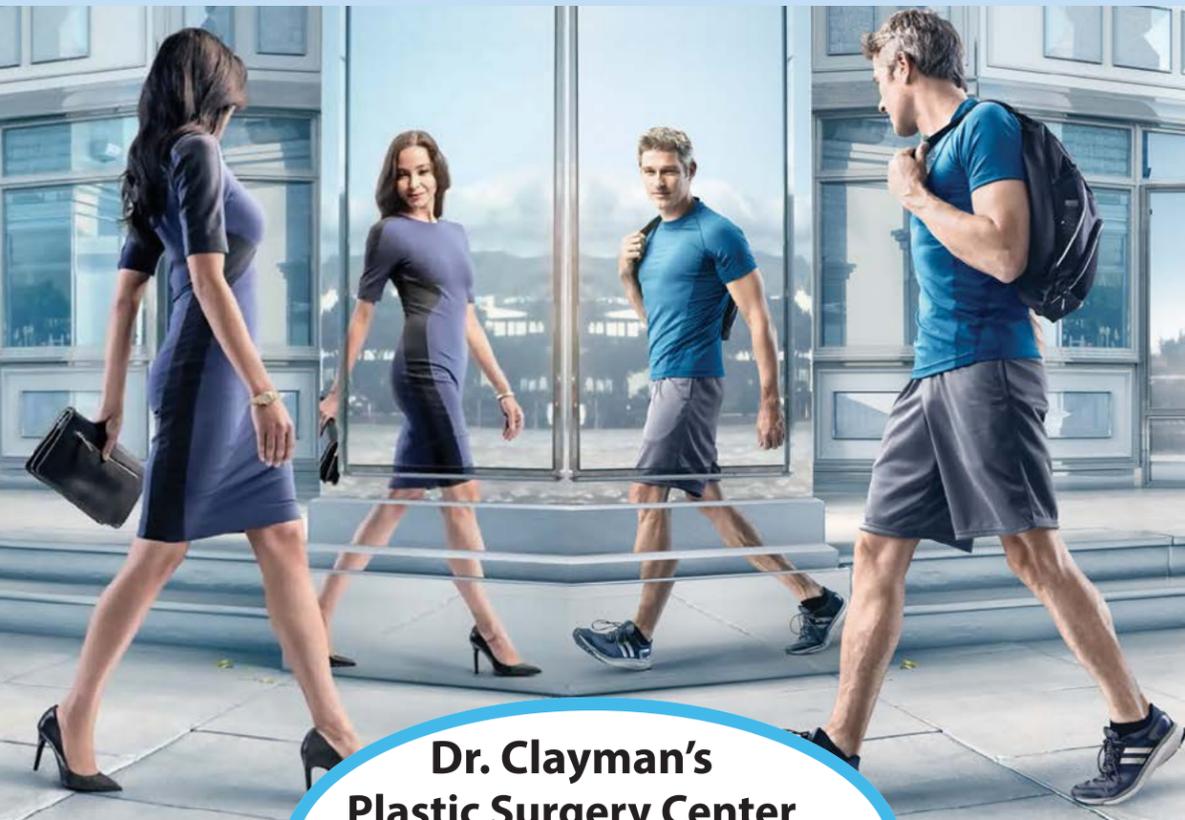
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20 WEEKS AFTER CoolSculpting® session  
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## Riverfront Park bulkhead restoration

FROM PAGE 1

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Bulkhead/Riverwalk Repairs Project, The St. Johns River Bulkhead, Assess/Restore Project & Countywide Bulkhead Assessment, and the Repair Replacement Projects to the St. Johns River – Riverfront Park Bulkhead Replacement Project.

According to information supplied by the City, the cost of the complete project is \$2.6 million. The appropriation of \$1,986,996.23 is a combination of existing proceeds and interest earnings already in city coffers. The transfer of funds was approved by the City's Bond Counsel, and the remaining balance is expected to be raised through future appropriations from the Fiscal Year 2018 budget process.

Council President Lori Boyer said the City needed to scrounge up more funds after all the bids it received were considerably higher than what had been first set aside by the city. "We started out at \$500,000, so it's a dramatic increase in costs," said Boyer, who represents San Marco.

It may take as long as 60 to 90 days for construction to begin on the project, Boyer said during a meeting May 22. "They are ready to keep moving forward but now the next thing that they have to do is get the permit from DEP (Department of Environmental Protection)," she said, adding that she also has called DEP in an effort to expedite matters.

"Public Works committed to call them tomorrow and try to work on them. I told them, 'You've been saying next month, next month, next month for a while. Let's get this underway,'" she said. "It took us nine months because we had a lower cost estimate, and that's how much money we had and the bids came in at more than that

estimate. Then we re-bid it to see if we could get it back down. We couldn't. Then we had to appropriate more money, so that's the saga," she explained.

A sheet-pile bulkhead with concrete cap will be installed, and the park will remain fenced off until construction is complete, according to the Public Works Engineering and Construction Management Division.

Many San Marco residents are frustrated that the City appears to be dragging its feet in focusing on the project. "I'm frustrated that Riverfront Park hasn't been addressed sooner, particularly since the city seems to have funds to do projects in other parks," said Anita Morrill, who lives on the river adjacent to the park. "I realize there is permitting and budgeting, but this should be a huge priority because the park has been closed since October, and it is a community park. The crumbling bulkhead needs to be fixed because it affects properties on each side of the park and ultimately the road (River Road)," she said.

## After school ends, 'storage' lane construction to begin

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

San Marco residents may finally get some relief from congestion along San Jose Boulevard during the early morning and afternoon hours when parents routinely drop off or pick up their children at Hendricks Avenue Elementary School.

Construction is slated to begin Monday, June 5, on a right-turn "storage" lane along San Jose Boulevard in the rear of Hendricks Avenue Elementary, according to the Jacksonville Public Works Department. The lanes will allow non-school traffic to bypass vehicles waiting to drop off or pick up students at the school, so that congestion and traffic in the neighborhoods south of the school may be minimized.

Already several trees have been cut down to make way for the project, which was awarded to Aquino Construction, the lowest, responsive bidder, at a cost of \$129,835.62.

"We anticipate one lane of the existing roadway to be closed during active construction on the new turn lane," said Tia Ford, a spokesperson for the city. Project work hours will be limited to the hours between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., she said.

In total, the project is estimated to take 130 days, ending around October 12.

## City spiffs up Balis Park with new plantings

At the San Marco Merchants Association's request, officials from the City of Jacksonville Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department provided new plantings in Balis Park as summer approaches.

Under the direction of SMMA's Leah Roesler, a landscape architect with Cascade Outdoor Design, and Jill Enz, a landscape architect with the Parks and Recreation Department, employees from Landscape Construction, LLC installed more than 100 new plantings around the gazebo in the center of San Marco Square.

Included among the mix were Queen Emma Purple Crinum lilies, crinum lilies, coontie palms, and foxtail ferns. The new plants were surrounded by pine straw mulch, said Roesler, adding that annuals will also be planted as soon as the city fixes the park's irrigation system.

"We want to minimize foot traffic through the flower beds," Roesler said. "We designed it to add color but to still keep with the Mediterranean-Spanish feel of San Marco. We want to enhance the park so it will be a better experience for visitors and will draw people in so they will use the park more."



Employees of Landscape Construction LLC were out in force May 10 installing new plants near the gazebo in Balis Park.

## New homes to be built near San Jose Forest

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

The wooded landscape fronting the San Jose Forest subdivision on San Jose Boulevard has changed for residents living in the quiet neighborhood near Christopher Creek and Nathan Krestul Park. At the entrance of their subdivision, on six parcels covering just under two acres of land bordering San Jose Boulevard, the San Jose Estates subdivision is being built.

The heavily wooded property has been cleared and a sign advertising "Luxury Single Family Homes starting in the mid \$400,000s" stands out front. Included with each home purchase is a membership to Epping Forest Yacht and Country Club, which is located across the street.

According to the Jacksonville Property Appraiser's website, the property was formerly categorized as "waste land" or

"jurisdictional wetlands." It has since been zoned as RLD-90 (residential low density with 90-foot setbacks). The homes will face San Jose Boulevard with driveways entering onto the busy thoroughfare, said a contractor working to clear the land. He also said the neighbors should be happy the snakes, mosquitoes and other wildlife have been vanquished from the property.

The six parcels comprising the new subdivision have had three separate owners since 2002, with the latest sale coming April 28, 2016, when the property transferred from Christiana Forest SJ LLC to San Jose Estates, LLC for \$165,000.

San Jose Estates is a limited liability company owned by Feras Mouded, a real estate broker from Fort Caroline. The property has been cleared by MW Reliable Enterprises, beginning in early April.

Many San Jose Forest residents are unhappy the City of Jacksonville agreed



The woods at the entrance of San Jose Forest has been cleared to make way for a new subdivision, San Jose Estates.

to allow a developer to build on the wetlands in front of their subdivision, and they questioned whether area was buildable as it also lies within a flood zone, said City Council President Lori Boyer who represents San Jose. "We had lots of meetings and I received numerous emails when the permits were issued," she said.

However, the developer came up with an engineering plan the Public Works Department thought would be appropriate, Boyer said. "Public Works thought it would work, especially if it is sealed properly

and designed by an engineer with a storm-water vault under the ground, which will drain the water over to Christopher Creek, and a catch basin where the water is supposed to come down from the lots behind and get into a drain system, so it's not supposed to flood anything," she said, noting in spite of this solution many of the neighbors are still unsatisfied.

"The City determined the engineering solution was viable and felt they couldn't deny the permit," she said.



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Larry Celzo

**FirstAtlantic Bank brings on new vice president**

Larry Celzo has joined FirstAtlantic Bank as vice president, senior commercial banker. Working from the San Marco office, his responsibilities include developing new customer relationships in the bank's targeted markets of businesses and professionals.

Celzo, who was most recently with IBERIABANK, brings 14 years of financial services experience to his new position. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in business administration from the University of North Florida.

He is a military veteran having previously served four years of active duty in the United States Air Force, and is currently serving his 15th year in the Florida Air National Guard.

Celzo is also very involved in the community as he serves as the vice chairman for the Child Guidance Center of Jacksonville, a trustee for Memorial Health's Specialty Hospital, and as chairman of the programs committee for the Meninak Club of Jacksonville. He previously served as the vice president of the University of North Florida Coggin College of Business Alumni Chapter.

# MOVERS & SHAKERS

## Morning Star School welcomes two major donors for new high school campaign

Two new major donors have joined the Morning Star Circle of Friends with \$100,000 donations. Mary Pat and David Kulik, of Marsh Landing, will name the new high school wing while Patty and Rick Jones, of Mandarin, have naming rights for the new middle school wing.

Morning Star School, a Catholic special education school, is expanding in its 60th year of operation to include Grades 9 to 12. The Building a Brighter Future Campaign is co-chaired by Lou Walsh, Robert Shircliff, and Jay Demetree. With nearly \$600,000 given to date, the campaign is over one-third of the way toward its \$1.5 million goal.

While the Kuliks are still pondering names, the Jones decided to honor Sister Elise Kennedy, who is the office assistant at the school. Kennedy was similarly honored in 2014 when a pavilion was named in her honor upon her retirement as principal from St. Pius V Catholic School.

The Kuliks, who are members of Our Lady Star of the Sea, said all four of their daughters attended Christ the King Catholic School, which is located next door to Morning Star, a school that provides a Catholic education for children with specific learning disabilities, attention deficit disorders, dyslexia, and mild emotional handicaps.

"We drove past Morning Star twice a day for many years and thought this was a great



Circle of Friends Donors Patty and Rick Jones and Mary Pat and David Kulik, with Capital Campaign Co-Chair Lou Walsh, and Jean Barnes, principal of Morning Star school.

opportunity," said David Kulik. "Whatever we have, God gave us," said his wife, Mary Pat. "It's not ours to keep." Two of the Kuliks' daughters are members of Assumption Catholic Church in St. Nicholas, another attends St. Paul's Catholic Church in Riverside and one belongs to the San Juan Del Rio parish in the Switzerland area.

The Joneses said they think education is important and were very blessed, so they are giving back, but it's not the first

time they have extended their generosity to the Diocese. Rick Jones is also instrumental in a \$10 million campaign at Guardian Catholic School.

There are still naming opportunities available, said Maria Johnson, director of development. The entire high school, the technology and learning center, and a playground are among a list of items that require funding. To learn more, visit [morningstar-jax.org](http://morningstar-jax.org).

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Front: Paul Seymore, Jim Fortenberry, Jim Love, Jim Lewis, Bob Lowery; back: Tim Burleigh, Michael Robinson, Sam Costello, Walter Bryant; not present, Courtland Hunter

## Men's Garden Club elects new officers

The Men's Garden Club of Jacksonville elected officers and appointed a board of directors May 1 for the 2017-2018 year.

At the installation were Robert Lowery, president; Tim Burleigh of Riverside, vice president; Jim Lewis, treasurer for the fourth year; Paul Seymore of Avondale, secretary, and Walter Bryant of St. Nicholas, immediate past president. The Board of Directors includes Sam Costello and Courtland Hunter serving their second year of a two-year term, and Board Chair Michael Robinson, Jim Fortenberry, and Jim Love of San Marco, all beginning a two-year term.

## New officers named to Baptist Health Board

Richard Sisisky of San Jose and Michael J. Grebe of Ponte Vedra have been elected to serve as officers on the Baptist Health Board of Directors.

Sisisky was elected chair of the Baptist Health Board. He joined the Baptist Jacksonville Board of Directors in 2002 and the Baptist Health Board in 2007. Sisisky also is chairman of the "Securing Tomorrow Together" comprehensive campaign for Baptist Health. He is president of The Shircliff & Sisisky Co., a management consulting firm based in Jacksonville.

Grebe was named vice chair of the Baptist Health Board. He joined the Baptist Health



Richard Sisisky



Michael J. Grebe

Board of Directors in 2012, and also serves on the Baptist Health Foundation Board of Trustees. Grebe was formerly Chief Executive Officer of Interline Brands and currently an advisory director to Berkshire Partners. He previously served on the board of the Jacksonville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

## Two named to Wolfson Children's Hospital Board

Paula Drum and Clay B. Tousey III were selected to join the Board of Directors of Wolfson Children's Hospital May 2.

With 20 years of experience in eCommerce running various marketing and eCommerce teams, Drum has served as vice president of Marketing and eCommerce at Interline Brands since August 2014. Prior to joining Interline, she was vice president of Brand Services for Bluestem Brands, an eCommerce retailer.

Tousey, a lawyer, joined Fisher, Tousey, Leas & Ball in 2008, and became a shareholder



Paula Drum



Clay B. Tousey III

in 2011. He focuses on estate planning and general corporate representation. A native of Atlantic Beach, he graduated from Harvard University in 2002 and the University of Virginia's law school in 2005. He is a trustee of Riverside Presbyterian Church.

## Baptist Health COO recognized by national healthcare news organization

Long-time Baptist Health Chief Operating Officer John Wilbanks, of San Marco, has been named one of the Top 25 COOs in Healthcare for 2017 by Modern Healthcare. It is the first time that Modern Healthcare, the industry's leading source of healthcare business and policy news, has recognized top operating officers from a spectrum of healthcare organizations of all sizes in the United States.

Wilbanks has been executive vice president and COO of Baptist Health in Northeast Florida since 2004. He joined Baptist as vice president of professional services in 1986 and was promoted to senior vice president in 1990.

A fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives, Wilbanks has operational and strategic responsibility for all five hospitals in the Baptist Health system, along with capital and construction planning, business development and innovation strategies, and physical integration. He leads the health care system's Senior Leadership Team and hospital Administrators Council as well as its Patient Experience Steering Committee, a forum for integrating best practices across the enterprise.

"John Wilbanks is the consummate servant leader," said Baptist Health President and Chief Executive Officer Hugh Greene, a San Jose resident. "He builds relationships, fosters teamwork, and has an intensity and drive to achieve organizational success with one goal in mind – serving our community with excellence."

Wilbanks' commitment to serving the community is evident in his volunteer leadership. He was former chair of the



John Wilbanks

Board of Directors of The Sulzbacher Center, which provides services to homeless individuals and families, and was awarded the 2014 Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser by the Association of Fundraising Professionals for his record-setting efforts with the organization's annual Transformations event.

He is also a member of the Dean's Council of Brooks College of Health at the University of North Florida, where he has served as chair in 2012 and 2013. In addition, he serves on the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville University, the Board of Governors of Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, and the Board of Trustees of the United Way of Northeast Florida. He is also a leader of MissionWay, a thriving faith community.

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# THE PLAYERS vision van joins St. Vincent's mobile fleet

## Optum donation comes as surprise

When St. Vincent's top brass, Jane Lanier, president and system chief development officer of St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation, Tom VanOsdol, interim president and CEO of St. Vincent's HealthCare, and Huson Gilbertstadt, M.D., St. Vincent's chief clinical officer traveled to TPC Sawgrass May 3, they knew they were about to take possession of a new, state-of-the-art mobile medical unit, which THE PLAYERS Championship had donated to St. Vincent's HealthCare, part of Ascension, the nation's largest Catholic, nonprofit health system.

But what Lanier and her contemporaries didn't know was that Optum, one of three Proud Partners of THE PLAYERS Championship, had kicked in an extra \$50,000 surprise donation.

"Thank you to THE PLAYERS for this wonderful gift. What a great day for our community," said Lanier, an Ortega resident. "And I was totally surprised. I had no idea we would be receiving this from THE

PLAYERS Proud Partner, Optum. These gifts will help to provide immunizations, school and sports physicals, vision screenings, and glasses for those who are struggling within our community."

The new mobile unit, valued at \$500,000, is the first in Northeast Florida to be specifically equipped to offer vision exams. It joins a stable of five mobile units that are part of St. Vincent's Mobile Health Outreach Ministry.

"THE PLAYERS Championship is committed to giving back to the Northeast Florida community, and we're thrilled that money generated from the tournament goes to such worthwhile and much-needed causes like St. Vincent's HealthCare," said Jared Rice, executive director of THE PLAYERS. "Our 2,000-plus volunteers, tournament staff, Proud Partners and fans should be proud to see the Mobile Health Outreach Ministry on the road, knowing that thanks to their support of the tournament, our neighbors in need are being helped in countless ways."

The St. Vincent's Mobile Health Outreach Ministry, which began in 1991, brings fully staffed vans – essentially doctors' offices on wheels – to areas where medical



services are most needed in five counties in Northeast Florida. The vans provide medical care to the underserved and uninsured in rural and urban communities as well as children in area middle and high schools. Most recently, St. Vincent's added a mobile dental unit to its fleet.

Surrounded by volunteer leadership from THE PLAYERS Championship, Jane Lanier, president and system chief development officer of St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation, Tom VanOsdol, interim president and CEO of St. Vincent's HealthCare System, Jared Rice, executive director of THE PLAYERS Championship, and Vito Augusta, Client Account Executive for Optum hold a surprise donation of \$50,000, which was given to St. Vincent's by Optum, a Proud Partner of THE PLAYERS Championship.

## Super commuters dump the gas pump in honor of Car-Free Week

Several "super commuters" from Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods were among those recognized during a special awards ceremony at the culmination of Car-Free-Week May 15-19. The awards event, which took place at Intuition Ale Works May 19, was sponsored by the City of Jacksonville and several local businesses.

During Car-Free Week, commuters were challenged to leave their cars in the garage and get to work using some mode of non-motorized transportation such as bicycling, walking or public transportation. To enter the competition, which was coordinated by City Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator Amy Ingles of Riverside, individuals had to fill out a survey about their commute and snap a photo or video of themselves traveling to work while posting it on social media with the hashtag "CarFreeWeekJax."

In all, 60 car-free commuters took the time to answer the survey and log posts on social media, said Stephanie Zarkis, a Riverside resident and City of Jacksonville employee who works with Ingles.

Winning awards during the Friday night celebration were first-time "super commuters,"



Car-Free Week winners Ron Hubbard, Silken McClain, Charles "Utah" Barth II, Nannette Thomas, Colin Moore, and the Mayhew Family – Gretchen Ehlinger, Troy Mayhew, and their sons Hollis and Hayes.

Justin Lawson of Riverside, Kerry Speckman of Riverside, Rebekah Wallis of Avondale, and Nannette Thomas of Lakewood. In her survey, Speckman said participating in the challenge was the first time she had ridden a bicycle in 25 years, while Wallis said the experience had "renewed her love for a car-free commute and encouraged her to keep it up." Thomas said she used the bus, her bike, and walked a total of 30 miles during the week.

Winning the "Best Use of Bus" award was Kendall Frederick of Avondale, who, in commuting to work, rode the bus to Cecil Field and then biked another seven miles to his place of employment.

Ron Hubbard, a San Marco resident, won the "Notable Pedestrian" award. Self-employed with a home office, Hubbard

said he walked or took his bike to meetings with clients for a total of 22 miles.

Charles "Utah" Barth II, a Lakeshore resident, was awarded the "Most Miles Commuted" honor. He traveled a total of 100 miles during the work week – 20 miles per day.

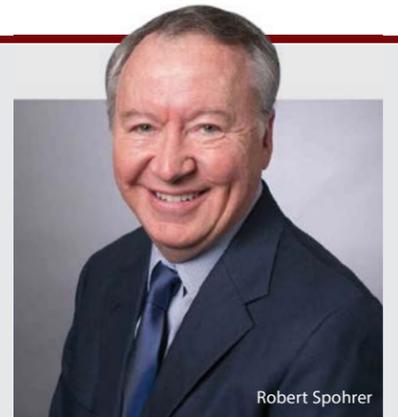
Colin Moore of Neptune Beach won the "Mode Diversity" award, traveling 32 miles round-trip each day by using his bike, the skyway, the bus, and his feet to get to his office Downtown.

Silken McClain of Lakeshore, who biked 32 miles total, won the "Most Enthusiastic" award for posting the most photos and hashtag comments on social media.

Retired bicyclist Harmon Payne of Mandarin logged 325 miles by bike, the most for someone not commuting to work.

The Mayhew family of San Jose won the family award. Hollis and Hayes cycled to Duval Charter School in Mandarin and their parents Troy Mayhew and Gretchen Ehlinger used their bicycles to go to work.

Larry Roberts of San Jose, president of the Jacksonville Track Club, walked six miles during the week but helped sponsor the event with a \$500 donation and the prize of a three-year membership to the Jacksonville Track Club/JTC Running. Other sponsors of the event included Intuition Ale Works, the Jacksonville Bicycle Coalition, and APA Florida.



Robert Spohrer

## Spohrer named a 2017 Lawyer of the Year

San Marco resident Robert Spohrer, senior partner in the law firm of Spohrer & Dodd, was named the Best Lawyers® 2017 Medical Malpractice Law-Plaintiffs "Lawyer of the Year" in Jacksonville. Spohrer is among 33 Jacksonville attorneys who were chosen for the Lawyer-of-the-Year designation by a vote of their peers in The Best Lawyers in America®, the oldest and most respected peer-review publication in the legal profession.

In addition to being chosen for the Lawyer-of-the-Year designation, Spohrer was also named in the Best Lawyers® list for aviation law and personal injury litigation for plaintiffs.

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Executive Chef Scott Alters, Beverage Director Gabrielle Saul, Co-owners Matthew and David Medure. Not pictured: Steve Schaefer, part owner.

## Rue Saint-Marc opens at head of San Marco Square

The Medure brothers, Matthew and David, owners of the elegant Matthew's Restaurant, have opened a second, more casual restaurant in San Marco Square May 19.

The new eatery, Rue Saint-Marc, is located at the fork between San Marco Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue and will seat 120 patrons inside and out. It will specialize in French-American Cuisine, serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Also under its roof will be a full bar with craft cocktails, as well as a coffee and pastry counter, said Executive Chef Scott Alters.

The restaurant will be open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. or "closing," which is whenever the last guest wants to go home, said Alters. The restaurant is also open on Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"This has been a long time coming," said Alters. "We are all very eager to see what we can bring to the San Marco area."

Matthew Medure said the location, which was previously home to the commissary, which services Medure's M Shack Restaurants city-wide, made sense for the new one-of-a-kind venture. The commissary has since moved up to roomier digs at Miramar Plaza.

"Rue Saint-Marc is at the fork in the road of San Marco and is the first thing you see as you are coming into the Square," he said. "It's nice to be part of the revitalization of San Marco. There seems to be an energy in the neighborhood. The creation of this restaurant with its attention to detail was a joy to watch. It's the start of what's to come."

## San Marco store offers antiques and more

Fine antiques and vintage treasures are now available at The Antique Fox with Southern Grace, a new shop located at 3216 Hendricks Avenue in San Marco.

The store is owned jointly by Drs. Mike and Felicia Fox of San Marco, and Avondale residents, Dr. Chris and Grace Lipari, and Andy Baker and his wife, Susan.

The store offers an eclectic mix of silver, fine china, furniture, glassware, candles, custom-made greeting cards, jewelry, plants, gifts, new children's clothing, and one-of-a-kind oddities. Artwork by local painter Martha Lever of Riverside, Maggie Puzey of Ponte Vedra and Charlotte Murray of South Carolina are also on display and for sale. The owners' children, Sophia Lipari and Millicent and Magnolia Fox, even offer a line of handmade beaded bracelets. The store also offers gift wrapping.

"I wanted a place for people in San Marco to come and pick up a gift and leave the store with it ready to deliver," said Owner



Front: Millicent, Maddox and Magnolia Fox; back: Mike and Felicia Fox with Susan and Andy Baker

Felicia Fox. "We have something that everyone can enjoy."

The Antique Fox is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Beau Outfitters thanks community for its support



Beau Outfitter's owners, Ryan Switzer and Chase O'Steen, both of San Marco, celebrated their fifth anniversary in business April 27.

Beau Outfitters, an outdoor apparel shop in San Marco Square, celebrated its fifth anniversary by treating its customers to Bearded Pig barbecue delicacies April 27.

The shop is owned by former Bolles classmates Ryan Switzer and Chase O'Steen, both of San Marco. The men started their clothing firm straight out of college, first settling in the Shoppes of Avondale prior to moving over the San Marco Square three years ago.

"We miss Avondale. It was a great place to start and get our feet wet, but when it came time for us to expand, we've found San Marco is a good place to be," said Switzer. "Our main thing was to be in a historic neighborhood.

That is a key component to our store and our brand. From a location standpoint, we like being in San Marco because we are easily able to draw people from Southside and The Beaches. I'm not sure our customers from Nocatee and Mandarin would have been able to find us over there (in Avondale)."

O'Steen agreed. He said, from the beginning, he was confident that Beau Outfitters would make five years and beyond. "I never had a doubt," he said. "San Marco has been very welcoming, but Avondale was just as great. We are grateful to the support of the community, and want to thank all the people who have supported us over the last five years. We wouldn't be here without them."

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Sara Mitchell

### Mitchell named executive director at UCOM

Sara Mitchell of Mandarin, wife of Lakewood Presbyterian Pastor Brian Mitchell, has taken over the job of executive director of the UCOM Urban Services food pantry in San Marco at 3349 St. Augustine Road.

Mitchell, who holds bachelor's, master's, and law degrees, was former Director of Development for the Cancer Support Community for eight years.

Although she makes considerably less financially by taking the position at UCOM, Mitchell is enthusiastic about her new post. "I want less mission drift and more impact," she said. "It's a calling. No one should go hungry alone."

Mitchell said the food pantry is always in need of canned goods to distribute to its Southside neighbors in need. "Items within a year past sell-by dates are still good to be distributed," she said, noting peanut butter is a staple the pantry can always use.

## UF Health North cuts ribbon on new 92-bed hospital

Residents of North Jacksonville now have a far shorter commute to healthcare services as the second phase of UF Health North took another step closer to reality May 10. UF Health leaders and community members took part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the campus' new inpatient hospital, a 92-bed tower connected by walkways to the current medical office complex, which has been open since 2015.

"We are incredibly proud to bring another major health care resource to the people of North Jacksonville," said Russ Armistead, CEO of UF Health Jacksonville, who opened the ribbon-cutting ceremony. "The ingenuity of the building, combined with the best possible care, will further the success of this campus."

The project timeline began nearly four years ago when ground was broken in August 2013 for the medical office building. The groundbreaking for the inpatient bed tower was held November 2015.

The new hospital consists of five floors, four for patients with all private rooms. There



Russ Armistead cuts the ribbon for UF Health North's new 92-bed tower as community leaders look on. From left, Samuel Newby, Armistead, Greg Anderson, Tommy Hazouri, Reggie Gaffney, Dr. Leon Haley, Dr. David Guzick, Mayor Lenny Curry

is a 20-bed unit dedicated to labor and delivery and other women's services, a 24-bed floor dedicated to intensive care, two 24-bed floors dedicated to general medical inpatients, and one floor for administrative services, a chapel, a cafeteria and more.

The inpatient hospital, a collaboration of UF Health, the architectural firm Gresham

Smith and Partners, and contractors Batson-Cook Construction and Danis Construction, is 168,000 square feet and includes many advanced architectural features, including walls of windows in all patient rooms to allow for natural light, rooftop gardens, a courtyard to give patients and visitors a place to relax outdoors, and more.

### Future golf champ born at Baptist

Dressed in a onesie and blanket supplied by THE PLAYERS Championship, newborn Sutton Grey Smith snuggles with her mother, Jennifer Smith, at Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville May 9. Sutton's dad is Troy Smith, this year's Tournament Vice Chair of Volunteer Services. THE PLAYERS Championship supplied blankets and onesies to all newborns at all four Baptist hospitals in Northeast Florida during the week of May 8-14, while its golf tournament was held in Ponte Vedra Beach. Tournament officials also supplied the first mother to have a baby at each Baptist hospital on May 14 with a special basket filled with THE PLAYERS Championship goodies in honor of Mother's Day.



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### Assumption teacher wins Gladys Prior Award

Alicia Henderson of Assumption Catholic School was one of four Jacksonville teachers who received the distinction of being named a 2017 Gladys Prior Award winner for Career Teaching Excellence.

This is the 20th year the award has been given to honor inspiring teachers who have had long careers in their fields. It was established in 1998 by Gilchrist Berg, a Riverside resident, and founder and president of Water Street Capital.

Rounding out the award winners this year were Patrice Haupt, a language arts teacher at Paxon School for Advanced Studies, Larry Knight, a language arts teacher at Stanton College Preparatory School, and James Miller, a United States history teacher at LaVilla Middle School of the Arts. Each teacher received a check for \$15,000.

To date, Berg has given more than \$1 million to honor Jacksonville teachers with the award, which was named after his fourth-grade teacher at Ortega Elementary. The University of North Florida College of Education and Human Services manages his gift and coordinates the annual award competition.

As of this year, 80 teachers have been recognized with the Gladys Prior Award,



Alicia Henderson

which is always bestowed in a surprise visit to the teacher's classroom.

Henderson, who received her award April 26, teaches English and literature and coaches the cross-country team at Assumption School. She is known for finding creative ways to engage her students in their study of literature, such as using reading-related field trips. In the past, when her students read "Anne of Green Gables" by Lucy Maud Montgomery, she had them visit a tearoom. She also organized an adventure in the Okefenokee Swamp, complete with a chance to her kids to experience archery, when they read Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer."

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## Baptist Health Foundation names three new trustees



Deborah Abram, M.D.



Connie Hodges



Grace Martin Sarber

Deborah Abram, M.D., Connie Hodges, and Grace Martin Sarber have been selected to the Board of Trustees of the Baptist Health Foundation.

Abram is a board-certified pediatric hospitalist with Nemours Children's Specialty Care and immediate past Chief of Staff at Wolfson Children's Hospital. The Monclair resident is also a courtesy assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics for the University of Florida's College of Medicine - Jacksonville. A native of Buffalo, New York, she received her medical degree from Temple University in Philadelphia and has been in practice for more than 30 years.

Hodges, an Avondale resident, spent 30 years with the United Way of Northeast Florida, including 16 years as its president. A former EVE Award winner, she has

served on the boards of Downtown Rotary, Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, Jacksonville Children's Commission and the Early Learning Coalition. She is currently the chair-elect of OneJax, an interfaith organization affiliated with the University of North Florida.

Sarber, a Jacksonville native and Deerwood resident, is past president of The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, and a former chair of the Arts & Antiques Show. A graduate of Randolph-Macon Women's College, she is a former public relations executive and consultant who now works as a freelance writer and book editor. Sarber leads a Bible study, is passionately involved in an adoption ministry, and spends time homeschooling two of her three children.

## Pumping iron for autism



Nearly 75 people attended a charity Hurricane Workout April 8 at the San Marco location of Training for Warriors to raise over \$1,000 for the UF Health Center for Autism and Related Disabilities. The circuit-style workouts featured different strength and cardio stations led by a professional coach.

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## Artisan “doughwiches” now available in San Marco



Brittany and Logan Moore

From the ingredients comprising the “doughwiches,” to the tables customers will sit at, everything is made from scratch at Good Dough, a new artisan doughnut shop, which opened at 1636 Hendricks Avenue in San Marco May 6.

The new eatery offers a full complement of raised, cake, and old-fashioned doughnuts drizzled or dipped with fun seasonal glazes and toppings as well as signature breakfast “doughwiches” – ham or bacon topped with egg and cheese between the dough that makes the restaurant famous.

“The fried chicken doughwich has been especially popular,” said Good Dough Owner Brittany Moore. “Beer-battered,

butter-milk-marinated fried chicken, pickles, hot sauce and honey butter on our slightly sweet, raised doughnut bun,” she said.

Also on tap is coffee from Vagabond Coffee of Murray Hill.

All ingredients are “locally sourced,” said Moore’s husband, Logan, who is manager/owner of the store. “Everything is made from scratch, even the flavorings we offer with our coffees,” he said.

Parking is available behind Good Dough and can be accessed by the alley off LaSalle Street and in the lot behind Regions Bank. Good Dough is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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# Kuhn Flowers helps deliver the dream bridal experience

## Owners honor rich history, continue traditions

For over 70 years, Kuhn Flowers has been Jacksonville's go-to place to buy floral arrangements for Mother's Day, Valentine's Day, holidays, birthdays, funerals, proms, and graduations. The St. Nicholas-based florist, the largest in the State of Florida, is also the place for brides to satisfy all their wedding floral needs. Last year alone, the shop served 130 couples on their most important day.

The two-story shop, which has received Bold City Best Florist laurels for the past two years, is perhaps best known for its elaborate window displays, especially at Christmas time. More than 150,000 visitors traveled to Kuhn Flowers last December to view the animated Santa's Village, with jolly St. Nick and his wife, Mrs. Claus, waving and speaking behind the glass.

Although spectacular Kuhn window exhibits draw a multitude of visitors during every holiday, those who venture inside discover beautiful floral arrangements for every occasion, all of which are available for same-day delivery service. Meanwhile, the second floor hosts a wedding showroom where brides and grooms can view a full array of samples of what Kuhn offers, from bouquets and centerpieces to fully-dressed reception tables with all the accessory items to complete dazzling displays for the occasion.

Under the ownership of Marty McCall and his wife, Michelle Morgan, Kuhn Flowers offers bridal parties the experience of two floral professionals who have been at the top in their field for nearly 40 years. The business has grown by 20 percent each year, for the past two years, as Kuhn has returned to full service weddings, grown the volume in sales, and updated their stores.

A Jacksonville native, McCall grew up in the flower business. His mother, Georgia Pendarvis, initially worked for Kuhn Founders Bob and Nancy Kuhn in the early 1960s before heading out on her own

to open Dinsmore Florist in 1963. McCall started a wholesale flower business when he was in his early 20s and managed it for 38 years prior to purchasing Kuhn Flowers in 2015.

Morgan, a native of England, is one of less than 30 florists worldwide to hold the highest floral certifications in both Europe and the United States. She earned the National Diploma of the Society of Floristry, which is the equivalent of holding a Ph.D. in floral design, and taught "flower school" in secondary education college in Britain for ten years before moving to the United States, where she soon earned her certification as a certified floral evaluator for the American Institute of Floral Designers.

Morgan has provided floral arrangements for Buckingham Palace and The White House, where she decorated a three-day 1970s themed tea party in 2015. "We decorated the whole outdoors and indoors. It was really cool," Morgan said. "I did all the interiors including the Oval Office, and countless other rooms in the White House."

Not only do McCall and Morgan bring years of experience to floral wedding planning, they also provide couples with better pricing and a better selection of flowers due to McCall's wholesale connections.

"We have the resources to get any kind of flower a bride would want," Morgan said. "We have access to all the flowers of the world and use our own trucks from Miami to bring the flowers directly from the farms to our store so they don't go through many other hands before they get here. We have a great team of designers that take it from planning to execution."

"We are pretty unique in that we limit the number of weddings we take on during any one weekend because we want to make sure we give the bridal party full service and not just production," Morgan continued.

"The most important thing in plan-



ning a wedding is to listen to your bride," Morgan said. "We can do anything from traditional to 'bespoke' – unusual, custom-made – arrangements. I've had enough training that if a bride comes and wants something different, I can find a way to put the pieces together and make it work. I never say never."

For 14 years, Kuhn Flowers also has a

second location at 832 A1A North #10 in Ponte Vedra Beach. The beach store will be moving to Sawgrass Village across from Nona Blue Modern Tavern on Front Street August 1.

Kuhn Flowers is located at 3802 Beach Blvd. in the heart of St. Nicholas. To plan a wedding or purchase flowers contact the store online at [www.kuhnflowers.com](http://www.kuhnflowers.com) or call (904) 398-8601.

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# DA honors Helen Lane for three decades of giving

With hoopla and much fanfare, the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Foundation honored Helen Lane's three decades of giving to the school when it held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the Helen Murchison Lane Art Gallery at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts May 22.

Duval County Public School board members and city officials joined other philanthropists at the elegant affair which took place in the new gallery, which comprises the school's atrium and reception area adjacent to the school's front office.

DA Principal Melanie Hammer opened the luncheon festivities welcoming many dignitaries in the audience. In attendance were District 14 Councilman Jim Love, three Duval County Public School Board officials – School Board Chair Paula D. Wright, Vice Chair Ashley Smith Juarez,



Helen Lane cuts the ribbon commemorating the new Helen Murchison Lane Art Gallery at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. From left, Barry Wilson, DA Visual Arts department head, District 14 Councilman Jim Love, DA Principal Melanie Hammer, Duval County Public Schools Board Chairman Paula D. Wright, Helen Lane, Duval County Public Schools Board Vice Chairman Ashley Smith-Juarez, Ann Hicks, Deborah Knauer and DA Foundation President Jeff Dunn

is the reason they say *rarely* and not *never*. Every inch a lady, Helen is a doer and a visionary," Smith-Juarez said of the Ortega resident. "We want magic, wonder and creativity at all our schools in Duval County, but because of Helen Lane, these things are alive at DA. The seeds Helen Lane has planted here are truly a gift. She has been a permanent fixture at DA since the day it was founded and will be out into the future," she said.

Cornelius agreed. "We wanted to honor Helen's three decades of giving to support the school from her heart and as an ambassador, knowing that this program of intensive arts study truly makes a difference in our community," said Cornelius after the ceremony. "Because of her, many students, who would not otherwise have had the opportunity, are able to take part in the intensive study which this program provides."



Former Duval County Public School Board Superintendent John Fryer with Gary McCalla and District 14 Councilman Jim Love

and District 7 Representative Lori Hershey – Jeff Dunn, president of the DA Foundation and Jackie Cornelius, executive director of the DA Foundation. Also in the crowd were Preston Haskell, Betsy Lovett, Deborah Knauer and Ann Hicks, all of Ortega, Lawrence DuBow and Linda Stein, both of San Jose, Ryan Schwartz and Gary McCalla, both of San Marco, and former School Board Superintendent John Fryer and his wife, Carol.

DA singing group The Silhouettes performed and Logan Smith, a DA senior majoring in musical arts performed a solo, "You Never Know."

Speaking at the event were Wright, Smith-Juarez, Love, and Cornelius.

"There is an old saying 'well-behaved women rarely make history.' Helen Lane



DA Principal Melanie Hammer with Deborah Knauer and Vicki-lynn Gloger



Douglas Anderson Foundation President Jeff Dunn with Jackie Cornelius, executive director of the DA Foundation



Mary Ann and Shepard Bryan with Helen Lane and Laurie DuBow



Lori Hershey, District 7 Duval County Public School Board, with Carol Grimes, Jane Condon and Ryan Schwartz

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# OneJax awards San Jose resident with gold lifetime achievement award

Three residents from Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods – David A. Stein of San Jose, Dr. James B. Crooks of Riverside, and Sabeen Perwaiz Syed of Riverside – were honored during the elegant 2017 OneJax Humanitarian Awards dinner April 27 at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center.

OneJax seeks to create opportunities for diverse groups of individuals to learn about themselves and one another by reducing stereotypes and bias, and developing community awareness and understanding about the critical social issues facing Jacksonville.

Stein, former Chairman and CEO of Southern Industrial Corporation, the original franchisor of 36 Burger King restaurants in three Northeast Florida counties, was awarded the 2017 Gold Medallion for Lifetime Achievement. Active with numerous local nonprofit organizations, Stein has provided scholarship endowments at the University of North Florida, Jacksonville University, Florida State College Jacksonville, the Jewish Community Alliance, and the Greenwood School, where he spearheaded a capital campaign to provide the school's permanent home.

Professor Emeritus of History at UNF, Crooks was recognized with a Silver Medallion for his outstanding dedication and community service. As an activist historian, Crooks has worked hard to improve race relations as chairman of the Jacksonville Human Rights Commission and has served on many boards and community initiatives.

Receiving the 2017 Acosta-Rua Young Professionals Award was Syed, who serves as executive director of the Florida Nonprofit Alliance. She has served as co-organizer and executive producer of TEDxJacksonville.

Also among the honorees was Jean Ludlow of Atlantic Beach, a retired insurance executive and former Trustee of the Jessie Ball DuPont Fund, who received the 2017 President's Citation, which is awarded to the humanitarian whose efforts and vision have resulted in positive local and national changes in one or more areas. Rodney L. Hurst, a civil rights activist and author, and Shah Faisal Sayed, executive director of Muslim American Social Services, joined Crooks in receiving 2017 Silver Medallions for community service.



One Jax honorees Sabeen Perwaiz Syed, Rodney L. Hurst, Sr., Dr. James B. Crooks, Jean Ludlow, David Stein and Shah Faisal Sayed



Rev. Kyle Reese with Nancy and Carle Felton



Kit and Corky Thomas with Mone Holder and Madeline Scales-Taylor



Sharon Parker, Phyllis Bradford, Sonya Larsen and Cindy Parker

## Cancer survivors gather for tea on Southbank

Many ladies were pretty in pink during the American Cancer Society's "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" Survivor Tea May 20 in the Society's Garden of Hope on the Southbank.

The Survivor Tea was a forum for survivors of various forms of the dread disease to gather with others in appreciation as to how far they have come. It was also a way to garner support for the ACS Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk



Laurie Denman, American Cancer Society Health System's Manager Maureen McGuinn and Kissy Hagins-Sanders

scheduled for Saturday, October 21 at Metropolitan Park. Last year, the non-competitive, three-mile walk welcomed more than 8,000 participants as it raised awareness and garnered more than \$339,205 in the fight against breast cancer.

## Elegant fashion show provides funds for Foster Closet

It was a fashion show Holly Golightly would love.

With glamorous foster kids and staff from the nonprofit modeling Foster Closet's finest, guests adorned in pearls and tiaras were thoroughly entertained during the nonprofit's Breakfast at Tiffany's Fashion Show and Silent Auction May 6 at Southside's Emmaus Church.

Local musician DeSean Kirkland sang and played tunes on his electric piano as guests enjoyed an elegant buffet luncheon. Romney Smith of Action News Jax served as mistress of ceremonies during the event, which raised \$16,000 for the organization that serves more than 800 foster children per year.

A free resource for Northeast Florida's foster parents, relative and non-relative caregivers, Foster Closet seeks to provide immediate assistance to families by supplying free clothing, children's accessories, toys, and children's furniture without complicated procedures.

The nonprofit's program, The Pathway, helps teens who are leaving the foster care system to begin their independent lives by providing anything they need to start life on their own, including furniture, kitchen supplies and other household items.



Foster Closet Founder Tammy McGuire with Event Chair Cyndi Voytko and Alice Wilson



Models Jamyah and Alayshia with Nichelle Kimbrough, Family Services Counselor Supervisor, Jewish Family and Community Services

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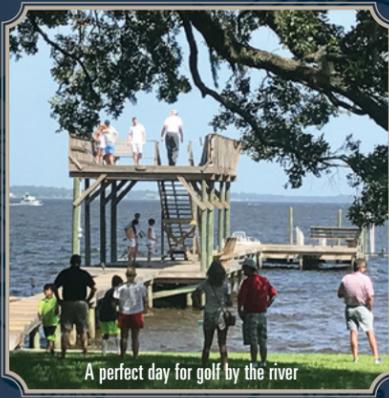
The Pajcic Firm is so thankful to all of the sponsors and supporters who turned out for our 5th annual yard golf event to benefit Jacksonville Area Legal Aid. This year we had two 9-hole courses and our signature "island green" where golfers could



Artis Gilmore tees off on the first hole



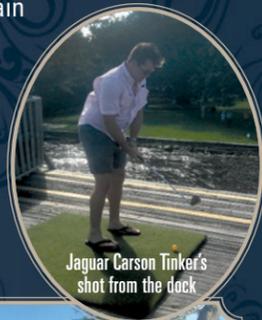
A 13-year-old gets a hole-in-one!



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win \$6,000 with a hole-in-one. A 13-year-old managed to ace it this year. The Pajcics match every donation dollar for dollar.

We are especially proud that the event raised well over \$80,000 for JALA, which provides certain civil legal services for those who can't afford them. This year we had a few celebrity guests including Carson Tinker and



Jaguar Carson Tinker's shot from the dock

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Kim and Robert Fishback



Tommy Entenza with Michael Salerno, Jason Stolf and Jane Entenza



Janice and Richard Brock with Philip Boyce, vice president of Pine Castle

**Things come up rosy for Pine Castle at 5th annual Derby Day event**

The horse, Always Dreaming, was not the only winner on Kentucky Derby Day. Pine Castle raised \$88,000 during the 5th Annual Run for the Roses Derby Day Soiree at Deerwood Country Club May 6.

After sipping on mint juleps and looking over the silent auction items, donors placed their wagers before the 143rd running of the Kentucky Derby, which was viewed on a large screen in the ballroom. Participants also helped themselves to New York strip sirloin, ham, macaroni and cheese, shrimp and grits, vegetables and desserts at various stations as Katie Jeffries of First Coast News Channel 12 served as mistress of ceremonies.

Kelly and Erik Smith of Nocatee served as honorary chairs. Karen Friedline of Southside and Kim Fishback of St. Nicholas headed up the Silent Auction committee.

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Event Chairs Tom and Kathy VanOsdol, with Honorary Co-Chair, JU Alum and NBA Legend Artis Gilmore, Jax Speech and Hearing Center President/ CEO Michael Howland, Honorary Co-Chair State Attorney Melissa Nelson and her husband, Jason Nelson.



Rocky Joseph with Mark Derubeis, Teya and Mark McDermand



Ken Purcell with Larry and Denise Press, Angie Koury Allen and Ehren Allen

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Supporters of the Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center were treated to a beautiful night on the banks of the St. Johns River, when the nonprofit's annual Finfest, themed "Take Me to the River," was held May 20 at the Timuquana Country Club.

The co-chairs for the evening were St. Vincent HealthCare's Interim President/CEO Tom VanOsdol and his wife, Kathy, and the honorary co-chairs were State Attorney Melissa Nelson and her husband, Jason, and Basketball Hall of Fame legend Artis Gilmore and his wife, Enola.

Thanks to generous sponsors, event organizers and donations of silent auction items, the evening was a hit for the 68-year-old organization. Founded in 1949 by the Junior League of Jacksonville, the Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center last year provided services and relief to 4,136 children and adults struggling with hearing loss and hearing impairments. In August, the nonprofit will move to its new location at 1010 N. Davis St., one mile west of its current Laura Street location.

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## Cultural Council holds annual awards event at Glass Factory

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville hosted its 41st Annual Arts Awards May 6 at the historic Glass Factory, built in 1936 by Henry Klutho.

The awards event honored Christopher Lazzara (Robert Arleigh White Award for Advocacy); Riverside resident Mark McCombs (Art Innovator Award); Murray Hill resident Dustin Harewood (Art Educator Award); PNC Bank (Business Award); Ebony Payne-English (Emerging Artist Award); Ortega resident Diane Brunet-Garcia (Helen Lane Founder's Award), and Alicia Somers (the new Jim and Jeanne Winston Community Impact Award). Each award recipient has demonstrated the highest dedication to arts and culture in the Jacksonville Community.

Heather Moore was honorary chair and Rebecca Ryan-Gonzalez was event chair. The evening included performances by the Jacksonville Civic Orchestra, Jacksonville University's dance troupe, and the Jacksonville Children's Chorus.



David and Kathryn McGehee, Ginny and  
Mark Taylor with Rick and Sharon Thames



Leah Roesler, Mike Farnsworth with Patty Schroeder and  
Ellen Burdett



Carolyn Morriss with Melanie and Ken Dean



Mark and Patti Joyce, Richard and Ginny Dostie with Jim and  
Hillary Citrano



Kristina Lu, Don Poag, Collin Hazelip and Jill Morrow

## Waterfront home is perfect vista for Under-the-Sea River Hops event

The spacious riverfront home of Granada residents Mike and Elaine Ashourian once again provided the perfect venue for the 8th Annual River Hops fundraiser for the North Florida School of Special Education.

Delicious cocktails and a gourmet pairings dinner were on tap as guests milled around the pool overlooking a setting sun and the St. Johns River. During the cocktail hour guests had the opportunity to bid on items in a silent auction and to enter a raffle to win a fish-themed birdbath and other works of art created by students at the special education school in Arlington.

The event raised \$68,000 and was heartily supported by sponsors such as the Cowford Chop House, IL DESCO, Bistro AIX, Ovinte, Intuition Ale Works, Berry Good Farms, Atlantic Self Storage, Akerman, and Publix Super Markets Charities.





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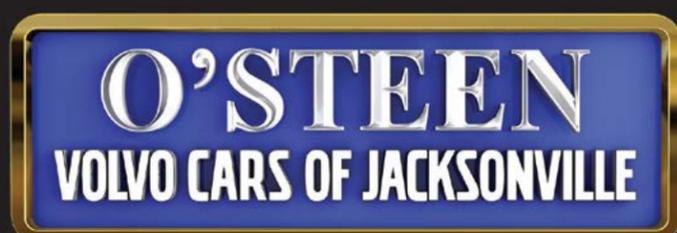
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## Derby Day theme a hit for scholarship fundraiser

The annual Derby Day party attended by friends and family of the late Ellen Newton, as well as parishioners from All Saints Episcopal Church, was held May 6 at The Candy Apple Café in downtown Jacksonville. Newton, a Wolfson High School graduate, Duval County middle school teacher and active member of All Saints Episcopal Church, passed away at age 53 in May 2012.

The event is held to build the Ellen Newton Memorial Scholarship and typically awards a \$1,000 scholarship to an All Saints high school student.

However, this year – the 4th annual – there were no qualified applicants, so the funds raised will roll over to allow for two recipients to be chosen next year.

While Dan Branon manned the 50/50 horse race betting table, partygoers enjoyed music by The Gentle River Bluegrass Band, sipped mint juleps and noshed on hors d'oeuvres, dinner and dessert catered by The Candy Apple. There were also demonstrations in making lollipops and bourbon candy, and awards for best-dressed in the Derby theme.



Dressed in their Derby best, Cathy Damron, Eleanor and Bill Coalson, Martha Harris and Milledge Womble turned out to support fundraising for the Ellen Newton Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by All Saints Episcopal Church.



Bill and JoAnn Lee with granddaughter Nikki, Christopher and Larry Newton, Eric Lee



Jackie and L.E. Vining



Sammy and Patrick Dussinger



Judy and Alex Beaver

## Ruckh finally wins Bubbe Bake-off with traditional grandma cake



Bubbe's Bake-off winners Lainey Pinnar, first place (youth division); Ellie Pinnar, second place (youth division); Linda Weinstein, second place (adult division); Ann Stone, third place (adult division); Bonnie Ruckh, first place (adult division) and Danielle Ruckh, third place (youth division)

When it comes to the annual Jewish Food Festival's Bubbe Bake-off, Bonnie Ruckh is no longer a bridesmaid.

Ruckh's Star-of-David-shaped cream cheese Bundt cake with fruit in the center surrounded by strawberries and topped with confectioner's sugar was pronounced the winner during the yearly confectionary contest May 7 at The Temple in San Jose. It with the first time she had defeated Ann Stone in the contest named for the Yiddish word for grandmother.

Linda Weinstein's apricot brandy pound cake was runner up, followed by Stone who took third place with a banana cake with banana pudding and covered with chocolate icing.

In the youth division (bakers ages 13 and under), Lainey Pinnar's chocolate peanut butter cake with peanut butter icing was the winner. Pinnar's sister, Ellie, placed second with a chocolate cake with Oreo buttercream frosting and Ruckh's daughter finished third with a dozen cupcake cones.

In all, 15 bakers competed in the contest with nine in the adult division and six in the youth division. Blindly judging the contest were Jacksonville food critics and bloggers, said Ruckh.

"Ann usually wins so it is very rewarding for me to finally win," she said. "Every year I come in second because my cakes aren't 'Bubbe enough,'" she said, adding that this year she used a recipe provided by her friend Galit Hill, which had been in Hill's family for generations.

"The cake was simpler than what I usually do, but was moist, flavorful, and pretty," Ruckh said. "This year, I made sure I used a recipe that could have come from someone's grandma."



Prize-winning cake made by Bonnie Ruckh

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## SUMC Preschool hosts fundraiser to celebrate 60 years

Parents, current and former teachers and friends celebrated the 60th anniversary of Southside United Methodist Church Preschool April 27 at Intuition Ale Works.

Through a live and silent auction, the fundraiser raised more than \$16,000 for scholarships and curriculum enhancement at the school that caters to children ages 1 to 4.

Founded in 1957, SUMC Preschool has served more than one generation of many families in the San Marco area. It will hold an event for alumni this fall in further celebration of its 60th anniversary, said San Marco resident Candace Kirby, who has been director of the preschool for 18 years.



Chair Kristen Wax, SUMC Preschool Director Candi Kirby and Silent Auction Chair Elizabeth Reilly

Attending the Downtown event were SUMC Pastor Bruce Jones and Linda Crimm of San Marco, a teacher with the school for 32 years. Also seen having fun with longtime friends were former SUMC Preschool teachers Cathy Stupski of San Jose, who now teaches fulltime at Bolles Lower School in Ponte Vedra, and Nancy Darragh of San Marco, a teacher at San Jose Catholic School.

Kristen Wax of San Marco chaired the event and Elizabeth Reilly of Colonial Manor organized the silent auction.



Linda Crimm, SUMC Pastor Bruce Jones, Lisa Gronley



Cathy Stupski and Nancy Darragh



Anita Feltman and Lauren Doran



Amber Labagh with Dan and Kerrie Hileman

## Night at Roy's bash celebrates Monique Burr Foundation's 20th anniversary



Monique Burr Foundation for Children Founder Edward E. Burr accepts a check from the women at the University of North Florida's Kappa Delta Sorority.

Edward E. Burr wiped a tear from his eye as he listened to a surprise toast from his sons, Austin and Garrison. The boys lauded their father as he celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Monique Burr Foundation for Children, a nonprofit named for their mother that provides comprehensive, research-based, primary prevention programs for bullying, cyber-bullying, child abuse, child exploitation and other digital dangers.

The well-attended Night at Roy's celebration raised \$55,000 and took place at Roy's Restaurant in Jacksonville Beach May 16. In the audience were Mayor Lenny Curry and his wife, Molly, of San Marco, as well as former United States Congressman Ander Crenshaw of Riverside and his wife, Kitty.

As guests noshed on Hawaiian-influenced cuisine offered by James Beard Award winning chef Roy Yamaguchi, the women of Kappa Delta Sorority at the University of North Florida presented Burr with a check for \$17, 517. Also



Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Chairman Daniel Davis and his wife, Rebekah, with Michelle Woods and Drew Messer

speaking at the fundraiser were Institute for Responsible Online and Cell-Phone Communication (IROC2) Founder Richard Guerry, and Lt. Lakesha Burton of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, a sexual abuse survivor.

Mistress of Ceremonies for the event was Channel 4 Anchor Mary Baer. Entertainment was provided by Kurt Stevens and Colleen Orender.



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# San Jose Catholic honors 55th anniversary with 'peaceful' fundraiser

Tunes from Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, and the Rolling Stones were blasting as more than 220 supporters celebrated the 55th anniversary of San Jose Catholic School April 29 during San Jose Fest – The '60s.

The annual fundraiser, which raised more than \$36,000 for the school's general fund, brought out the hippy best in donors, who dressed in bellbottom jeans, tie-dye prints, peace-sign accessories, mood rings, and fringed vests while they enjoyed signature drinks, dinner, and dancing in the gymnasium

under lava lamp and psychedelic lighting. Adorning the walls were TV screens, which celebrated iconic figures from the Woodstock era, TV shows – Dick Van Dyke and The Beverly Hillbillies – from the Sixties decade, as well as old photos of the school and San Jose Catholic alumni.

Also on display was a screen showing photos of Kompan playground equipment, which the school hopes to purchase through a secondary fundraiser.



San Jose Fest Event Chair Veronica Bolado and her husband, Alejandro Barbero, road the hippy bus during the fundraiser for San Jose Catholic April 29.



Tom Cratem and Fr. Rodolfo Godimez, associate pastor of San Jose Catholic Church, were in the Sixties spirit during San Jose Fest at San Jose Catholic School April 29.



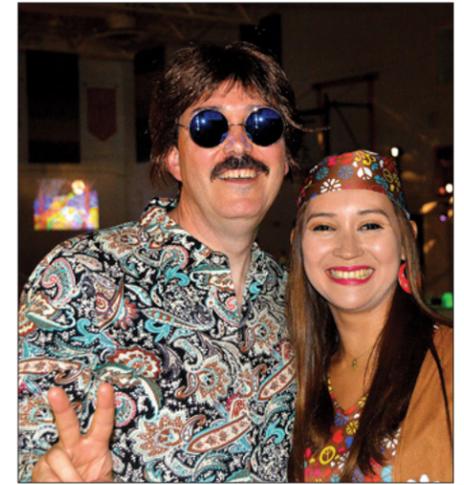
Sarah and Joe Peters with Joyce and Roger Gref



Carla and Danny Chin with James and Rafah Nackashi



Chad and Andrea Shaw



San Jose Catholic School Principal Brian Wheeler and his wife, Carolina, donned paisley-patterned and hippy-print outfits when they stepped back into the 1960s during San Jose Fest April 29.

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Jon and Kirsten Yates

## Couple performs in children's play

A love for theater is one tie that binds San Marco residents Jon and Kirsten Yates.

The couple recently performed in a small community theater production, "Mr. Toad's Wild Expedition," which was written and directed by Jason Woods, at Christ Episcopal Church School of the Arts in Ponte Vedra Beach April 27-May 7. Both Yates were cast as weasels, and Kirsten's mother, Patricia Beach of San Jose, made the steampunk goggles that Kirsten wore as part of her costume.

It is the third play the couple have performed in together in the United States, with their most recent collaboration being "Pride and Prejudice," where Jon was cast as Mr. Wickham, at Theatre Jacksonville in San Marco.

The Yates met at Kings College in Aberdeen, Scotland, where they were both working

on their master's degrees. It was there they became involved in theater and opera. During the time she was dating Jon, Kirsten was cast in several productions and Jon began helping her behind the scenes.

Kirsten's most notable roles have been Cinderella in the play, "Into the Woods," Susanna in "The Marriage of Figaro," Papagena in "The Magic Flute," Amiens in "As You Like It, and Mother Darling in "Peter Pan."

Since coming to America, in addition to Mr. Wickham, Jon has also performed as Cpl. Cramp in "Love Goes to Press," and as Le Beau in Shakespeare's "As You Like It."

Kirsten works a history teacher at Twin Lakes Middle School. Jon, a native of England, is employed for a small Jacksonville company that builds websites.

## Endowment established to help fight childhood cancer in Mongolia

### San Marco child's dream is realized by team of Wolfson Children's clinicians

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News



Jonathan Soud

A dying child's desire to see Mongolia has sparked a new endowment to support a team of doctors from Wolfson Children's Hospital to annually travel to Asia to treat Mongolian children with leukemia.

Seven years ago, 12-year-old Jonathan Soud of San Marco was a Bolles' sixth-grader who had won the Beginning Band award and wanted to travel the world. But in May 2010, after complaining of acute jaw pain, he was diagnosed with leukemia and admitted to Wolfson Children's Hospital. "He never left the hospital. He was there three and a half months," said his father Steve. "He died September 18, 2010, four days before his 13th birthday."

One day while he was under the treatment of Dr. Eric Sandler, chief of hematology/oncology at Wolfson Children's, Jonathan was lying in bed watching "Globe Trekker," his favorite TV show, when an episode came on about Mongolia. When Sandler came in to check on him, Jonathan mentioned his desire to go to Mongolia and help children in need, and Sandler agreed that visiting Mongolia was something he had always wanted to do, too, recalled Steve. "That's what sparked the whole thing."

With Jonathan in mind, Sandler gathered the funds to pay for a clinical team to travel to Mongolia in September 2012 with the express purpose of treating children with leukemia. The trip was so successful, Sandler and his fellow clinicians have gone every year since.

"During their annual trips, they work closely with the staff and patients/families of the Mothers' and Children's Hospital in Ulaanbaatar, the only hospital in the entire country with a pediatric ward," said Laura Collins, development director for Wolfson Children's Hospital within the Baptist Health Foundation. "They bring treatments, new therapies, new equipment, and they consult with the (local) clinicians. When they started the trips in 2012, the survival rate for children with leukemia was virtually zero. Since then it has gone up to a 50-percent survival rate for Mongolian children with leukemia," she said.

"The trips began with a cancer (hematology/oncology) focus, but have expanded to include other clinicians from other specialties/

areas of the hospital, including neurology, intensive care, GI, nursing, child life, palliative care, pathology, infectious disease, and pharmacy. Roughly 15 clinicians have gone on the trips, total, with some going multiple times, and others only once."

The cost of a Mongolian trip is roughly \$15,000, said Collins, and that's where Jonathan's parents, Stephen and Cathy Soud, come in. In honor of their son, the Souds have established the Jonathan Soud Legacy Fund for Global Health Care at Baptist Health to eventually fund the trips in perpetuity.

To get the endowment started, the Souds joined Baptist Health in holding a fundraising event at Rue Saint-Marc Restaurant in San Marco in March. At the time, the restaurant had not officially opened its doors, but hosted the event as a preview of things to come, said Soud.

"The event at Rue Saint-Marc was to raise awareness and funds for the endowment," Collins said. "Our goal for that particular night was \$50,000, and we've raised about \$30,000 so far, but I fully expect we will hit \$50,000 in the next couple of months. The great thing about the endowment is that, as part of the comprehensive campaign that we've been in for the last five years at Baptist Health, Baptist has been matching all endowment gifts, so everything that has come in toward the Soud endowment is being doubled, essentially," she said, noting the \$30,000 already raised does not include the match.

In 2016, the Baptist Foundation brought a Mongolian clinician to Jacksonville for several weeks to work with Sandler and his team at Wolfson, Collins said. "Dr. Sandler hopes to do this more regularly in the future. Our ultimate hope and goal is to help the Mothers' and Children's Hospital establish their own cancer program, and we want to continue working with them until that happens," Collins said. "The whole 'giving a man a fish versus teaching a man how to fish,' is what we are trying to do."

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# San Marco honors toddler with successful blood drive

Friends and family of Addison Tomberlin, as well as other big-hearted folks shopping near San Marco Square, climbed aboard OneBlood's Big Red Bus to donate blood in the parking lot at Southside Baptist Church April 29.

The drive, which was hosted by Creative Grain Studio in San Marco, was held in recognition of Tomberlin, a Yulee resident, and the struggles she has had with Philadelphia chromosome positive Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. At age 3, Tomberlin has already received countless transfusions of blood and platelets.

Amber Nissen, a friend of Addison's parents, Christopher and Stephanie Tomberlin,

drove from Yulee to donate, while Mary Keller of San Jose, didn't know about Addison but decided to give anyway after seeing the bus as she drove down Hendricks Avenue. "I drove past two times, so I figured it was meant to be," said Keller. "I've thought about giving blood for a long time."

By the end of the day, 17 people each had donated a pint, surpassing the blood drive's goal of 10 pints, said Jessica Cmar, marketing director for OneBlood. "We had a good showing. We are hoping to replenish the blood supply and having it in Addison's honor really helps. We appreciate all of Addison's family and friends who showed up to help her in her battle."



Amber Nissen waits in the queue while Twanna Baines of One Blood assists Mary Keller as she gives blood in the Big Red Bus April 29 in San Marco.

## Clayman Plastic Surgeons support local team at Keys 100

### Helping "Stop the Clot" at ultra-marathon

Doctors Loren and Mark Clayman, both former All-American collegiate track athletes and charitable plastic surgeons at St. Vincent's HealthCare Riverside, sponsored for the third year a relay team at the [Florida] Keys 100, an ultra-marathon race.

The six-man team of Bobby Clayman, Mike Carol, George Dover, Gary Laughlin, Brian Schumacher, and Scott McCarthy placed first in their division, bettering their time from last year by over one hour.

This year's race was very special for team member Bobby Clayman. Last July, Bobby suffered a leg injury that required emergency surgery. Post-surgery, he suffered from blood clots in both legs and lungs. After several months of intense physical therapy, Bobby was able to compete and contribute



Bobby, Elana and Dr. Loren Clayman celebrating the will to finish and win for others in need.

to his team at a very high-level. He represented "Clot Busters Racing to Stop the Clot," a group of worldwide athletes who compete while on blood thinners, a testament to all athletes to return to a normal lifestyle and continue to live again.

"We followed the race for 100 miles through all of the checkpoints, speaking with so many interesting competitors who shared their perspective on running, how they felt, why they do what they do, and the unique way that athletes live their life with goals and persistence. The race demonstrates the endurance of the runners and the commitment to teamwork, ethics, determination and mental fortitude," commented Elana Clayman.



Barry Henry, Amy Barnett, Mark Brunell, Jody and Janne Brandenburg

## Journey2Kindness Suitcase party raises funds to end bullying in public schools

Guests at the American Civility Association's Journey2Kindness Suitcase Party not only enjoyed the chance to meet former Jaguars quarterback Mark Brunell, but they also got to hear about how the nonprofit's Kindness Literacy Education program is working to root out a culture of rudeness, bullying and meanness at two schools in Northeast Florida.

The fundraiser, held May 11 at San Jose Country Club, exceeded expectations, both in the amount of money raised and by the progress that was reported by several who spoke at the event, said American Civility Association President Amy Barnett of San Marco.

"Our goal is to get our message out of how our programs are transforming the school climate of bullying in the schools in Jacksonville, Clay County and St. Johns County," she said, noting that all proceeds from the event support programs in Jacksonville.

"We exceeded our goal, but we still need to raise more," Barnett said in a phone interview. "Our goal is to raise over \$1 million. In the Duval County Public Schools, it costs \$12 per child for our kindness literacy program and there are 128,000 children in the schools. We still have a long way to go," she said.

As guests noshed on heavy hors d'oeuvres, the group named Brunell its 2017 Kindness Hero of Year. In addition, School of Kindness Excellence Awards were bestowed on West Riverside Elementary School Principal Shawna White, and Cynthia Williams, principal of St. Johns Technical High School in St. Augustine, which serves students from 8th to 12th grade.

In her remarks, Williams said after initiating the Kindness Literacy Education at her school two years ago, discipline referrals dropped from 400 per year to 48, and as of April, only two suspensions had to be made this year. "It's a whole different culture, a culture of helping each other. When we promote gratitude we can eliminate rudeness, violence, bullying and meanness on our school campuses."

Also, receiving recognition were Logan Franks of San Marco, who was named



Dr. Robert Ellison with Tom Harris



Ernie and Rita Bono

Kindness Student of the Year, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, which received a Workplace Kindness Excellence award, and the after-school program K-Club (Kindness Club) at Hendricks Avenue Elementary, which also received Excellence in Kindness laurels. The K-Club is sponsored by Southside United Methodist's Hendricks Avenue Partnership Initiative (HAPI), which is headed by Tina Joel of San Marco.

The Suitcase Party was named as such because the American Civility Association has also collected 45 overnight suitcases and duffle bags for foster children at the Children's Home Society. The suitcase initiative honors Barnett's daughter, Angie, who was adopted 20 years ago out of foster care at age 9 by Barnett and her husband, Bill.

Having a proper bag to keep belongings together is very important to foster children, said Barnett. Many children only have garbage bags to use for their belongings when they travel from foster home to foster home and this works against their self-esteem, she said.

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## JAPA awards scholarships during luncheon

Donna Libal, Kathy Lechner, scholarship winners Patricia Montgomery and Brianna MacLean, Barbara Turner, Peggy Bennett and Paige Hayes

Four graduating seniors from Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods have been named lucky recipients of the 2017 Jacksonville Alumnae Panhellenic Association (JAPA) Founders Scholarship.

The winners, who will receive a \$1,250 scholarship, were celebrated during a JAPA luncheon at San Jose Country Club May 20. The girls were selected based on recommendations, their grade point averages, high school activities, community involvement and financial need, said JAPA President Paige Hayes, noting that each recipient had to be sponsored by a current JAPA member who had known them for at least one year.

Brianna MacLean, a senior at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, was sponsored by Barbara Turner, a JAPA member from San Marco. She plans to attend the University of North Florida in the fall.

She is the daughter of Alicia and Mark MacLean of San Marco.

Patricia Montgomery, a senior at St. Johns Country Day School, was sponsored by Donna Libal of Orange Park and Kathy Lechner of Riverside. She plans to attend Auburn University in the fall. She is the daughter of Dawn and Jonathan Montgomery of Ortega.

Other scholarship recipients who were unable to attend the luncheon were Lillian Pittman and Katherine Britt, both of San Jose. Both girls are seniors at Episcopal High School, which was holding its commencement ceremony the same day.

Pittman, who plans to attend Furman University, was sponsored by Martha Van Der Mallie of San Marco. She is the daughter of Laura Jane and Buck Pittman of San Marco.

Britt, who plans to attend Stetson University Honors College, was sponsored by Peggy Bennett of San Jose. She is the daughter of Father Stephen and Carol Britt of San Jose.

## Relay For Life raises nearly \$29,000 for fight against cancer



San Marco participants from various teams included Kathleen Pajcic, Melodie Lockamy, Chandra Hutchins, Sarah Skinner, Event Lead Heather Riley and Emily Dostie.

Teams from San Marco and San Jose raised almost \$29,000 for the American Cancer Society during its Relay For Life event at The Bolles School April 22.

Serving as Event Lead was Heather Riley of San Marco, who was the top individual fundraiser during the event. Second among the top individual fundraisers was Kathleen Pajcic of San Marco, followed by Jake Still.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty was the top fundraising team. Rounding out the top three were Christina's Crusaders and Team

Bush, headed by Honorary Event Lead Elise Bush.

Relay For Life is the largest nonprofit fundraiser in the world, according to the American Cancer Society. Hendricks Avenue Elementary Brownie Troop 590 kicked off the event with a Presentation of the Colors, and Bolles student Serena Scalcione sang the National Anthem.

In addition to being the Honorary Event Lead, Bush served as guest speaker, sharing the story of her successful recovery from ovarian cancer.

## Voya employees work to serve others



Employees of Voya Financial packed 22,500 meals for the nonprofit, Feeding Children Everywhere, which will feed hungry families in Jacksonville.

Voya Financial, Inc. held its fourth annual National Day of Service May 16, a companywide effort throughout the United States during which thousands of its employees gave back to their local communities.

More than 200 Jacksonville employees volunteered to assist 14 nonprofits throughout the city, including HabiJax, Ronald McDonald House in San Marco, Hubbard House, JASMYN, Jacksonville USP, Junior Achievement, and Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Voya offers its fulltime employees 40 hours per year of paid volunteer time. During the National Day of Service, Voya's work force partners with local nonprofits to build homes, mentor children, and revitalize green spaces. The volunteer opportunities align with the company's corporate responsibility focus areas, which include financial literacy, children's education, and protecting the environment.

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# Retired DA principal continues to feel love from the community

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

Although Jackie Cornelius officially retired as principal of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts with great fanfare in April, she was still feeling the love from the city and her former school in May.

On May 9, the Jacksonville City Council adopted Resolution 2017-338-A, honoring and commending Cornelius, a San Marco resident, for her 47 years of “dedicated service and leadership to Duval County Public Schools upon the occasion of her retirement.”

Cornelius began her tenure in Duval County first as an English teacher and Dean of Students at what is now Westside High School before moving on to Douglas Anderson, where she spent 29 years of her career, first as its arts director and vice principal, and then as principal. During her term as principal, she spearheaded two major expansion projects on campus, each costing \$13 million.

Under her leadership and guidance, DA received numerous national recognitions and awards and is considered one of the finest academic high schools as well as art schools in the country. “Douglas Anderson’s success is credited to Jackie Cornelius’ diligent and tireless determination to create an environment for the students to grow, engage, and excel,” stated the resolution.

Although she has retired from her role as DA’s principal, she will continue to be a fixture on the school campus in her new role as executive director of the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Foundation.



Jackie Cornelius with her daughter, Amber Amerson

Cornelius has also been pegged by Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry to become a member of its Art in Public Places Committee, replacing David L. Engdahl as a Cultural Council representative. Resolution 2017-366, introduced at City Council May 9 and sponsored by City Council President Lori Boyer at the request of Curry, seeks her appointment, which should be confirmed by the Council at a future meeting in June.

To honor Cornelius and the invaluable role she has played both at Douglas Anderson and within the city’s arts community, Nina Waters, president of the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida announced the creation of the Jackie Cornelius Artist-in-Residence Program at DA on May 13. The program has been fully funded for its first year to the tune of \$250,000. Water’s announcement came by way of a letter read by San Jose Philanthropist Lawrence DuBow during a retirement party for Cornelius at the Granada riverfront home of Gary McCalla.

“The program will provide endowed funds for a three-month residency for one artist or one-month residencies for three artists so they may share their creative gifts with the students of DA,” said Waters in the letter. “The program will be a dedicated endeavor for the DA Endowment, which has been housed at the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida since 1989.



Rob Smith and host Gary McCalla

We are honored that the DuBow Family Foundation and the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Foundation Advisory Board have fully funded the endeavor for the 2017-2018 school year,” Waters said.

The DuBow Family Foundation donated \$50,000 toward the artist-in-residence program with the DA Foundation Advisory Council kicking in the balance.

“Your contribution to DA can never be repaid,” said DuBow to Cornelius after the announcement. “We believe this is a fitting tribute to the culture you have created, where excellence and talent are celebrated and nourished.”

At the party, Cornelius seemed awestruck by the Community Foundation’s gesture, saying that her first goal as executive director had been to seek funding for the Artist-in-Residence program and that she was thrilled to discover it already had funding for the next school year.

In a phone call prior to the party, Cornelius said she was “honored” to be considered for city’s Cultural Council position. “I am very humbled and very touched by this gesture of our city leaders,” she said. “I am thrilled with the possibility of being on the Art in Public Places Committee. It should be a great learning experience for me. I was taught to always give back, and I was brought up to believe that the more you empower others, the more you give through your career and personal life. I will certainly be working to be deserving of this distinguished honor in my future public service,” she said.

“Public art is important for the city because it speaks to the essence of who we are as human beings. It speaks where words fail about our essence as human beings and in ways we are unable to express in words,” she said.



Barbara Kokos with Sandy Henson, Rose Stone and Pam White

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# DO SOMETHING

Want to get involved in the community? Sometimes it just takes a little push to do something, from the smallest gesture to the grand donation. Get ready to get nudged.

BY MARIAN JOHNS, RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

An inspirational saying notes that flowers feed the soul and that's exactly what Bouquets of Kindness volunteers accomplish with every floral delivery. The simple gesture of giving a bouquet of brightly colored flowers makes people feel that they are special and, most importantly, it makes them feel loved.

The nonprofit Bouquets of Kindness takes donations of flowers from weddings and other events, florists and local grocery stores, then delivers refreshed arrangements to area hospice patients, hospitals and long-term care residences. According to founder Lisa Kirkwood, as many as 150 arrangements can be delivered in a week depending on donations.

"The joy flowers bring to each resident is apparent when they receive them," said Anna Bowmen, Resident Program Coordinator at Brookdale Avondale, one of the facilities where Kirkwood and her volunteers are able to deliver flowers. "Each of our residents no matter woman or man...love the gifts of flowers. They feel honored and loved by the gifts," Bowmen said.

*"Each of our residents no matter woman or man...love the gifts of flowers. They feel honored and loved by the gifts."*

— Anna Bowmen, Resident Program Coordinator at Brookdale Avondale

**Donate:** Although floral donations and volunteer delivery persons are an ongoing need, the immediate and greatest need is for a delivery van. The van would be used for deliveries as well as for pick-up of the floral donations which they receive. You can give monetary donations to help fund the purchase of a van, or to help with the organization's operating expenses, by visiting their website at [bouquetsofkindness.org](http://bouquetsofkindness.org). All donations to Bouquets of Kindness are tax-deductible.

**Volunteer:** Bouquets of Kindness continues to organize its calendar for 2017 pick-ups and deliveries, so volunteers are needed to help with arranging of bouquets and for deliveries. Individuals, church groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and home school groups are always welcome to help Bouquets of Kindness.

## VANESSA DID SOMETHING

A big motivation behind Vanessa Marvin's decision to volunteer with Bouquets of Kindness is her strong belief that by showing a little kindness, we can all make the world a better place.

"It brings me great joy, it's a reward in and of itself," said Marvin of her work arranging flowers and delivering bouquets to senior care homes. "I think if we all did something to bring a little beauty into someone's life, we would all be better off for it. I can't think of a better way to bring beauty than to give them a gorgeous bouquet of flowers, a hug and a conversation."

Marvin, a Realtor with Keller Williams Realty, has been volunteering with Bouquets of Kindness almost from the nonprofit's inception.

"It says, 'you're important, you are not forgotten.' The look of absolute delight on their face is the motivator to 'do something,'" said Marvin.



Vanessa Marvin presents a bouquet to Mary Lou Duckett



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# A Century to be Celebrated



Dr. Frances Kinne shares a laugh with Betsy Lovett and Melanie Cost Young and her daughter, Alexandra

## Milestone moment for JU's Kinne

When Jacksonville University President Tim Cost received his diploma in 1981 from President Frances Bartlett Kinne, he most likely didn't think he would have to recall the words she whispered to him 36 years ago, but the 100-year-old educator challenged his memory May 23 at her birthday celebration.

"Do well?" he responded. "I told you 'Go out and change the world,'" she said, adding "But I said that to everyone."

One year prior to Cost's graduation, Dr. Frances B. Kinne was inaugurated as

the seventh president of Jacksonville University in 1980, having served one year as interim president. She was also the first woman president in the state of Florida and the second in the nation. Kinne was also the first female president of the Jacksonville Rotary Club, first female member of the River Club and winner of the first Jacksonville EVE Award and its first EVE of the Decade (1970-1980) winner.

A Florida Women's Hall of Famer, Kinne's list of achievements reflect the values the university tries to instill in its students, said Cost at the former president's centennial celebration. Persistence, optimism, respect and teamwork took Kinne through some of the 20th century's worst moments, including the Great Depression and World War II, when she worked as a U.S. Army hostess.

JU's legendary lady never stopped smiling as four hundred friends and fans gathered at JU's River House to toast the indomitable petite powerhouse. Wearing her signature red, Kinne went for the laughs reminiscent of the ones she once shared with Bob Hope and Jack Benny when she brought them together to the campus in 1972.



JU's Madison Shelly, Major Gifts director, with Jeff Morris, Career Resource Center associate director



JU Alum and NBA standout Artis Gilmore joins JU President Tim Cost, his wife Stephanie Cost and Senator Aaron Bean as they share a copy of Jacksonville University's WAVE publication. The campus magazine dedicated a portion to Kinne's story in its editorial lineup, to include the cover shot.



Kathleen and Anne Pajcic with Helen Nicholson

## Legal aid nonprofit biggest winner at annual Pajcic golf event

Each year the annual Pajcic Yard Golf fundraiser to benefit Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc. gets bigger and better, and 2017 was no different. The 5th Annual Yard Course & Back 9 was a two-venue event, held at the Avondale homes of Steve and Anne Pajcic and Michael Pajcic and Katy Debriere, and raised more than \$80,000 for JALA.

Players showed off their prowess, attempting to make a hole-in-one from the infamous Dock Hole, and were roundly beaten by a 13-year-old, who won a \$6,000 cash prize for his efforts. JALA was the bigger winner, as Pajcic & Pajcic ponied up the same amount for the nonprofit, which also benefited from matching donations, hole sponsorships and registration fees.

Celebrity golfers included Basketball Hall of Famer Artis Gilmore, Jacksonville Jaguars Carson Tinker and Jason Myers. While the golfers took their best swings, the children enjoyed a bounce house, face painting and balloon animals. Boat rides between the venues were available – just the ticket on a hot day.



Katie and Dan Dearing



Bill Leuthold and Kevin Clair



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# THE WAY WE WERE: RON AND DIANE COHEN

By Peggy Harrell Jennings  
Resident Community News

When Ronald Stuart Cohen was born at St. Vincent's Hospital in 1946 the total bill for the delivery and five days' stay for him and his mother, Rose Lena, was \$70.20. His father, Benjamin, paid \$50 then and \$20.20 later. Ron still has the receipt.

Ron grew up with his brother Martin on Belote Place "in the heart of San Marco" and, in his lifetime, has moved only about three miles from the childhood home, which he now owns, and which his enterprising father bought in 1945 for \$8,000 while working as a furniture salesman at where else – Cohen Brothers!

Currently a San Jose resident, Ron still maintains a deep connection with his old neighborhood and friends of his youth. He recalls as a Patrol Boy while attending Southside Grammar School he oversaw the corner on Gary Street.

"That is where the expressway is now," he said. "I drive to my office on Beach Boulevard



Rose Lena Cohen with her sons, Martin and Ron

every day and every time I go by I think of being a patrol boy and remember doing a square dance in a Johnny Tillotson show. After the show, we went to Preston's Drug Store in St. Nicholas where the Mudville Grille is now to have a soda and there was Johnny Tillotson!"

Tillotson, a native Jacksonville singer enormously popular in the 1960s, was inducted into America's Pop Hall of Fame in 2014. Preston's Drug Store was also the spot for celebrating Cohen's Little League victories, especially if his team defeated the team sponsored by Preston's.

After Southside Grammar School, Ron attended Landon Junior/Senior High School, where he lettered in tennis and was the top varsity player. His father was past president of Southside Tennis Club and they enjoyed playing together.

Upon graduating from Landon in 1964, Ron studied political science at the University of Florida, graduating in 1968. In college he played varsity tennis his freshman and sophomore years. When he returned home, he became president of the Riverside Tennis Club around 1974. Ron, a keeper of receipts, memorabilia and friendships, still socializes

with many friends from that time, as well as with former childhood classmates from Hebrew School.

Having graduated at the height of the Viet Nam War, Ron said he soon received notification of three "job" offers – "one from the Navy, one from the Army and one from the Air Force."

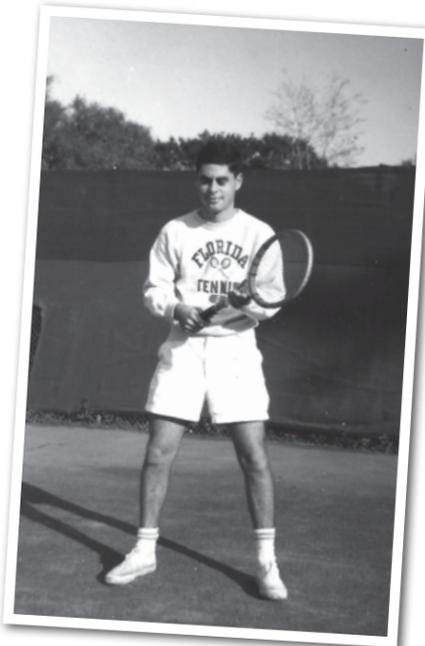
First, though, Ron taught math at Paxon Junior High School from 1968-1969, then went on active duty in the Navy as crewman of a guided missile destroyer, the Tattenall. "After the Navy, I went back to the University of Florida for law school while still in the reserves," he said. "I worked about eight years for Proctor and Cain Law Firm in Jacksonville then opened my own firm. I'm still practicing."

In 1984 Ron and his girlfriend at the time went to a party in Arlington and he spotted Diane Lynn Hamm shooting pool. "I ended up seeing her at three different parties," said Ron. "Once you see her, you recognize her pretty easily. Her size (she is 4 feet 11 inches), her blonde hair and her brilliant blue eyes made her stand out. I didn't know why she would like me."

Eventually Diane did accept a date with Ron to the Silver Dragon restaurant. "I could tell right away that he was funny and kind," she said.

Diane was from Illinois where, coincidentally, she was the No. 2 tennis player in the state in high school. She attended Florida State University, where she played tennis, then moved to Jacksonville and worked as an insurance adjuster for Wausau Insurance Company for 24 years. Diane was previously married with two children.

After that first date, it didn't take the couple long to bond over their love of tennis, photography, dogs, and volunteering. Three years later, Ron, who is Jewish, and Diane, an Episcopalian, were married in an ecumenical ceremony on December 23, 1987.



Playing tennis at the University of Florida



Ron Cohen with Puff, Diane holds Isaac



Wedding Day, December 23, 1984

"I married the farmer's daughter and Diane is still a farmer," Ron shared. "October of every year we meet her brothers and sisters and cousins at the family farm in Mt. Pulaski, Illinois – elevation about 3 inches. We grow corn and soybeans. We have a farm manager; the farmer gets 50 percent and we get 50 percent."

The bounty of flowers at the Cohens' home is a nod to Diane's agricultural genes, which have rubbed on off Ron. He can frequently be found in the yard planting and mulching his hibiscus.

The couple have each suffered an injury severe enough to keep them away from tennis, which they miss. Diane injured her shoulder defending her now-departed champion Sheltie from an Akita, and Ron injured his back helping a neighbor with a fallen branch. Prior to that, the athletic duo enjoyed 25 years as doubles partners at Boone Park tennis courts. "It was a fun thing to do together," Ron remarked. "We even played tennis against Diane's son and his girlfriend and beat them!"

These two share many interests and enjoy cheering each other on. Their house is decorated with ribbons, trophies, and awards from their competitive dog show endeavors, including Westminster. They have won awards in numerous national competitions in obstacle and obedience courses. "We've done that together for 30 years and have no plans to give it up," Diane said.

"Diane never stops – she doesn't go to bed at night, she just collapses," said Ron, adding that his wife is also a champion bridge player and has won a Regional Championship award from Toastmasters for a humorous speech. She also makes beautiful quilts, and is an accomplished photographer.

Recently, Diane received an honor from Wolfson Children's Hospital for her volunteer work with their therapy poodle, Puff, also a show dog.

Ron, who has received service awards from Wolfson as well, volunteers in the admitting office at the hospital, and said he thinks Puff loves volunteering so much he would give up a competition to sit in a stranger's lap. "We took him to see Alzheimer's patients at Taylor Manor and now to Wolfson," said Ron. "He has obedience titles and still competes, but he is the best therapy dog."

"He eases the stress of the families," Diane explained. "When he goes to the cancer unit faces light up. The children and their families can direct their attention to something else for a while." Ron added, "It lights up the day for the doctors and the nurses, too."

Last year Diane had a bout with breast cancer and was helped by Pastor Gee Alexander of San Jose Episcopal Church, where she is a member.

"He would go with me to chemotherapy," she said. "I was so upset, and he was just wonderful."

"We give back to Jewish Family and Services and Community Hospice," said Ron, and Diane added, "You meet such wonderful people in the hospital auxiliary, and I stay in touch with my friends at Bosom Buddies. Our faith has played a larger part in our lives in recent years."

Ron's unfortunate back injury in 2012, which curtailed his tennis playing, turned out to be a blessing in disguise. It led him to have an MRI which revealed that he had renal cell carcinoma. Without that injury, he might not have discovered the cancer until it was too late.

Now recovering from these setbacks and on the road to health, the energetic Cohens have slowed down a bit but are active in the Jacksonville Camera Club, while still training and showing Puff and Isaac, a Pomeranian. They also continue to volunteer and take Puff to cheer up everyone at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

It is obvious that Puff extends his comforting therapeutic presence at home as well. "Our hospital volunteering is kind of a payback," Ron joked. "I get peer pressure from the dog. He is a better man than I am."



Ron and Diane Cohen



Landon High School graduation 1964

# Professional advice about Formosan Termites prevents disasters

## Knowing the difference can help homeowners, businesses

After a long period of hot dry weather, the rain showers in the last several weeks have sent a signal to many insect pests to spread their wings and fly. Social insects like ants and termites have a division of labor within their colony. The queen controls the activity of all members. When it is time for the colony to grow she signals the reproductive members (alates), swarms to depart on flight in search of a mate. Due to this occurrence, we are currently having swarms of Formosan subterranean termites (*Coptotermes formosanus*) in Riverside, Avondale and the San Marco and San Jose areas.

These large swarms consist of many winged insects that can cause a nuisance, as they are attracted to any bright light. Formosan subterranean termites usually swarm in the early evening hours around dusk from late April through July. These winged reproductives do not eat wood, will not bite, and will die without access to moisture [ie. contact with the soil].

The Formosan Termite Task Force which was formed by a partnership between the University of Florida, Duval County Extension office and the Mayor's office is currently conducting a trapping program. The program's purpose is to determine how widely dispersed the Formosan termites have spread.

Identification of Formosan termites have been confirmed from Orange Park to the Westside. The main center of activity appears in Riverside. In addition, the teams have confirmed identification from San Marco to Mandarin and into the Arlington/Fort Caroline area. We also have many species of ants that are swarming. Ants and termites can be differentiated by the fact that ants have three distinct body segments and their antennae are elbowed where termites are straight.

If you find these winged termites on the exterior of your home or business it in-

dicates that a colony is somewhere in the neighborhood. Formosan termites infest living trees as well as homes. Many laurel oaks in Riverside have visible mud tubes on the exterior of the trunk, although some may be hidden behind the bark. Finding large numbers of insects inside indicates that your home may have an infestation. The winged insects can be vacuumed up easily and the contents of the vacuum disposed. Prior to vacuuming we recommend that you collect samples in a zip lock bag so that your pest management professional or County Extension office can positively identify them.

Do not panic, there are several treatment options available for treating homes and trees.

The Sentricon Colony Elimination System® with Always Active® bait was developed by Dow AgroScience to successfully treat Formosan termites in Hallandale, FL, where they were first found in 1980. This treatment includes the installation of in ground stations with Recruit HD (high density) bait. These stations are installed around the perimeter of structures

and trees. As the termites feed on the bait, they consume the active ingredient Noviflumuron, an insect growth regulator that prevents molting of the termites and subsequent control of the entire colony.

Additionally, liquid termiticides such as Termidor can be injected into the soil around the perimeter of structures and trees. If you wish to work with a company that can handle these issues, call us today.



George Richardson, Technical Director for Peninsular Pest Control, analyzes and inspects an infestation in an oak tree.



Formosan termite infestation

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Have your home annually inspected by a licensed pest control company.
- To reduce moisture, extend gutter and drainage systems at least 1 foot away from your home.
- Keep gutters clean and well-maintained.
- Do not stack fire wood next to your home
- Direct sprinklers away from the house.
- Repair any leaks in or around your home immediately.
- Eliminate wood-to-soil and stucco-to-soil contact.
- Keep plant material away from the exterior and foundation of your home.
- Repair cracks in your foundation and around your home's exterior. Formosans can use cracks the thickness of a credit card to invade.
- Take care not to disturb the termite treatment around your foundation.
- To avoid attracting swarms, turn off porch lights or use a yellow bug light.



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# Largest turnout ever for Wolfson High 50th reunion

Nearly half of the second class to graduate from Samuel W. Wolfson High School, the Class of 1967, returned to San Jose from all over the United States to celebrate their 50th reunion over two days in May.

With the largest number of classmates – 178 – to show up at any reunion for the Class of '67, the fun began with a get-together May 19 at the Marsh Landing home of Melissa Varnes Bushong in Ponte Vedra and continued Saturday afternoon with a picnic on the grounds of the Mandarin Museum and Historical Society. On the final evening, the '67 Wolfpack, including Wolfson's wolf mascot, gathered for cocktails and dinner at San Jose Country Club May 20.

"People came from California, Michigan, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Massachusetts – almost every state is represented tonight," said Loraine Pratt Nelson of Ortega, chairman of the reunion organizing committee. "To encourage people to come, our goal was to keep the costs down."

The George Aspinall Band, led by George Aspinall of Ortega, a member of the class, provided music for dancing. Jenny Christian Stokes, who was Class Chaplin her senior year at Wolfson, said a blessing before the buffet dinner.



Organizers of the Wolfson Class of 1967 50th Reunion were Sandy Manson, Loraine Pratt Nelson, Candy Butler Solomon, Donna Stein McNett, Christine Brannam Meide, Melissa Varnes Bushong, and Pamela Colbert Baker. Not pictured: Pamela Coalson and Melanie Beasley



Alan Powell, John Carswell, Pamela Colbert Baker, Wolfson Wolf, Dale Hastings Toposki, Patti Fields Kendall Andy Polansky and Bonnie Rains Kelley

Joining Nelson on the organizing committee were Christine Brannam Meide of San Jose, Donna Stein McNett of San Jose, Pamela Colbert Baker of San Marco, Sandy Manson of Mandarin, Candy Butler Solomon of Empire Point, Melissa Varnes Bushong of Ponte Vedra, Pamela Coalson of Baymeadows, and Melanie Beasley of Neptune Beach. Coalson and Beasley were unable to attend the event due to prior commitments.



Donna Stein McNett with Linda Gerbert Goldstein and Barry Goldstein



Jenny Christian Stokes with Sandy Manson and Becky Boyer Colangelo

## San Marco couple paddle to stay fit and healthy

By Kate A. Hallock  
Resident Community News

Karen and Jack Mattison, of San Marco, had been kayaking on the St. Johns River and its tributaries for several years when Karen read a story about the Jacksonville Dragon Boat Club.

"Three years ago, as we were paddling in the River Ruckus and waiting for the 10K swimmers to catch up, I spied the dragon boats doing the same," said Karen. "I yelled over and asked how I could join."

Although Karen said she loved the relaxation of kayaking, she always liked to race back on the return trip. The 2500-year-old Asian sport of dragon boating allowed her to fulfil that need for speed.

"I was a year ahead of an impending hip replacement and needed to get in the best shape of my life," she said. "Through dragon boating, I lost 25 lbs. and the hip replacement was a non-event. I was back in the boat before the doctor knew it."

Now two-and-a-half years later, the couple spend an inordinate amount of time practicing and participating in races in Florida and the southeast, according to Karen. "I am 61 and he is 70 and we are probably in the best shape of our lives!"

The Jacksonville Dragon Boat Club teams – the Flash, the Saltwater Slayers and the Mammoglam (breast cancer survivor team) – meet at a clubhouse at Beach Marine on the Intracoastal Waterway to practice three days a week year-round.



Jack and Karen Mattison

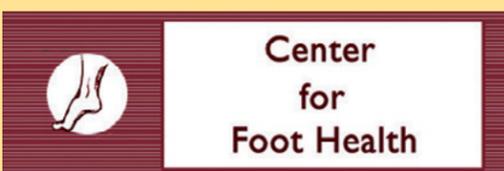
The club holds the annual Jacksonville Dragon Boat Festival the third Saturday of September to raise money for "In the Pink," the conduit for funds for women with breast cancer.

"The sport is arduous, but rewarding and the weather can be cruel, but any day on the water is better than a day on land,"

said Karen. "We often see dolphins, manatees and amazing sunsets and sunrises. The opportunity to engage with individuals from their 20s into their 70s, people we would not otherwise encounter in our daily lives, is an amazing experience. We are a dragon boat family."



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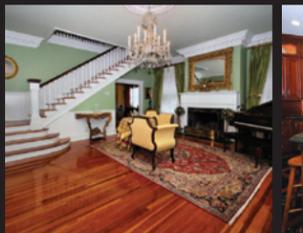
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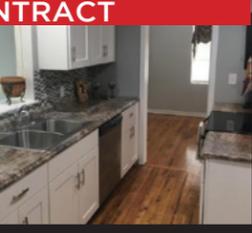

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*VFW Auxiliary sponsors two essay contests*

**Audio essay competition for high school students**

High school students grade 9-12 who enjoy public speaking or wish to improve their skills may submit an audio essay to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Local Charles E. Bennett Post 1689 is seeking participants for the Voice of Democracy Audio Essay contest, which has a national award of \$30,000. The theme is "American History: Our Hope for the Future" and the deadline is October 31, 2017.

For more information contact Patricia McQuaig, VFW Auxiliary president, at mcquaigt@gmail.com and reference VOD, or go to [www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships](http://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships).

**Patriot's Pen Essay Contest for middle school students**

Patriotic-minded middle school students in grades 6-8 have an opportunity to compete for a national essay prize of \$5,000. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Charles E. Bennett Post 1689 is seeking participants for the Patriot's Pen Essay contest. The theme is "America's Gift to My Generation" and the entry deadline is October 31, 2017.

For more information contact Patricia McQuaig, VFW Auxiliary president, at mcquaigt@gmail.com and reference PPEN, or go to [www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships](http://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships).

# Jr. Residents

## Undefeated Landon Lions win city golf championship, Southern Division softball title

*Cheerleaders and swim team also finish season strong*

By Marcia Hodgson  
Resident Community News

The Julia Landon College Preparatory Golf Team finished the year unscathed when the undefeated Lions trounced golfers from Kernan and Fletcher Middle Schools to take home the City Golf Championship at Brentwood May 1.

Meanwhile, Landon's undefeated girls' softball team, swim team and cheerleading squad also won kudos in interscholastic competition. The Lions' softball team won the Southern Division title to become one of four undefeated middle school teams to vie for the City Cup, for the first time in five years.

The Lions' girls' swim team also was first in the Southern Division and second in the city middle school swim and diving competition.

Landon's cheerleaders won the Cheer Champion Express (CCE) Nationals for the second year in a row, defeating eight teams during a competition in Orlando in April 27, said Mikaela Dees, assistant coach.

**Golf**

Posting a team score of 147, Landon carried home the coveted City Championship trophy. Its competition – Kernan Middle School at 185 and Fletcher Middle School at 188 – were not even close.

Five out of six of Landon's top six golfers hailed from the San Marco area. Will Davis of Miramar posted a 32 to take home the individual title. His brother, Sam, scored a 37 for second place followed by Ryan Sykora at 38, Aneesh Chouchary of Granada with a 40, Trey Seeker of San Jose with a 44 and Jack Lunitz of Colonial Manor at 47.

The Lions finished the regular season this year at 7-0.

**Softball**

Finishing the regular season at 12-0, Landon joined James Weldon Johnson, Fletcher, and Oceanway Middle Schools as one of four undefeated middle school softball teams to emerge with district titles May 16 as they eyed city competition.

Landon remained undefeated at 13-0 after defeating Oceanway, 9-6, in the City



The Julia Landon College Preparatory School Golf Team: First row, Aneesh Choudhary, Trey Seeker (holding trophy), Sofia Chokshi. Second row: Griffin Noel, Jack Lunitz, Sam Davis, Ryan Sykora, Jagger Leach, Aydan Sivley. Third row: Henry Jackson, Will Davis, Coach Bret Hollenbeck, Karsten Edwards



Landon's softball team wore purple T-shirts for epilepsy awareness during its game against Twin Lakes May 10.

Championship semi-finals May 23 at Paxon School for Advanced Studies. Landon was scheduled to play Fletcher Middle School, which is also still undefeated on May 31 for the City Cup.

Other than winning the City Cup, the Lady Lions had a secondary goal this season, said Coach B, who is also known as Donna "Michelle" Bourgholtzer. "Our mission for the season was epilepsy awareness," she said, adding that one of her players, Marleigh Applegate, was diagnosed with epileptic seizures in October, which she has been fighting hard all season to overcome.

"During every game, we gave the other team purple ribbons or stickers and asked them to partner with us in fighting this disease," she said. "The girls wore purple Marleigh T-shirts May 10 in their game against Twin Lakes. We wanted everyone to come together to recognize awareness for epilepsy," she continued.

"I'm very proud of this group of girls, many that I've known since they were little because I coached some of them in T-Ball," Coach B said, noting that her daughter, Macie, is also on the team.

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 Baldwin, David Dietz  
 Banish, Madison Nicole  
 Barger, Victoria Ashton  
 Barta, Kaitlin Marie ■  
 Batten, Amy Elizabeth ◆◆■  
 Beadle, Tatum Marie ◆■  
 Becca, Zahira Kalien Alaiah ◆■  
 Bell, Lauren Caroline  
 Benjamin, Jacob Alexander  
 Benjamin, Kiara Nicole ■  
 Berger, Maya Justice Symons  
 Biastre, Emalee Jane  
 Bing, Germaine Robert  
 Bisel, Victoria Daniela Santos ■  
 Blackwell-Warfield, Connor Jacob ■

Dickie, Carter Raelynn  
 Diller, Sarah Irene  
 Dioneda, Jonathan Abner  
 Dorsey, Madison Rachel  
 Duguid, Jadynd Kendall  
 Duncan, Amy Marris  
 Dzierlatka, Alexandra  
 Etienne, Myamyckel Shyrece ■  
 Feimi, Mary Jete ◆■  
 Fernandez, Andrew  
 Fields-Reynolds, Tela Cheyenne ■  
 Flakowicz, Erica Jane ◆■  
 Flores, Cesar Andres  
 Foreacre, Kenneth Charles  
 Fox, McKenzie Josephine  
 Foxglove, Ozni Raina  
 Fyfe, Mason Joseph  
 Garrigan, Joseph Leo Jr  
 George, India Alexis ■  
 Gibson, Gabrielle Lynn  
 Goldsworthy, Eryka Hope  
 Goodman, Stella Louise ◆■  
 Gordon, Jennifer Rachel ●  
 Gozar, Seth Barba ■  
 Grab, Ryan Fletcher  
 Gregson, Jordan Hough  
 Griffith, Kyara Nicole ■  
 Guiry, Mackenzie Kaitlin  
 Guthrie, Howard Andrew  
 Hackney, Holden Marshall  
 Haigley, Zachary Arden  
 Haley, Jessica Lynn ●  
 Hall, Kennedy Irene  
 Halsema, Lauren Taylor ◆■  
 Harmon, Juliette Rose  
 Harrison, Natasha Jade ■  
 Hartless, Elizabeth Lynn  
 Hatcher, Victoria Lynn  
 Henshaw, Kianna Rosalyn  
 Herndon, Katherine Leila ■  
 Heylock, Gena Carroll ◆◆■  
 Hidalgo Rivero, Aymara  
 Higgins, Emily Adele ◆■

Leonard, Roudy Daniel ●  
 Lewis, Julia Elizabeth  
 Lewis, Manasseh Cresent  
 Lineberger, Caroline Elizabeth  
 Lott, Iyanna Jennae ◆■  
 Lovera, Mauricio  
 MacLean, Brianna Lee  
 Maduro, Andrea Balaz  
 Manyak, Matthew Gene  
 Marchany, Gabriela  
 Marek, Dennise A ◆◆  
 Marlowe, Zarra Thalia  
 Marshall, Makobi LaiJamar  
 Masters, Sarah Bridgette

Scott, Adia Vernice  
 Serrao Urbano Guillermo Andres ◆◆  
 Sheffield, Tristan Reed ■  
 Shepherd, Reagan Caroline ■  
 Sheppard, Dylan Brooke  
 Shields, Ethan Drew  
 Shook, Keimon Jammae Allan  
 Shuman, Breanna Rose ■  
 Sikes, Bailey James  
 Sims, Jacob Hart ■  
 Smallwood, Katelyn Kelly  
 Smiley, Madison Danyelle  
 Smith, Charles Logan  
 Snyder, Mikayla Dawn  
 Spates, Aaliyah Faith  
 Srihir, Asia Hope ◆●  
 Steele, Mackenzie Leigh  
 Stone, Jacqueline Rose ◆■  
 Stuart, Alexis Kennedy  
 Sullivan, Paris Brenae ■  
 Switzer, Haley Elizabeth  
 Taylor, Sheridan Michelle  
 Thomas, Tyler Stephen  
 Thompson, Aaron Joseph  
 Thrift, Dalton George

**98%**  
 of the 272  
 graduates will attend  
 colleges, universities  
 and conservatories

Boatwright, Alexandra Danielle ●  
 Bolden, Darien Karlton Jr ■  
 Borrero, Isabella Giovanna ■  
 Bowman, Kayla Orlanda  
 Briggs, Regan Louisa ◆■  
 Broussard, Lauren Ansley  
 Brown, Courtney Anne  
 Brown, Zeotavia Taylor  
 Buffington, Chloe Ann  
 Byrd, Andrew William  
 Calderwood, Madison Briana  
 Camargo Delgado, Arelys ■  
 Caplette, Cole James  
 Carter, Zoey Alexis  
 Castillo, Jade Alexis  
 Celestine, Lauryn Kyana ■  
 Celino, Vanessa Biocarles ◆■  
 Cerda, Jayleen Zoe  
 Chalk, Jessica Lynn ■  
 Christenson-Sullins, Gabriella Monet  
 Cobas Bravo, Elena Cristina  
 Colson, Morgan Ashley  
 Combs, Elise DiLyn  
 Cordero, Mary Joyce  
 Covart, Anna Leigh ◆■  
 Cox, Madison Ashton  
 Crabtree, Dalton Christopher  
 Craig, Mia Margaret Diane  
 Craven, Ross Hamilton Baker ■  
 Crawford, Bailey Duncan  
 Crespo, Olivia Grace ◆◆■  
 Cruess, Jessie Elizabeth  
 Cruickshank, Jillian Ivy ■  
 Cuff, Cameron Tyler  
 Darrow, Justin Richard  
 Davitt, Hunter John  
 DeCerce, John Giacomo  
 Dedic, Jenny  
 Dees, Vivian Grace ◆◆  
 Delassus, Christian Lee  
 Delegal, James Carter ◆◆  
 Dennis, Derek Shyhiem La'Mar  
 Derbecker, Morgan Ann ■  
 Deyo, Anna Olivia  
 Diaz, Anita Josefa ◆◆■

**71%**  
 of graduates were  
 awarded college  
 scholarships

Hightower, Timothy Elijah Jr  
 Hillyer, Isabel Fox  
 Hiltz, Jennifer Larson Zou ◆  
 Holt, Elena Mae  
 Hopkins, Madison Rose  
 Howard, Ari Noah ◆◆■  
 Hueck, Hannah Elizabeth  
 Hughes, Winter Marie  
 Hunt, Charles Andrew  
 Hurst, Heath Louis  
 Huskey, Nicole Marie ■  
 Ivey, Kiara Nicole  
 Jennings, Gregory Ira Jr  
 Johnson, Elijah Mackenzie  
 Johnson, Joshua Kenneth Allan  
 Jones, Haley Elizabeth ◆■  
 Jorn, Amelia Helen ◆  
 Keller, Joseph Brian  
 Kelly, Kayleigh Erin  
 Kobylarz, Chase Edward  
 Konetzni, Jacob Kyle  
 Kramer, Carly Angel ■  
 Kutsch, Julia Addison  
 Lamb, Jackson Paul  
 Lang, Vanessa P ◆■  
 Layug, Ruben Geslani III  
 Le, Kayla Ngoc-Nhi  
 Leake, Ashley Anna

Matusko, Kyle Bryan  
 Mayberry, Kaira Ambria ◆■  
 McCray, Kenya Elijah Jr.  
 McGovern, Morgan Christina ◆■  
 McLeod, Savannah Carol  
 Medders, Kaitlin Alexandria  
 Mikhedok, Kasiya  
 Miller, Dalton Elizabeth ●  
 Miller, Shannon Michelle  
 Mills, Samantha Noelle  
 Minkley, Madison Marie ■  
 Mitchell, Jaime Katherine  
 Mitchell, Jaydin LaTroy Harvey  
 Monday, Logan Keith ◆■  
 Monds, Logan Suzanne  
 Monroe, Alexis Jerrae'  
 Montgomery, Bailey Milton ■  
 Moody, Samantha  
 Moorhouse, Gracen Elizabeth  
 Morgan, Madison Rae  
 Newton, Halie Jo  
 Nolan, Skyler Evan  
 O'Brien, Cristina Theresa  
 Orozco, Margarita ◆◆  
 Padilla, Lauren Leigh ◆■  
 Parker, Matthew Patrick  
 Parrish, Amanda Michelle  
 Patterson, Jeremiah Jacob  
 Peavie, Kaylin Ciera  
 Pendarvis, Savana Corrine  
 Person, Taurien Reece ■  
 Petter, Justas Lee  
 Pierce, Erol Sebastian  
 Porter, Frances Odessa  
 Pulley, Sonya Veronica  
 Puthusseril, Jason Joseph ◆◆■  
 Rabon, Benjamin Foster  
 Ravnell, Gregory Geordan  
 Redenius, Isabelle Faith ■  
 Reeves, Hannah Grace  
 Reid, Destiny Nicole  
 Reznicek, Trevor Buckley  
 Rhoades, Catherine Maureen  
 Riggins, Kyle Matthew  
 Rink, Isabelle Avery  
 Rodgers, Genesis Marisela ◆◆■  
 Rodriguez, Angeliz  
 Rodriguez, Zelina Michelle ■  
 Rowan, Macey Lauryn ●  
 Samuels, Madison May  
 Sanacore, Christiana ●  
 Sandler, Elan Binyamin  
 Santiago, Ashlie Mae ◆■  
 Savage, Jillian Marie ■  
 Schmid, Natasha Renee Vaicus ◆◆■  
 Schuster, Chloe' Jo  
 Scinicariello, Alexa Nicole

**51%**  
 of graduates will  
 pursue college  
 degrees in the Arts

graduates have  
 been offered  
 scholarships totaling  
**\$12.3**  
 million

Toledo, Julieann Grace Tiamzon  
 Ton, Ivy Huynh  
 Torres Martinez, Andrea Nicole  
 Troche Martinez, Ignacio Andres  
 Trombley, Sydney Cameron  
 Tucker, Jamaine Anthony Jr. ■  
 Turk, Jude Ryan  
 Turner, Wendy Rhiannon  
 Ubas, Marisa Jacell  
 Vazquez, Taleah Celine  
 Velez, Andre David  
 Ventriglio, Traivonn Deevoy  
 Vidal Rivera, Samantha Michelle  
 Wang, Zilin  
 Washington, Dejah Symone  
 Washington-Smiley, Neaje Nicole  
 Watkins, Kameron Sean Robert ●  
 Watkins, Nyla Monee ●  
 Webber, Emma Grace ●  
 White, India Davesha  
 Wilkerson, Krysten Dore  
 Williams, Allyson Catrice ■  
 Williams, Dorothy Alexis  
 Williams, Korri Leticia ■  
 Williams, Louis III  
 Wirsansky, Liam Jared ◆■  
 Wise, Gabriel Lee  
 Wise, Sierra Nicole  
 Witt, Kimberlee Ann  
 Wojtyla, Megan Kathleen  
 Wong, Sage Claire  
 Woods, Malachi Xavier ■  
 Wu, Jessica ◆■  
 Yarbrough, Conner Randall  
 Yates-Campbell, Ane' Jun Lela  
 Yolangco, Dale Cameron Santo

- ◆ Top Twenty Scholars
- National Honor Society (gold)
- Volunteer/Service Hours (silver cord)

# San Jose Elementary honors Debbie Liles with all-day arts festival

San Jose Elementary Music Teacher Debbie Liles may be gone, but she was certainly not forgotten during this year's Day of the Arts celebration at San Jose Elementary School May 12.

For the past 12 years Liles, who was tragically killed in a home invasion robbery March 23, had organized the all-day event by inviting 15 to 20 Jacksonville artists and musicians to the school to perform to give students a hands-on artistic experience. On May 12, the tradition continued in her honor, with the event renamed The Debbie Liles Day of the Arts at San Jose Elementary School.

This year, Lile's husband of 41 years, Mike, was on hand to greet students at the festivities. Included in the fun were mini-concerts by guitarists, pianists, violinists, and the Jacksonville band LAVA. Garnet Findlay,

father of San Jose Elementary Principal Paula Smith, also performed on the steel drums.

Also in the mix were both ballet and an exhibition of Mocko Jumbie, also known as Virgin Island Stilt Dancing, which was performed by Earnest Walker, a seventh-grader at Ft. Caroline Middle School and Jayden Smith, a fifth-grader at San Jose Elementary. Meleah Paishon and Samuel Johnson of the Florida Ballet demonstrated classical ballet moves in the school cafeteria.

Students from the University of North Florida, including UNF Mascot "Ozzie," manned a face-painting concession and assisted students in coloring "Ozzie" masks. Well-known Jacksonville Beach muralist Nicole Holderbaum was also on hand to assist the students in painting a mural on the outside wall of the school.



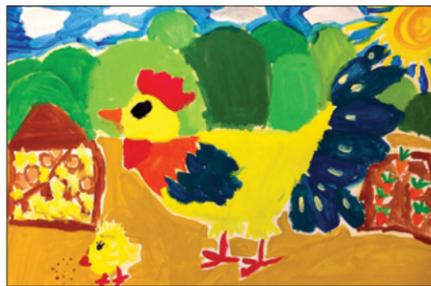
Fifth-grader Yashira Gonzalez joins muralist Nicole Holderbaum, known as "Nico," during the Debbie Liles Day of the Arts at San Jose Elementary School May 12.

## San Marco third grader a two-time art winner

Lanie Pochurek, a third grader at Riverside Presbyterian Day School, recently entered the Crystal Beach Youth Art Show in Crystal Beach, Florida and won awards for both pieces she submitted.



Lanie Pochurek



Farm Life

The San Marco resident's photograph, "Morning Dew," was shot at RPDS and placed second in the 9- to 11-year-old division. Pochurek's painting, "Farm Life," which she completed in RPDS Art Teacher Dale Child's class, received an Honorable Mention.

Both pieces were on display at the Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce for the month of May. Pochurek received \$40 for both awards and donated it all to the Ronald McDonald House in Jacksonville.

## Think Tank spurs SJEDS students to think creatively

To help its students learn creative problem solving, this year San Jose Episcopal Day School began a new program called Think Tank, based on the Schoolwide Enrichment Model developed by Dr. Joseph Renzulli and Dr. Sally Reis.

"The enthusiasm of our students was beyond our expectations," said Head of School Lori Menger. "Our primary indicator was the shouts of joy and running in the halls each week when the bell rang for Think Tank pods to begin."

Think Tank is a way for students to lead their own learning and to pursue subjects they love, said Menger. The school offered 47 different pods, so there would be something of interest to every student, she said.

Twice a year, SJEDS faculty hosts an expo where students "shop" for different topics, said Menger. Once assigned to a pod, the students meet once a week with peers of different grade levels. Teachers serve as facilitators to guide students through research and discussion, group projects and real-world applications.

This year, one pod of students studied the St. Johns River and became so aware



Jordan Batson and Cadel Faris in their Superhero pod, which teaches them how to help others.

of the impact of litter on the waterway that it organized a community clean-up. Another pod learned about endangered Monarch butterflies and grew native milkweed and nectar plants from seed and later planted a butterfly garden. The school's flower beds became enriched with fresh compost after another pod built a worm composter, with all students contributing by providing used coffee grounds and fruit and vegetable peels from home.

The newscast pod met with a local TV anchor to learn about journalism as a career and created weekly newscasts to keep the school informed about current events. Still another group in the "Helping Hands" pod identified people in need and helped by visiting the elderly and making cards to brighten their day, Menger said.



Blair Baldwin, Ryan Servis, Maddie Young and Samantha Harrell studied American glass sculptor Dale Chihuly then constructed their own recreation out of melted and painted plastic bottles.

## Wolfson inducts 39 into National Honor Society

In May, Samuel W. Wolfson High School for Advanced International Studies inducted a new crop of young scholars into the National Honor Society.

Nine seniors and 30 juniors were welcomed into the prestigious honor association due to their academic proficiency in maintaining a 3.5 grade point average. The majority are also members of Wolfson's International Baccalaureate Program.

Seniors named National Honor Society members were Ida Barnes, Cody Beard, Lyna Benhamida, Tracy Davis, Te'era Jones, Andrey Lewis, Thomas Monisky, Kennedy Robinson, Marvin Rolle.

Inductees in the junior class were Christian Baez, Courtney Clark, Crystal Collins, Stella

Corniffe, Mahelet Dalke, Esther Dar, Lydie Gadio, Justyce Grimsley, Anaya Hardmon, Leontae Harris, Destinee Harvey, Eimi Hernandez, Sandria Hillman, Kyle Hinchliffe, Shayla Ho, Nicholas Johnson, Jalen Johnson, Mirza Nevoric, Elena Pellumbi, Nikoleta Pethuqi, Natavia Reddick, Assata Roberts, Lance Schlechter, Almitra Taharqa, Brenton Thompson, Kurstine Warner, Charity Watkins, Justyce White, Mary Williams, Angel Williamstus, Shanya Wilson.

As members of the National Honor Society, each of the students will participate in monthly service projects that echo the testament of the club, demonstrating dedication to character, scholarship, service, and leadership.



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## Tebow surprises with video appearance at North Florida School Prom

Former Florida football player Tim Tebow, who is now plays minor league baseball in New Jersey, made a surprise video appearance at the North Florida School of Special Education Prom May 13 at South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church.

In a special message, which he taped exclusively for student Savannah Forrest, Tebow said it was his "honor" to crown her "Queen" of the prom because she had been forced to miss his Foundation's Night to Shine Prom in February due to illness.

Forrest was not the only royalty to be crowned at the Hawaiian-themed event. The student body voted to install rising transition-class students Sara Beth McMoneagle and Ben Kolster as Princess



The Prom's Royal Court consisted of Prince Ben Kostler, Queen Kristina Lu, King Christian Flanders, Princess Sara Beth McMoneagle.

and Prince of the prom. Selected by the students to be invested as King and Queen were Christian Flanders and Kristina Lu, both graduates of the transition program.

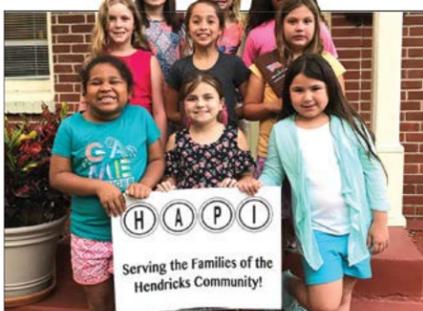
More than 70 students and 35 post-graduate students attended the prom where they enjoyed heavy hors d'oeuvres courtesy of Bono's and Applebee's Restaurants and dessert, which was donated by Seagull Bakery.

## Girl Scout Troop supports HAPI

Brownie Girl Scouts from Troop 590, which meets at Hendricks Avenue Elementary School in San Marco, toured HAPI House, a bungalow on Inwood Terrace owned by Southside United Methodist Church, May 8.

HAPI House embodies SUMC's Hendricks Avenue Elementary Partnership Initiative, which comprises after-school tutoring, volunteering, a Christmas Angel Tree, and is the place where clothes, school supplies and food are stored and distributed to the underserved within the school population.

During their visit, the Girl Scouts donated Girl Scout cookies as well as a generous monetary donation of \$150 to the house and its ministry from their cookie sale funds.



Members of Girl Scout Troop 590 toured HAPI House May 8. Included among the girls were Ayla Geoghegan, Jamie Kovar, Scarlett Munns, Tamaya Ford, Thalia Ford, Caroline Johnston, Sophia Partney, Sophia Gilman, and Cheyenne Rodriguez. Troop members who are not pictured are Stephanie Piersall and Becca Moody.

donated Girl Scout cookies as well as a generous monetary donation of \$150 to the house and its ministry from their cookie sale funds.

## Bishop Kenny students help others on mission trip to New Orleans



Bishop Kenny High School students on Easter break mission trip, standing: Susannah Gray, Cameron Ibera, Maria Cruz, Erin Corbett, Renee Chinault, Celine Elie, Abby Harrison, Emily Olson, Olivia Frisco; kneeling: Sara Preddy and Lauren Marr

Two Bishop Kenny students from the San Marco area were included among 12 upperclassmen who traveled to New Orleans to participate in the school's first mission trip over Spring break, April 17-22.

Erin Corbett of San Jose and Lauren Marr of San Marco were among the group that sought to assist the underserved in the Big Easy by helping to repair the exterior of a single-family house.

"The goals of the trip included growing in faith, strengthening our relationships with each other, learning more about poverty in the United States, serving marginalized communities of New Orleans, and developing skills for service in the future such as painting, sanding, caulking, weeding and planting," said Alex Maples, Bishop Kenny campus minister and trip chaperone.

The school's campus ministry department paired with Catholic Mission Trips, an organization that specializes in the facilitation of high school and college mission trips within the United States and abroad.

"They connect the small group to the local organization and help plan the

service project," said Maples. The students, who visited Louisiana for a week, prepared and painted the exterior of the house, in addition to repairing a fence, and other yard work.

"The team was amazing. They worked for six days straight, through rain, sun, and mud to make the house as beautiful as they could," she said.

In addition to the service project, the students shared Catholic-based reflections and small-group religious activities. They were also able to explore the French Quarter and visit two universities – Loyola-New Orleans and Tulane.

"We would like to return to work in New Orleans with the same community," said Maples, adding that her students worked with a volunteer group called His Hands 2 Go, which has lived in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina. "They run a church, a community center, and a 4H Club for inner-city kids. They loved working with our Bishop Kenny students and want to create a long-term relationship with us. We plan to return next year."

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# Jacksonville waterways good proving ground for youth competitors

By Robert DeAngelo  
Resident Community News

Growing up within sight of the water, it seems natural that youngsters would be drawn to St. Johns River-based recreational activities. That is indeed the case for a number of local girls and boys who participate in competitive sailing and rowing.

Aiding these youngsters in their desire to explore sports on the water is the existence of entities such as The Florida Yacht Club, Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club, The Rudder Club, Jacksonville Rowing Club, and the Stanton Riverbank Rowing Club.

“This area is conducive to water-based activities,” said Keith Keller, Harbormaster at Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club. “There is a dedication to instruction and education through our [holiday and summer] camps as well as after-school programs for sailing.

“Sailing combines geometry, math and physics, but also fun and harnessing the wind. We think it makes kids better aware water-persons.”

EFYCC youth activities focus on teaching children and teens to sail as well as the benefits of physical activity on the river. The club maintains a fleet of International Optimist Prams, Lasers, and Club 420 high-performance boats for its youth programs.

“Being on a sailboat can be a bit intimidating. You have to be able to be in control and communicate with a crew,” Keller said. “But in terms of its appeal for kids, there is the adventure, learning new skills, camaraderie and embracing nature – tapping into the natural environment.”

When he was 11 years old, Jonah Vroegindewey of San Marco was introduced to sailing through a summer camp at Epping Forest. That led to certification, at age 16, as a Level 1 instructor and shortly thereafter he began teaching others to sail at EFYCC.

“For most people in the sailing community, they get into it because it’s a family thing.



Jonah Vroegindewey sailing a Laser.

After the week-long camp, I was hooked and wanted more. I started taking group lessons during the week, after school, then started racing locally when I was 13,” Vroegindewey said. “I remember being so nervous at my first regatta. I placed seventh out of eight – not what I was hoping for, but I was just happy to race and tried to learn from it. I raced through high school and now race as crew on any boat I can get on.”

Vroegindewey recommends sailing for the lessons it can impart. “One of the awesome things with sailing is you don’t have to be competitive to sail. You can go sailing simply because you love it,” he explained.

“Sailing has really taught me about maturity and consequences. Everything you do on a sailing boat has a reaction that can be positive or negative. Especially when you’re out on the water dealing with Mother Nature, you have to be careful about what you do. You can have tons of fun, but you still have to be smart about it.”

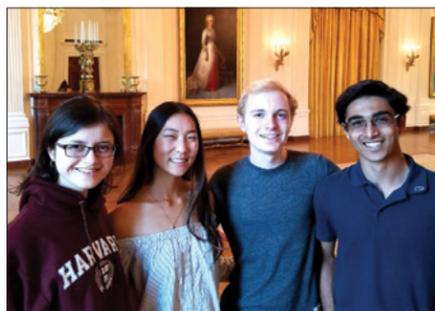
## Stanton team competes in national competition

Two local students in a team of four from Stanton College Preparatory School competed against 46 other teams and placed seventh in the annual Academic WorldQuest National Competition April 29 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

Academic WorldQuest, hosted by the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA), is a team competition testing high school students’ knowledge of international affairs, current events and foreign policy topics.

Stanton’s team, “Who’s Your Baghdadi?” was represented by San Marco resident Ashlie Malone and Riverside resident Walker Miller, along with Arvind Sommi and Haley Lee, and was coached by Frank Bunton. The team scored 80 out of 100 points.

This year’s trivia questions focused on topics such as Peace and Conflict in Today’s World, Combating Infectious Disease, the European Union, Countering Violent Extremism, Turkey, Global Megacities, China, Women in Technology and current events.



Ashlie Malone, Haley Lee, Walker Miller, Arvind Sommi tour the White House.

The World Affairs Council of Jacksonville began its local competition in 2005. Last November, Stanton’s team beat 50 teams from 23 area high schools to advance to the national level. The four Stanton students competing in Washington were among the 188 finalists from more than 4,000 students that competed in regional qualifier competitions hosted by local World Affairs Councils, from Alaska to Florida.

The next local Academic WorldQuest competition will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2017 at the University of North Florida’s Adam W. Herbert University Center.



As Jaylen Barnes (with microphone) gives the commands, the color guard from Boy Scout Troop 106 removes the old flag from the pole at the Historic St. Nicholas Cemetery to fold it one last time before it is burned.

# Boy Scouts retire old flag in Historic St. Nicholas Cemetery

It was out with the old and in with the new as members of Boy Scout Troop 106, which is sponsored by Assumption Catholic Church, gathered May 6 to retire the old American flag in Historic St. Nicholas Cemetery and replace it with a new flag, which had previously flown over the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Early in the morning approximately 40 St. Nicholas residents, Boy Scouts, parents, and members of the Fort San Nicholas Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) were on hand to reverently bid farewell to the old flag, which had flown for many years atop a

flagpole erected a few years ago as an Eagle Scout project by Michael Harro, with the help of Woodmen of the World, North Florida Chapter 3. The old flag was replaced with a new one donated by the NSDAR chapter.

Attending the ceremony were Dr. Kay Gilmour of St. Nicholas, author of “A Genealogical History of Florida: Revealed in the Historical St. Nicholas Cemetery,” Fort San Nicholas Past Regent Ruth Berry of St. Nicholas, Scout Troop 106 Chartered Organization Representative Robert Heekin, and Paul McMullen of Woodmen of the World, North Florida Chapter 3, who also assisted with the ceremony.



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# Two new parents' groups form to support Wolfson High

Parents learned about two new parent organizations when Samuel W. Wolfson High School for Advanced International Studies and Leadership welcomed part of its incoming freshman class May 15 for freshman International Baccalaureate orientation. The incoming IB freshman class will be the second to take part in Wolfson's transition to a fully-dedicated IB magnet school.

At the orientation, students mingled with their future classmates and selected elective classes. Parents learned about Wolfson Boosters, a new parent-support group that has recently been formed to help with student activities, communication, and fundraising. A Friends of Wolfson 501(c)(3) organization is being established to draw support for the school from Wolfson alumni and local businesses.

Wolfson Principal Christopher Begley said he was pleased with the momentum the new magnet school is gaining. "Energy. Excitement. Engagement. These are just a few of the words that come to mind after having our first parent-student IB mixer for incoming ninth graders," he said. "It

was awesome connecting with so many families that are totally invested in the future of their children. The students were eager to participate and the parents were eager to find ways to support the school. Wolfson is moving and shaking and I am privileged to be a part of it," Begley said.

Community support will be the key of the "new" Wolfson, said Cindy Pearson, organizer of the new Friends of Wolfson and Wolfson Boosters parent groups. The Friends of Wolfson nonprofit will be set up in a similar way to "friends of" fundraising groups at Julia Landon College Preparatory School and Hendricks Avenue Elementary, she said, noting money raised by the Friends of Wolfson will be donated to the school to assist in enhancing the physical needs required by its academic program.

The Friends of Landon recently raised nearly \$15,000 to support the conversion of the school media center into a modern 21st century learning commons, while in March, Friends of Hendricks raised \$55,000 during its annual Walk-a-thon to purchase 30 laptops/tablets for Hendricks Avenue Elementary.



Perspective San Marco area students from Julia Landon College Preparatory School and San Jose Catholic School dropped by for a tour and to take part in a freshman IB orientation at Samuel W. Wolfson School for Advanced International Studies and Leadership May 15. From left: Caroline Grace Posgay, Ashley Shakib, Caine Burlison, West Allred, Will Davis, Christian Cosper, A.J. Horkan, Austin Franks, Grace Whipple, Augustine Cole and Priscilla Osburn.

"It was wonderful to meet other parents and their children who plan to attend Wolfson in the fall," said San Marco resident Amy Franks. "I felt right at home and instantly felt a sense of community with the other families. We have nothing but positive things to say about the opportunities that lie ahead for us in high school."

Wolfson also plans to host a freshman orientation for incoming Advanced Placement/Honors students in the future as well as a summer "bridge" event for all freshmen in August. Wolfson has limited space in both the ninth- and 10th-grade classes for IB and AP/Honors students. To schedule a tour, contact the school at (904) 739-5265.

## San Marco resident wins National PTA Reflections contest

Sydney VillacortaBuer of Miramar was one of two students from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts to receive a Certificate of Excellence at the national level in the PTA Reflections contest. The awards will be distributed during the National PTA Convention, Saturday, June 24 at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas. The 2017 winning works will be previewed and displayed digitally at the convention. Winners of the national PTA Reflections contest were announced May 1.



Sydney VillacortaBuer

Representing the State of Florida in the Film Production category, VillacortaBuer's entry entitled "Disowned" was one of three selected to receive the Excellence award in the high school division.

Receiving a Certificate of Excellence in the Dance Choreography category was VillacortaBuer's schoolmate from Douglas Anderson, Madison Minkley, with her entry, "This Is Not the End."

The Douglas Anderson students were selected by a panel of experts who reviewed more than 1,000 national-level submissions. From all the submissions, 206 of the most creative works were recognized with either Certificates of Excellence or Merit. Only three in each category were awarded a Certificate of Excellence in each division – high school, middle school, Intermediate

or Primary. The winning entries were judged according to the personal interpretations on the program theme that best exemplify creativity and technical skill.

By receiving an Award of Excellence, both VillacortaBuer and Minkley received a \$200 Young Artist Scholarship, a silver medal and certificate and recognition in the traveling art exhibit and online gallery.

PTA Reflections is a nationwide arts appreciation and recognition program for students from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade. In the competition, all the students were asked to express themselves on a common theme, "What Is Your Story?" and could submit entries in one or more of six categories – dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, and the visual arts.



Grand prize winner Avyree Sakovich

## San Jose Catholic student wins national SuperScience Contraption contest

Avyree Sakovich, a sixth-grade student at San Jose Catholic School, was named the grand prize winner for her entry, "Easter Trap" in the 2017 National SuperScience Contraption Contest sponsored by Scholastic SuperScience® magazine. Entrants were asked to design a Rube Goldberg-like contraption that would perform a simple task in a ridiculously complicated way.

Each student in Carla Chin's sixth-grade science classes built a machine which incorporated at least three simple machines to capture an action figure. The students also submitted a short essay of less than 200

words explaining their design process. Their work was then submitted to the contest.

"We were impressed by the decorative theme, as well as the clarity of the design drawing," said Greg Uyeno, senior associate editor for Scholastic SuperScience Magazine about Sakovich's design. "The use of a pulley to lift a trap around the target, rather than suspend and then drop the trap, was an unusual creative twist! We also appreciated that the essay touched on some of the frustrations of the design process."

As the grand prize winner, Sakovich received a Wonder Workshop Wonder Pack, which includes two programmable robots and a variety of attachments and accessories. She also received the interactive Klutz books, "Build Your Own Gotcha Gadgets," "Lego Chain Reactions," and "Straw Jet Shooters."

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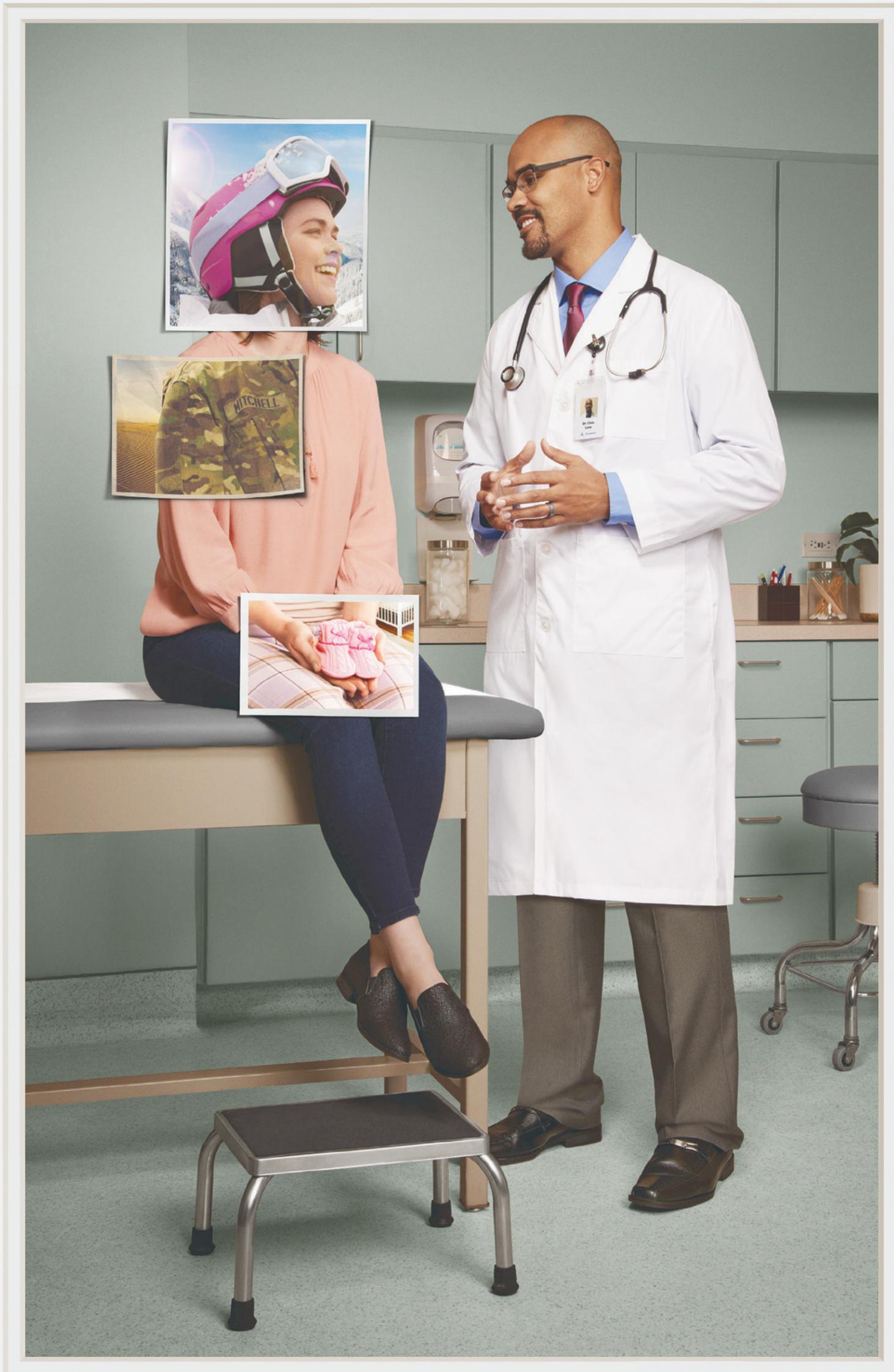
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