

Arf Barket - It's for the dogs

Kathy Spencer with her 13-week-old West Highland Terrier, Mazzie, was one of six precious pooches to compete in the annual Arf Barket costume contest at Riverside Arts Market May 27.



Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS



Kids' dreams do come true

All smiles, Gabrielle Sellers perches on the lap of Disney princess Ariel at the 5th annual Dream Day.

READ MORE, PAGE 47

FIERCELY LOCAL NEWS ... FIERCELY LOCAL NEWS

WWW.RESIDENTNEWS.NET | JULY 2018, VOL. 12, ISSUE 07



VETERANS FROM THREE WARS JOIN LOCAL WOMEN'S CLUB IN FLAG DAY CELEBRATION

The GFWC Lakeshore Woman's Club held its second annual celebration for Flag Day June 14, drawing more than 120 guests and welcoming veterans from three wars. Joining club leaders and City Councilmen Jim Love and Doyle Carter, and Florida Senator Stephen Wise were World War II veterans Staff Sgt. Sollie Mitchell, 100, and Sgt. Robert Hall, 94, as well as George Clawson, 72, a Vietnam War veteran, and Dr. Henry Moreland, 84, a veteran of the Korean War.

Front, Sollie Mitchell, Robert Hall, George Clawson and Dr. Henry Moreland; back, Nancy Ware, Terry Laws, Betty Hayes and Laura Bryan



Kindergarten chess champ

A big smile accompanied a trophy for Riverside Presbyterian Day School Kindergarten Miles Valentino, of Fairfax Manor. He placed first in the Kindergarten division of The Knight School's Chess "Tournaparty," held May 19. Over 50 students in Kindergarten through 6th Grade from Duval and St. John's Counties participated in the combination chess party, throw-down and end-of-semester celebration.



Tom Coughlin and Dan Hicken

Tom Coughlin Jay Fund golf classic, dinner raise almost \$600,000

READ MORE, PAGE 27

A personal pursuit: Restoring landmarks

It takes leadership and staying power to get big projects off the ground. Steve Atkins has been at it for three mayoral administrations, and he's beginning to make significant strides.

READ MORE, PAGE 12

Fishweir Creek restoration project moves into next phase with partnership agreement



PHOTO BY MIKE WEBSTER

Army Corps of Engineers planning public meeting in August

By Kate A. Hallock
Resident Community News

In a few years, residents along Fishweir Creek may have an opportunity to swim with a manatee - that is if they aren't concerned about the gators.

Big Fishweir Creek is classified by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as a Florida Class III Waterbody, meaning it should be swimmable and fishable, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). But the creek, which meanders from the St. Johns River in Avondale then heads west toward Roosevelt Boulevard, has not been easily navigable for over a decade, maybe two.

That will change soon now that the Corps' Jacksonville District Commander, Col. Jason Kirk, has signed a project partnership agreement with the City of Jacksonville for the Big Fishweir Creek Aquatic Restoration project. With the signed agreement, the aquatic restoration project now moves into the design and permitting phase, which should be complete in about a year. Actual project construction is subject to future federal and non-federal appropriations, but the Corps estimates the team will be ready to advertise a construction contract in July 2019, barring any unforeseen issues.

Due to urbanization, including encroachment along the banks of the creek, sediments transported by storm events have covered the natural creek bottom, causing a degradation of the natural habitat of the creek and its banks.

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 15

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City combines bids on Lakeside Drive bridge, sidewalk projects

By **Kate A. Hallock**
Resident Community News

Motorists concerned about the condition of the bridge on Lakeside Drive at Wabash Street near VyStar Credit Union have longer to wait until it's replaced.

Two Public Works projects on Lakeside Drive behind the Roosevelt Square Mall have been combined to be re-bid in the same bid package. The Lakeside Drive Bridge plans and specifications are currently being revised by a City engineering consultant to include the sidewalks along Lakeside Drive in the same bid package, according to Tia Ford, City of Jacksonville spokesperson.

The bridge replacement project has been on the City's radar since 2013. Funding was first approved by the Jacksonville City Council in May 2015 for \$700,000 to replace the existing 58-year-old bridge with a precast box culvert and to realign the roadway to provide a safer travel path by decreasing the turning radius and lowering the elevation. It will also improve drainage at the intersection with Wabash Avenue, and correct curbing deficiencies.

A project to fill in gaps along sidewalks on Lakeside Drive from Herschel Street



The Lakeside Drive bridge was ranked fifth among "most traveled bridges in need of repair" in Northeast Florida, according to a report from the Florida Department of Transportation.

south to Wabash Avenue was put into the 2017 Capital Improvement Plan but is now part of the bridge replacement project. Currently, sidewalks run alternately on both sides of Lakeside Drive, with gaps between where the sidewalk ends on the east side then begins on the west side of the local road. The project is intended to fill in the gaps on the both sides of Lakeside Drive, extending the sidewalk the entire way from Herschel Street to Roosevelt Boulevard if funding allows, Ford said.

Sidewalk woes

Sidewalk repairs, or the lack thereof, is causing one Riverside homeowner a bit of

grief and personal injury. A longtime homeowner has been fighting for repairs since 2005.

Angel Corrales has been trying to get the sidewalk in front of his elderly mother's Park Street home repaired for the past 13 years. She lives across the street from West Riverside Elementary School and earlier this year tripped on the sidewalk, hit her head, broke her glasses and suffered bruises. "She had to pay \$300 she didn't have for new glasses," said Corrales. "She was afraid to come out of her house for the next two to three weeks, afraid of falling again."

Corrales said he had taken it upon himself several years ago to find matching hexagonal pavers and began to replace the sidewalk himself, but a city inspector put a halt to his efforts, stating Corrales would need to apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Five years ago, after a new neighbor moved in and lodged a complaint with the City about the sidewalk, Public Works marked the sidewalk for repairs, but they were never made. After Corrales' mother suffered her recent trip and fall, he contacted District 14 Councilman Jim Love's office, which reported that the repair was in the current fiscal year budget and it should be completed by the end of September.

Letter TO THE Editor

Great job!

I just finished reading the May edition of *The Resident*. I can no longer read the newspaper without a pen and pad of Post-its. I make notes to contact people, congratulate friends, and put events on my calendar. I cut out articles for my folders because the content is so relevant to our neighborhood and my life. I continue to be impressed with the important role that *The Resident* plays in our community. Great job! Great job! Thanks!

Pamela Telis
Avondale

Casting your vote an important privilege

Education is key when deciding which candidates to vote for. While political advertising puts the candidates' names and faces in front of voters, the unending flood of television commercials and billboards can often lead to confusion.

If you're currently undecided about those who are running for county, district, state and

federal offices, as well as circuit and county court judges, begin by visiting duvalelections.com to find who has filed, view their finance reports and other information.

To vote in the primary election, Tuesday, August 28, you must have registered to vote by July 30. Early voting will be held August 13-26. To vote in the general election, you must register

no later than Oct. 9. The general election will be held Tuesday, Nov. 6.

You may register at the Duval County Supervisor of Elections Office, 105 E. Monroe St., Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. or Saturday-Sunday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. You may also register at public libraries and at the Duval County Tax Collector's Office at 231 E. Forsyth St., Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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The Resident is a monthly newspaper mailed to homeowners in Riverside, Avondale, Ortega, Murray Hill, San Marco, San Jose and St. Nicholas. For advertising information please call 904.388.8839. Editorial submissions are welcome, but subject to editing at the publisher's discretion. Facts and statements expressed in the editorial content are not necessarily those of The Resident. All content is copyrighted and may not be reprinted, copied or reproduced without written permission from the publisher. ©2018. Locally Owned and Operated



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Traffic study supports need for crosswalk on Herschel Street

By **Kate A. Hallock**
Resident Community News

Spurred by a fatal accident in early March outside their Herschel Street business, staff at Soluna Yoga+Spa started a petition to make the heavily traveled state road safer for pedestrians by having crosswalks installed.

A motorcyclist traveling south on Herschel Street March 4 had collided with an SUV attempting to turn left (northbound) from Beverly Avenue, which is approximately 250 feet south of Soluna.

Subsequently, a group of concerned business owners and residents felt there was a need for a crosswalk on Herschel between Melrose and Beverly Avenues, and at least one additional crosswalk is needed further down Herschel, possibly between Irvington and Marquette, to cover the entire shopping district.

The group began a petition and collected 465 signatures, which they turned over to the Florida Department of Transportation following an April 25 meeting with FDOT representative Tom Cavin, District 14 Councilman Jim Love, and Riverside Avondale Preservation Board Chair Nancy Powell and Jack Shad, RAP Transportation Committee Chair.

At the meeting, discussion included possible installation of a “bulb-out” at Herschel and Beverly Avenue, which could take three to fourth months. A bulb-out is a curb extension of the sidewalk into a parking lane to provide additional pedestrian space at key intersections.

Following the meeting, the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office installed a dynamic speed feedback sign northbound on Herschel at Melrose to alert motorists to their speed in the 30-mph zone.

While the JSO speed indicator was in play, FDOT conducted a three-day study of pedestrian and bicyclist counts from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., May 10-12. Three cameras were set up in the approximately 310-foot distance between Beverly and Melrose Avenues.

During the study, FDOT counted 130 pedestrians and three cyclists on Thursday, May 10, as well as 206 pedestrians and four cyclists on Friday, May 11, and 155 pedestrians and five cyclists on Saturday, May 12.

The report released May 25 noted the study area has an annual average daily traffic flow of 10,500 vehicles with a maximum hourly volume of nearly 730 vehicles during the pedestrian peak hour of 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. The report also stated the nearest signalized intersection – at St. John’s Avenue – was approximately 500 feet north of the intersection at Melrose Avenue.

“We have completed our midblock crossing study at SR 211 (Herschel Street) between Beverly Avenue and Melrose Avenue. Based on the results of our study, some improvements are recommended in the area, including the installation of a marked crosswalk with a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB),” said Abimael Collazo-Vargas, P.E., Florida Department of Transportation Traffic Services Engineer, in an email. “We will recommend these improvements to be adopted as part of our work program. This process will take some time until the final product is completed.”

The recommendation indicated the crosswalk should be located as close to the existing crossing patterns as possible – near the restaurant Chomp Chomp – and a conceptual layout noted six diagonal parking spaces on the east side of Herschel and two parallel spaces on the west side will be affected.

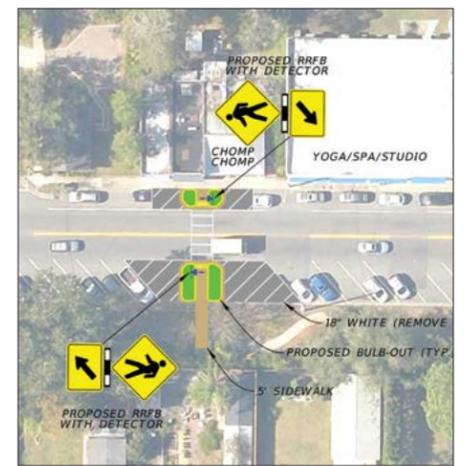


While the Florida Department of Transportation was conducting a traffic study along Herschel Street in May, the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office installed a monitor to alert motorists to their speed.

The crosswalk and beacon installation will be bittersweet for Soluna Yoga+Spa, which plans to relocate the business this fall to 2105 Park St. in 5 Points. “I’m just glad something is going to happen for the neighborhood, it’s been a long time coming,” said Sonya Hanlin, manager at Soluna.

Nine years ago, a man was struck and killed crossing the street after picking up takeout from a former pizza place where Chomp Chomp is now located. In the intervening years, from 2013 to 2017, eight crashes – none of which involved pedestrians or bicyclists – were reported in the area, according to the study, which was conducted by Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

To read the report in its entirety, go to residentnews.net and search for crosswalk.



Conceptual layout of a crosswalk and Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons on Herschel Street near Beverly Avenue.



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Post-war Ortega Forest community fighting drainage issues

By **Kate A. Hallock**

Resident Community News

Ortega Forest resident Carolyn Snowden has a quarrel with the City of Jacksonville and the Jacksonville Energy Authority (JEA) over a swampy right-of-way in front of her home on Homestead Road. Snowden and her family have lived in the home for 10 years, and she says, "Enough is enough."

Many of the houses on Homestead Road, Westfield Road, Water Oak Lane, and Verona Avenue in the Westfield area of Ortega Forest were built in the late 1940s and early 1950s. An aerial view of the community clearly shows a ditch running parallel to Homestead Road about eight feet from the street.

"We have leeches – it's disgusting – and snakes," said Snowden.

The issue seems to be an incomplete drainage system where some driveways have the required 8-inch drain pipe running under the driveway, said Snowden. "Ours does not. JEA is supposed to fix that. I gave up fighting it years ago, and now my current neighbors, all with small kids, are wanting to fight it again."

Tiffany Post, who lives on Verona in the same subdivision, has what she describes as "the worst problem of all. The water main is exposed in our ditch. I've been trying to get the City to fill in my ditch for over three years. They have shaved off roots on an oak tree to widen the other side of the ditch. Also, word is before I lived in the house, someone actually crashed their car into the huge ditch in front of my house," she said. "And that was before it was widened and deepened. My mother

is afraid to back out of my driveway for fear of driving into the ditch."

Post first notified the City about the standing water in the ditch after she moved in four years ago. She said their solution was to dig the ditch deeper and wider, resulting in a 3- to 4-foot deep ditch nearly 6-feet wide. Her next call resulted in city workers shaving the roots of a huge live oak tree that grows beside the ditch, to make more room in the ditch. After another call, city workers brought out a high-powered hose to blow through the culvert under Post's driveway. The last time she called about standing water, she said the same city workers told her the problem wasn't the culvert, but that the ditch was too deep and too wide.

"JEA said their hands were tied until the water main breaks," said Post. "And it wasn't a matter of 'if,' but 'when.'"

Post said she grew up in Ortega Forest and moved back there from Murray Hill to start a family but was very concerned last year when the Zika virus was so prevalent. She said the City will spray for mosquitoes, but "until something happens, nothing will change."

Because it takes so long for standing water to drain after a storm, the ditch is quickly overcome by weeds. They are not allowed, by law, to spray weed killer, and she's afraid to get in the ditch with a weed whacker because of snakes. She said she's also afraid of neighborhood children accidentally falling into the ditch, drowning, or being bitten by a snake.

In late April, Snowden entered an issue with 630-CITY, indicating she was told by employees of the City's Right of Way and Stormwater Maintenance Division



Many driveways in Ortega Forest's Westfield area contend with flooding after every rainfall.

she needed to cite medical reasons to have immediate action taken. She provided a note from her 9-year-old daughter's physician, which stated "She has seasonal allergies and sensitive allergic skin, which are exacerbated by bug spray and mold and pollen, all of which are exacerbated by standing water. Every accommodation should be made."

Three days later, Snowden was notified the drainage issue "is more than a maintenance issue" and that it was turned over to the Public Works Engineering Division, which is set to perform a complete drainage study for the area. "This will allow a comprehensive plan to be developed to address these issues within the neighborhood. Timeline is to be determined," said Tia Ford, City of Jacksonville public information officer, in an email to *The Resident*.

While Snowden does not know if the drainage issues go back as far as six or seven decades, she said they have been ongoing since she and her family moved there in 2008. "We have a very young street, and our yard is the one they all play in because of our shady tree," she said.

Snowden said nearby John Stockton Elementary School is why so many families buy into the area but, in addition to the drainage issue, there is another challenge to overcome.

"Our Westfield area is a great price point, but try selling your home with it being on septic – not so easy. We don't want to sell, but it would be nice to 'get with the times' and get off septic," she said, adding they have twice replaced the septic tank and also created a large mound in the backyard to combat the drainage situation.



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3333 RIVERSIDE AVENUE
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\$675,000



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2646 FORBES STREET
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\$390,000



2878 REMINGTON STREET
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LISTED BY TONY CARIBALTES
\$315,000



2917 YALE AVENUE
3/2, 1,518 square feet
LISTED BY ANNE RAIN
\$299,900



1288 AZALEA DR
2/1, 1,566 square feet
LISTED BY TRIPP NEWSOM
\$229,000

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Townhall meeting raises dredging, high water concerns

Local voices ask questions, share opinions

By **Kate A. Hallock**
Resident Community News

When Hurricane Irma flooded Janice Young's 99-year-old St. Johns Quarter home last fall, causing her to retreat to the second floor, it was a scary experience she never wants to occur again. "It stopped my business, it stopped my life," she said. "Is it going happen again? I want the city to do its part and I want the Corps to do a lot more than it is doing now."

During the first of four townhall meetings held at Sun-Ray Cinema in 5 Points June 21, panelist Dr. Quinton White said there are a number of things that can be done to mitigate flooding in the St. Johns River, "but City Council doesn't want to do that because that's money and you don't want to do it because it will increase your taxes," he said, referring to increasing street sweeping to prevent debris from getting to the river.

"The St. Johns River used to have a hole at the mouth that over time we have gradually increased from the size of a straw to a garden hose to a firehose to a storm drain... it's pure capacity."

— **Dr. Quinton White,**
Marine Research Science Institute

The standing-room-only event, "River Uprising," hosted by the St. Johns Riverkeeper, was billed as taking a "deep dive into issues affecting our community at the start of hurricane season," and panelists discussed the impact of rising seas, earlier St. Johns River dredging projects, and the dredging currently underway.

Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman moderated a discussion with White, executive director of Jacksonville University's Marine Science Research Institute, and Florida Times-Union reporter Nate Monroe who, with reporter Christopher Hong, wrote a special report, "As the Ocean Creeps In" about how decades of channelizing and dredging the river has left Jacksonville more susceptible to severe storms, flood events, and rising waters.

After 30 minutes of tossing questions to White and Monroe, Rinaman opened the floor to the audience, whose concerns ranged from environmental mitigation, to increased flooding from the dredging, erosion, the impact on fisheries, and more.

In regard to mitigating the effects on the St. Johns River and its tributaries by the nearly \$700 million Jacksonville harbor deepening project, White said there were a number of things – in addition to street sweeping – that could be done, such as remove or breach the Ocklawaha River dam to increase the flow, and do eco-restoration on tributaries, such as the Fishweir Creek project.

Rinaman said early on in the harbor deepening project there was \$80 million earmarked for mitigation projects, but as the Riverkeeper was trying to negotiate a "tactical menu of options," the Army Corps of Engineers gutted the line item to less than \$3 million. "Because the City does not

have all of the money it needs from the Federal government for dredging, this is a good time for some mitigation," said Monroe. "Attach that money to the big Federal project because once that opportunity goes away you're left trying to pursue eco-restoration projects piecemeal."

White and Monroe also tackled questions about the increase in flooding as a result of the Jacksonville Port Authority (JaxPort) project to deepen the channel from 40 to 47 feet to allow larger container ships to come to Jacksonville.

Equating the channel to a hole, White said "The St. Johns River used to have a hole at the mouth that over time we have gradually increased from the size of a straw to a garden hose to a firehose to a storm drain, and that amount of water now comes into the river. It's pure capacity.

"Coupled with allowing our tributaries to silt in, there's no place for that water to go and it's going to push up and into the wetlands," said White. "We've gradually changed the ecosystem and watched the salinity level move further and further upstream. Now when it rains a lot and we get the sudden surges, the plants and animals that live in those environments can't take that stress."

Monroe added, "The river has been turned into a much more efficient carrier of water. Deepening makes the bottom of the river a uniform depth and that makes it smoother. And straightening the river shortened the distance waves have to move before they reach downtown."

Toward the end of the meeting, Dave Bruderly, an engineer who has worked in dredging and storm water runoff for 51 years and who also has a background in merchant

shipping, said the decisionmakers have not done their due diligence with respect to the economic justification for the project.

"It is based on obsolete technology," he said. "The ships they want to bring to this port are not going to come to this port. The ships being launched in China and South Korea are drafting more than 47 feet, even 55 feet. They will not come to Jacksonville unless they are half empty."

Bruderly challenged city leaders to perform honest, transparent due diligence on what they are proposing to do. "Everybody assumes that what the Corps of Engineers has done is a thorough vetting. What everybody has ignored is the fact the Corps only reviews the project proposed by JaxPort. They are not in the business of comparing our economic business model with Savannah or Charleston. They have not done a regional maritime transportation analysis," said Bruderly. "We are building dredging projects to nowhere."

As for the Corps, when the panel was asked if it "really was the guilty party," White said, "As a community we asked them to do this."

Monroe agreed. "The Corps did not do this to us. We asked them to dredge the river. The Corps would not be dredging the river were it not for the appetite by the City to get it done."

Last Riverkeeper townhall meeting

Wednesday, July 11, 6-7:30 p.m.
Intuition Ale Works, 929 E. Bay Street

Share your thoughts on the issues raised by the Riverkeeper.
Email editor@residentnews.net.

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Railroad crossing repairs coordinated with city, FDOT

By **Kate A. Hallock**
Resident Community News



To lodge a complaint about a rough railroad crossing, be sure to reference the DOT crossing number found on a blue sign near the crossing.

With more than 30,000 railroad crossings on 21,000 miles of tracks to manage in the United States – including 235 crossings in Duval County – the CSX tie teams are kept busy 24/7.

Unless there are incidents that may require immediate attention at a railroad crossing, maintenance is done on a cycle, according to a CSX spokesperson. This past year, the tie teams worked on crossings along Roosevelt Boulevard/U.S. 17 from San Juan Avenue down to Orange Park.

More recently, two crossings near the Rail Yard District were repaired, to the relief of motorists who regularly cross the tracks at King Street and Stockton Street south of Beaver Street. “They were terrible forever! It is amazing how this can totally improve a day!” gushed one commenter on social media.

Thanks to the recently formed Rail Yard District Business Council, who had advocated with CSX corporate leaders to escalate the repairs, the two crossings now smooth the way from Riverside to Beaver Street, nucleus of the new business district.

Some crossings are owned by CSX, others by municipalities, which may receive state funding for repairs. When state highways and roadways cross over railroad tracks, Florida Department of Transportation collaborates with the respective railways to maintain and upgrade them for safety and efficiency.

In one year the CSX tie team will repair specific groups of crossings that are due, but may skip some to create a better detour, said the spokesperson.

“By grouping the crossings, crew can repair a few at a time, usually within 24 to 72 hours, then move down the line to the next group,” said the representative. “There are many factors that can delay or skip a crossing repair, including materials, crew or weather.”

CSX works closely with FDOT and the municipalities to create detours that will impact drivers the least amount of time. Routine crossing repairs include removing asphalt, replacing cross-ties, and re-paving.

Temporary repairs and emergency repairs can be done in response to complaints, but all are evaluated, then prioritized. “The goal is to respond to every complaint about a rough crossing,” said the spokesperson, who recommended that when lodging a complaint, be sure to look for the blue sign at the crossing which contains a DOT crossing number and then reference it in the complaint.

The 2019 crossing repair project schedule is still tentative, so to report a rough crossing or other issue, visit csx.com, then navigate to the About Us and the Contact Us page, where it will instruct the user to select “TellCSX” to complete an online form.



Bentley of Jacksonville owner Mario Murgado, CEO of Brickell Motors, with Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry and Mark Del Rosso, president and CEO of Bentley Motors, Inc., stand in front of a Bentley Bentayga SUV.

International luxury auto brand to open location in Jacksonville

How fitting that just two days before World Refugee Day, the British automobile brand Bentley Motors announced it would bring its handcrafted luxury vehicles to Northeast Florida through Bentley Jacksonville, a dealership formed by a Cuban refugee.

Mario Murgado, president and CEO of Miami-based Brickell Motors, was just four years old when he came to America as a Cuban exile in 1966. Fifty-two years later, Murgado was part of a group gathering at the Prime Osborn III Convention Center June 18 to announce he would bring the Bentley franchise to Jacksonville.

“This should be an honor for Jacksonville. I’ve looked at this market for a long time. It’s Florida’s First Coast and it’s had the chance to really grow – sometimes it has and sometimes it hasn’t – but it has an opportunity right now,” said Murgado.

Murgado and Bentley Motors President/CEO Mark Del Rosso were joined at an

unveiling event by Jacksonville city officials, including Mayor Lenny Curry and District 11 Councilman Danny Becton, alongside business and community leaders who gathered to welcome Bentley Jacksonville.

“I am delighted to join fellow community and business leaders in welcoming Bentley Motors to Jacksonville,” said Curry. “As mayor, I am committed to supporting the vitality of our city, and am very pleased to position Jacksonville alongside Bentley’s prestigious car brand. Bentley’s presence certainly adds momentum to our growing economy.”

The full-service dealership will be located on Bonneval Road, which is accessible from Philips Highway and J. Turner Butler Boulevard, and is expected to open showroom doors in 2019.

“The location provides the opportunity to grab the attention of thousands of visitors and travelers, and to serve its current and future customers,” said Becton.



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\$600,000

1818 BAYARD PL
3 / 3 / 1 / 2,820 sqft.

This is what Old Florida is all about with 1818 Bayard Place. Few cars venture down this dead end street, but those that do create a sound of times gone by... The street is narrow and speaks to the era of when Riverside was first created.



SOLD

2930 ST. JOHNS AVE
5 / 4 / 1 / 3,831 sqft.

SOLD by Joy Walker! Enjoy rare water views & canal frontage! Beautifully renovated 1927 brick home with 2 story renovated detached Guest House---or can be used as Home Office, or Duplex. Each unit of the Guest House is separately metered & each has a living area, full bath, and full kitchen, plus newer roof!



\$535,000

3863 OAK ST
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Historic Chamer in Avondale. Step back in time to this Awesome 1898 two story Home. Sit back and relax on the covered front porch and reminisce of the days gone by. Enter into the front foyer with formal living room and fireplace.



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\$364,000

2770 FORBES ST
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Location is Everything! This Awesome Avondale traditional two-story home is just the right distance from The King Street Entertainment District. All the walk-ability set amidst an adorable neighborhood block consisting of other well kept homes.



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SOLD

4248 FAIRWAY DR
4/3-2,642 sqft.

SOLD by Jane Slater! WOW! What a find in the heart of Ortega. Open concept living, updated kitchen, hardwood floors, light filled rooms, loads of storage, the list just goes on.. The beautifully landscaped and fenced backyard is perfect for entertaining, BBQs and holiday parties, this home is meant for family and friends to Enjoy!



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SOLD

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4 / 2 / 2,453 sqft.

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SOLD

4556 FRENCH ST
3/2-1,531 sqft.

SOLD by Natalie Reese! Amazing home - original 1920s construction and design with all modern updates. New kitchen with granite, updated bathrooms with all new fixtures. Beautiful hardwood floors shine throughout. Brand new garage and deck add to the outside appeal.



SOLD

2788 LYDIA ST
3 / 2 / 1,762 sqft.

SOLD by Zack Williams and Liz Bobeck! Adorable Avondale bungalow with a pool! This beautifully maintained home has been entirely updated. The large open kitchen is perfect for entertaining and hosting dinner parties. All of your friends will want to spend summer days hanging out your place with this paradise of a backyard!



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SOLD

3888 RICHMOND ST
4 / 4 / 1 / 4,485 sqft.

SOLD by Anita Vining! Move right in to this charming Avondale treasure. Totally and beautifully renovated with all NEW appliances, cabinetry and new appointments. NO trace of storm damage as owners completely remediated to perfection.



SOLD

3883 ARDEN ST
4 / 3 / 2,605 sqft.

SOLD by Margee Michaelis! Nestled among beautiful trees and along the shoreline of Fishweir Creek, sits this gorgeous 2 story Spanish Style home, waiting for you to make it HOME! From the moment you walk into the inviting courtyard, winding your way through the house, out to the backyard and down to the water's edge.



SOLD

2263 ST JOHNS AVE
4 / 2 / 1 / 4,053 sqft.

SOLD by Liz Bobeck and Zack Williams! Secluded enclave in the heart of 5-Points, relax on the front porch as you enjoy the view of the river and feel the breezes. Imagine the parties that will take place in this Riverside gem. Leon Cheek, the Maxwell Coffee magnate, built this home after the great fire of 1901 to live in while he built the Cheek mansion.



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Preservation of downtown landmarks key for developer

A passion for the future helps preserve memories of city's past

By **Kate A. Hallock**

Resident Community News

Steve Atkins doesn't mind giving credit where credit is due.

In fact, the longtime Miramar resident is quick to say the success of his latest venture – rehabilitating the Barnett National Bank Building and the Laura Street Trio (Florida National Bank Building, the Bisbee Building, and the Florida Life Building) in downtown Jacksonville – will have a lot to do with his partners in the project: The City of Jacksonville, the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA), and Danis Construction.

"Unfortunately, one of the things Jacksonville has not done exceptionally well in the past is be a very good steward of these types of historic properties, which is a key part of the fabric that makes downtowns unique," said Atkins, principal and managing director of SouthEast Development Group. "I felt that was something we could definitely capitalize on and improve."

A lot of Atkins' earlier projects were greenfield development, but some were adaptive, re-use, preservation stuff, he said. "That's where my passion lies, and I want to do that here in our downtown. I'm old enough to remember what our downtown used to be like. I think I got my first suit as a little kid at Levy-Wolf downtown. It's important for me, as a resident, to do this."

This downtown restoration project is not the first time Atkins has put his money where his mouth is. In 2013, Atkins was awarded the Historic Preservation Commission's award for the two-year restoration of the 1901 Greenleaf & Crosby Clock at the corner of Laura and Adams Streets. He donated the cost and directed the rebuilding of the clock's infrastructure and its re-installation.

Getting his hands on the four buildings was not a quick or easy process. There was a long period of time where the buildings were tied up by equity houses and banks in a portfolio with other properties, Atkins explained. The other properties were



Rendering of a proposed six-level parking garage with retail fronting Laura Street.

eventually sold or auctioned off, and the portfolio dwindled down to the Barnett Building and the Laura Street Trio, which could not be separated in a sale.

"It was a protracted effort and a lot of negotiation had to happen before they were willing to make a disposition of the properties in a way we could make it work. You have to have a willing and able city government to work with you. We went through three administrations and, fortunately, the current administration is business minded and the mayor made a commitment early on to Downtown. It's been a great partnership working with the City," he said.

Atkins noted that, during the period of acquiring and holding the properties, there was an absence, or a vacuum, within city government with regards to specific downtown development. "There wasn't a DIA, it didn't have a director, it had no money, so that was a real disconnect, a real challenge," he said. "I have to give a lot of credit to Aundra Wallace [who was named CEO of the DIA in 2013]. He and I have worked together for many years on this project. He's a great partner and willing to stick through the tough times."

When Atkins began seriously looking at the project in 2009, the Barnett Building had been vacant nearly 10 years, the Laura Street Trio since the late 1980s/early 1990s, he said. "They had not been serviced well and, in many cases, were open to the elements, so there was a lot of deterioration and things have transpired over the years.

You have to take that into account as you address how to rehabilitate them and put them back into service," said Atkins.

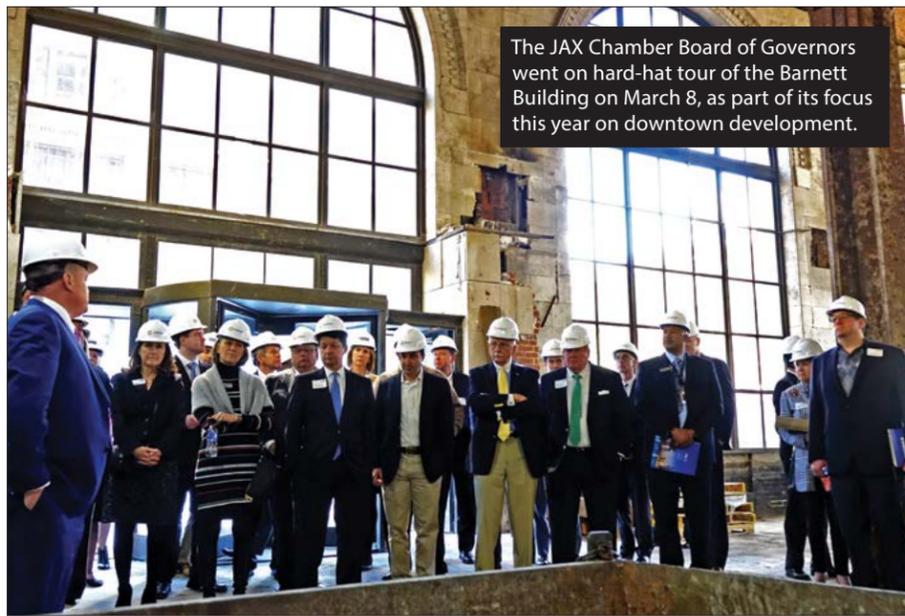
Describing himself as detail-oriented, with a hands-on approach to his role, Atkins is on site every day, but acknowledged "at the same time, I let people around me do their job. I feel my role is to empower them and support them in the best way I can. It makes me an effective developer, and them an effective contractor, and that's a win for everybody. That allows us to work well together, stay on track, and ultimately be successful.

"The reality is, the developer is only as good as their team, and I have to give a lot of credit to Danis Construction. They have more expertise in this field than anybody else in the local market. There is extensive planning that goes into these projects before we ever mobilize, from safety to execution," he said.

Danis Construction began interior, structural, and window replacement work on the 18-story, 156,744-square-foot building in late October 2017. The renovation project for the 92-year-old Barnett Building at 112 W. Adams St., is ahead of schedule, according to Atkins.

"As of today, we're down from the 18th to around the 11th or 12th floor reconditioning and reinstalling windows; we put on a new roof, and they are framing as they go, so all the apartment floors are ready to be dry-walled. It's moving at a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



The JAX Chamber Board of Governors went on hard-hat tour of the Barnett Building on March 8, as part of its focus this year on downtown development.

Happy 4th of July

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very, very fast pace,” he said in an interview early in June. “We’re on a tight schedule, very regimented, but are running probably 30 days ahead of schedule.”

Bringing tenants to downtown

Atkins expects to turn over space in December to the first tenant. The University of North Florida – Atkins’ alma mater – announced in April it would lease approximately 13,000 square feet of space in the Barnett Building for a satellite campus. The UNF Coggin College of Business will occupy space on the fourth and fifth floors of the building and is expecting to commence classes in January 2019.

Although not officially announced, Atkins said JPMorgan Chase & Co. will have their North Florida headquarters, their largest flagship branch, on the first floor of the Barnett Building, as will Vagabond Coffee. Atkins is also negotiating with a company in health and wellness, in addition to others looking for commercial office space.

When completed, the former Barnett Bank building will add 108 studio, one- and two-bedroom loft apartments to the urban core. Ranging from 570 to 1,500 square feet, the average unit will be about 700 square feet, Atkins said.

A 600-space, \$11-million parking garage also is part of the project and will be built on property at 28 W. Forsyth St. next to the Laura Street Trio.

Atkins said they will mobilize at the Laura Street Trio site this summer, but right now Danis is staged and operating on the Trio site for the Barnett project. “They are also ramping up the start of the parking deck, so to have three sites mobilized at one time is challenging,” he said. “In an urban site, people are constantly moving around.”

The Barnett Building will be finished up in early spring 2019, with the parking deck within a few months after that, and the Trio will be completed in summer 2020, he said.

The Laura Street Trio will include a Marriott, a luxury boutique programmed around the historic context of the Bisbee Building, and the Florida Life Building, Atkins said. The Florida Life Building, also known as the Marble Bank Building, will be the site for Bullbriar, a restaurant and bar. The Bisbee Building will also have a market, a grocery, on the ground floor.



“Unfortunately, one of the things Jacksonville has not done exceptionally well in the past is be a very good steward of these types of historic properties, which is a key part of the fabric that makes downtowns unique... I felt that was something we could definitely capitalize on and improve.”

— Steve Atkins, managing director of SouthEast Development Group

Restoring downtown’s glory

In early March, the JAX Chamber toured the project at the Barnett Building.

“The Barnett is huge for downtown – both with what the project itself brings, but also the buzz and momentum created by breathing life back into a historic building that’s been vacant for decades,” said Debbie Buckland, JAX Chamber chair-elect, and Jacksonville market president for BB&T. “The tour was a great opportunity for business leaders to get a sneak peek at the renovations inside the Barnett and understand the investment needed to pull off a project of this magnitude.”

Atkins agrees. “It’s good for Jacksonville. I feel that it’s a privilege to be part of this

project because it’s important to our city. I’m excited about the changes that are happening to our downtown collectively,” he said.

For Atkins, the most exciting aspect in his projects is the construction phase. “Seeing it put back together is really fun. Projects like this have wrinkles along the way – you’re fixing things that are falling apart – but I like seeing it come back together. It’s a creative process so it’s gratifying from the respect it’s seeing something that was truly grand at one time and very, very special to a lot of people, seeing it fall away into a sad state of disrepair, then the process of bringing it back to life and putting it back together to its old glory and seeing it used in a

whole new way is what’s exciting to me and what appeals to me.”

Even while managing this massive project which, collectively, will cost around \$90 million, Atkins is already considering what lies ahead.

“I am looking at several other sites downtown, a variety of potential projects, some office, some mixed-used, heavy on the multi-family side,” he shared. “There is a tremendous market right now in the residential category downtown. We have received a tremendous response on the Barnett, and we feel like we can capitalize on that and create some additional opportunities. I’m also looking at a project in Atlanta and some other Jacksonville sites.”

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Cecil Field road renamed for prisoners of war, missing in action

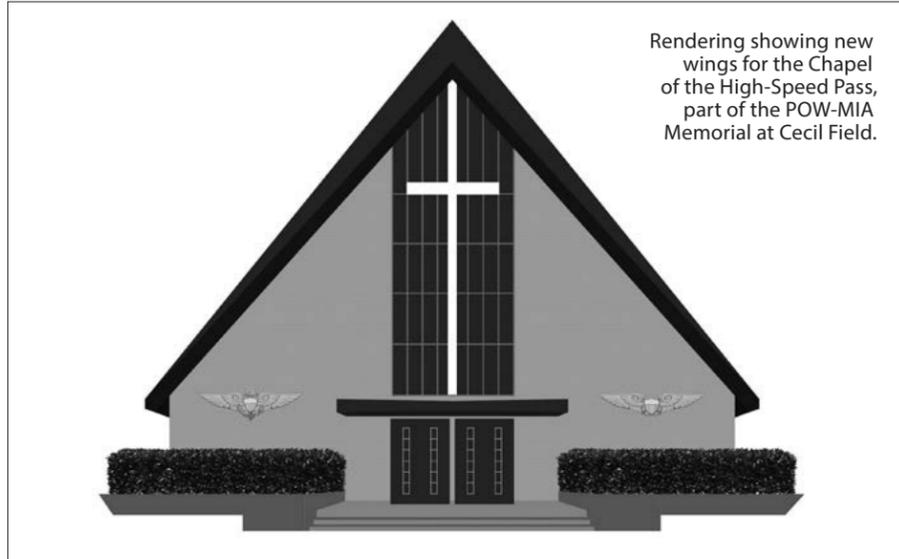
Ceremony planned for early July

By **Kate A. Hallock**
Resident Community News

Jacksonville City Council took unanimous action May 22 to rename a local road the POW-MIA Memorial Parkway in honor of former prisoners of war and the more than 82,000 servicemen and women still considered missing in action.

New World Avenue, which runs from Cecil Field north to Normandy Boulevard, will soon see new signage, which will include something typically prohibited by the government – a hyphen. City Council waived a 15-year-old ordinance which requires street name changes not include hyphenation. Ordinance Code, Section 745.105 (g) states “A proposed street name shall not exceed 30 characters in length, including directional and street type information, and shall not include special characters, hyphenation or abbreviations.”

The request for the name change was initiated earlier in the year by the Cecil Field POW-MIA Memorial, Inc., a nonprofit which has recently taken on the task of renovating and expanding the memorial. The site is a national park located on 26 acres in Northeast Florida at the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field Master Jet Base and now known as Cecil Commerce Center. The shrine was dedicated in 1973 by the families of POW-MIA pilots and servicemembers lost in the Vietnam and Desert Storm conflicts.



Rendering showing new wings for the Chapel of the High-Speed Pass, part of the POW-MIA Memorial at Cecil Field.

Renovations include restoration of the Chapel of the High-Speed Pass, a mid-century modern building. A new roof was put on, interior electrical work completed, and painting is underway. Angel Corrales, manager of American Window Preservation LLC, was selected to refinish four doors on the chapel and reseal two of the 26 windows on the sides of the chapel. Corrales, who grew up in Riverside, has been active in window preservation projects for many historic properties in the Riverside Avondale area.

“We saw Angel’s passion right away and knew he was the right guy for the project,” said Michael Cassata, executive director. The nonprofit thought it would have to replace the windows and had received a bid of \$50,000 just for the 40-plus windows in the gable. “Angel recommended we keep the original windows, so we’re excited about that,” said Cassata.

Additionally, two sets of wings are being constructed by 3D Forge and will be affixed to the chapel’s exterior. The A-7 Corsair Association funded the Aviator Wings and the Viking Association funded the Naval Flight Officer Wings.

Dedication of the wings and a road renaming ceremony will be held on the steps of the chapel Tuesday, July 10, at 9 a.m.

The chapel at Cecil Commerce Center was originally dedicated in 1963, serving NAS Cecil Field, and serves as a focal point of the nonprofit’s plans to create a place of education, respite and reflection on the sacrifices of POWs and MIAs.

In addition to donations, Cecil Field POW-MIA Memorial, Inc. is offering opportunities to purchase pews for the chapel, as well as brick pavers for the Memorial Benefactor Plaza. Details can be found at www.powmiamemorial.org.

Education nonprofit offers course to create civic leaders in public education

In response to the results of its annual Public Education Perceptions Poll, which revealed 93.8 percent of Duval parents don’t even know who their school board representative is, Jacksonville Public Education Fund (JPEF) launched Parents Who Lead, an initiative that seeks to turn Duval’s parents and caregivers into civic leaders in public education.

The Public Education Perceptions poll released by JPEF in January revealed most respondents, particularly local parents, are uncertain about how to get involved in public education at the decision-making level. The majority (74.6 percent) of Duval parents have not attended a school board meeting or contacted a school board member (73 percent). In fact, 93.8 percent of parents do not know the name of the board representative for their district.

“Family engagement in public education is critical. Students with engaged parents or caregivers earn higher grades, higher test scores and have better social and emotional skills,” said Trey Csar, JPEF president. “And when parents are engaged with public education as a whole, that impact creates a ripple effect through our district, our economy and our city as a whole.”

The Parents Who Lead curriculum helps parents become the leaders they would like to be for their children. The 20-week course and civic practice offers detailed information on how change occurs in states and neighborhoods to improve outcomes for children. Parents focus on their interests in a supportive context and collaborative environment.

Applications and more information are available at jaxpef.org/ParentsWhoLead. The deadline to apply is Aug. 3.

Northeast Florida’s largest credit union on the move

By **Kate A. Hallock**
Resident Community News

VyStar Credit Union, whose headquarters are located at 4949 Blanding Blvd., is in acquisition mode.

Shortly after purchasing the former Regions Bank branch in San Marco for \$2.87 million, the 66-year-old financial institution may soon cut a check for many millions more to buy the SunTrust Tower in downtown Jacksonville. The contract price has not been disclosed.

Less than two weeks after buying the 3,272-square-foot bank building at 1600 Hendricks Ave., VyStar announced it intends to make its presence known downtown, renaming

the building the VyStar Tower after the deal closes later this month, according to Brian E. Wolfburg, VyStar president/CEO, and a Lakewood resident.

In the meantime, the 17th-largest credit union in the nation plans to begin moving employees in by the end of this year. The purchase of the 29-year-old, 23-story building at 76 S. Laura St. includes a 600-space parking garage. Building improvements within the past two years include the lobby and common areas, fitness center, conference center, and tenant lounge.

In a press release describing Wolfburg’s meeting with employees June 7 to announce the plan, he said, due to a variety of factors, the purchase of the SunTrust building was the most economical choice, saves the distraction that new

building construction can bring, and will allow the company to scale up or down depending on staffing needs.

With 1,400 employees and still growing, VyStar will continue to occupy its Westside campus and a call center on Fleming Island. Since the credit union will not need all 380,000 square feet of space in the downtown building, it will evaluate all current tenant leases as they come up for renewal. Current tenants include Jacksonville University, the law firm of Morgan & Morgan, Tossgreen restaurant, and SunTrust.

VyStar, formerly Jax Navy Federal, was founded in 1952 to serve civil service members, military employees and their families. According to the press release, the credit union has 610,000 members and over \$7.6 billion in assets.

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Fishweir Creek dredging

FROM PAGE 1

The project's goal is to restore a healthy aquatic habitat in the Big Fishweir Creek ecosystem. The USACE wants to dredge the creek, reusing 32,000 cubic yards of sediment for the restoration and re-create a 2.3-acre manmade marsh island that defined the area decades ago. Dredging also will create two converging channels and deepen the creek.

The plan includes removing sediment, restoring habitat for manatees and other native species, removing exotic vegetation, restoring submerged and emergent aquatic vegetation, and restoring wetlands. The most notable benefit of the plan is the restoration of suitable habitat for the federally endangered manatee. Re-establishment of deep stream channels will once again allow manatee access and assist them in migration.

The Corps will host a community meeting in August to provide an update on the project, at which the public will have an opportunity to comment, but before the meeting occurs the Corps is addressing a concern that has been voiced by some residents, including Woodmere Drive resident Laurence Lee, since the project was first studied: the creation of a mid-channel island with the sediment removed from the creek.

Lee shared his concerns in a letter to *The Resident* in April, stating that his only opposition in the project was to the island, which he believes will affect the quality of life for property owners near the island.

In addition to obstructing his and his neighbors' riverfront views, Lee expressed concern that the island would drive recreational river traffic too close to their docks, creating the potential for accidents and property damage. He also noted the island would attract flotsam and wondered who would be responsible for removing the litter he fears will accumulate around the island.

Studying the development of the island is one of several major aspects and challenges on the USACE's list, which includes a topographic survey, soil sampling to determine potential contaminants, an archeological survey to check the channel for underwater vessels or anything of historic significance, and activities such as water-quality permits, quality-control review, real estate easements and identifying a staging area, among others.

"I want the team to be able to address the island. Can it be relocated, if so where, what's the outcome of moving it, if it cannot be relocated, why?" said Jason Harrah, USACE Jacksonville District project manager, in an email. "I want to make sure we have answers to the public's questions before we meet."

In 2013, officials estimated the project's cost to be \$4.8 million with 65 percent coming from federal funds and 35 percent from the City. Today the price tag is around



\$6.5 million. "For every year that we have an authorized project that goes unconstructed we are required to complete an updated cost estimate," said Harrah. "Since 2013 these costs have certainly gone up, and keep in mind the final cost also includes a contingency percent to allow for overruns in labor during design, etc."

Residents express support

The increase in project costs is one of many reasons Fairfax Manor resident Stephanie Freeman would like to see the restoration project done sooner rather than later.

"In the 20 years that it has taken us to get to a funded partnership agreement with the Army Corps, both the federal and local costs are more than double than if we had done it when it was recommended," Freeman said. "This is our opportunity to make a significant change. Fishweir Creek has been an impaired tributary for too long."

Mark Walker said residents of Fairfax Manor have been working with the Corps since the 1990s to get the project off the ground. "It is exciting to see all the hard work of local river advocates culminate with the Project Partnership Agreement between the City of Jacksonville and the federal government. Also significant for Jacksonville is that 65 percent of this project will be paid for by an investment of federal dollars," Walker said in an email.

Most residents along the creek, with properties on Woodmere Drive, Dupont Circle and Arden Street, are happy about the project.

"As a resident who lives on the creek, we see evidence of the deterioration of the waterway on a daily basis," said Mark Rubin. "After Irma, we have noticed an incremental degradation of the quality of the water and the wildlife. Debris gets stuck in the silt and continues to add to the choking off of the creek. The entire community (humans and wildlife) will benefit from the improvements."

Devon Sprague, who also lives in Fairfax Manor, said the project is much more than dredging and creating a manmade island.

"The project engineers' intuitive design will restore necessary habitat for the threatened Florida manatees and other aquatic species. Our silt-covered creek bed will be restored to naturally-occurring vegetation, a food source for manatees. The new island will serve as land reclamation, a crucial component of the ecosystem. Increased flow velocity and unblocked natural springs will once again provide fresh water for manatees, turtles, fish, etc." he said. "Fishweir Creek was damaged by man going back almost 40 years ago and for the first time it's getting a chance at full recovery. This is a multi-million-dollar gift from the Federal government to our community and the wildlife that we share it with."

Adrian Genotti lives across the creek from the former Commander Apartment Tower and recalls paddling around the creek in the 1980s. "After passing the flats of cattails and marsh grass in the middle of the two channels at the mouth of the creek, the channels converged and remained too deep to find the bottom with my paddle. This depth continued all the way to the Roosevelt Boulevard culverts," he shared in an email. "After returning from several overseas deployments in the early 2000s, I was shocked and disheartened to find this once charming waterway in my old neighborhood choked with mud and awash even at mid-tide, making it virtually impassable to the current generation of young explorers."

Freeman expressed concern for her future neighbors across the creek at RiverVue, the new multi-family residential complex underway on St. Johns Avenue.

"This large complex is bigger in scale than expected and directly abuts Fishweir Creek. The developers' plans have been to rent these units for \$2,000+ per month," she said. "There seems to be a lot of worry about the size and design of units and parking. However, the major concern citizens should have is of the view. If the units look out to muck, the success of this complex is jeopardized and will be problematic for our whole community. Only with a restoration of the area will there be true river views at RiverVue."

Wildlife agencies investigating softshell turtle deaths



The Florida softshell turtle has a dark brown to olive green shell, a long neck and elongated head with a snorkel-like nose, and are 6-30 inches in length.

There's something in the water and it's not good for the health and life of the Florida softshell turtle. According to the St. Johns Riverkeeper, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is investigating a high mortality rate among softshell turtles and a few river cooters.

The FWC received reports in January 2018 about dead and dying turtles throughout the St. Johns River watershed and are asking for help from the public. Reports of approximately 100 dead or dying turtles span several counties and include lakes, residential canals and private ponds.

At this time the cause of the incidents is unknown, but FWC biologists and veterinarians, in collaboration with the University of Florida, are monitoring the situation. Necropsies are being done on several turtle carcasses to help determine the cause of dead turtles found in Putnam, Orange and Seminole counties.

The St. Johns Riverkeeper is investigating a possible connection between turtle deaths and water quality issues.

"It definitely is a red flag. We want to figure out what's going on for the sake of the turtles, but also make sure there is not a larger human health issue to be concerned about," said Lisa Rinaman, St. Johns Riverkeeper.

Eighteen of the 26 types of Florida turtle species are freshwater turtles, including three native species of softshells: the Florida softshell, the Gulf Coast smooth softshell and the Gulf Coast spiny softshell turtle.

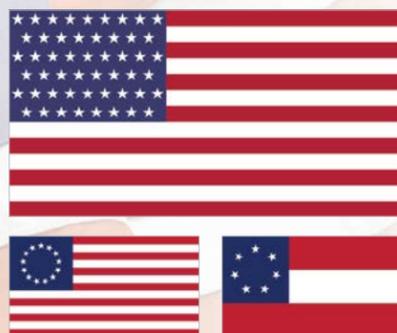
The public can help by reporting sightings to the St. Johns Riverkeeper Advocacy Director, Shannon Blankinship, at shannon@stjohnsriverkeeper.org, or by contacting FWC's Fish Kill hotline at (800) 636-0511, or submitting a report online at MyFWC.com/FishKill. In all cases, be sure to include GPS coordinates and photos with size reference, if possible.

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Lisska honored at Ortega gathering

Friends, city leaders and supporters gathered at the Ortega home of Betsy Lovett June 8 to honor Emily R. Lisska, who retired earlier this year as Executive Director of the Jacksonville Historical Society.

Although leaving a paid position after 22 years, Lisska will remain heavily entrenched in history as the president-elect of the Florida Historical Society Board of Directors and as a volunteer with JHS. Lisska was recognized by the Jacksonville City Council in February with a framed resolution detailing her accomplishments since 1996, but the intimate gathering at Lovett's waterfront home meant just as much.

Lisska received the Florida Historical Society's Caroline P. Rossetter Award as the Outstanding Woman in Florida History in 2010 for her efforts to expand the society's downtown footprint through restoration of the 1888 Old St. Andrew's Church (JHS headquarters), the 1879 Merrill Museum House (for which she is the curator), the 1878 Old St. Luke's Hospital and the 1924 Florida Casket Co. building, both of which serve as archival repositories containing tens of thousands of documents and photographs.

A lifelong Mandarin resident, Lisska is a journalism graduate of the University of Florida and attended Florida State University for graduate studies in speech communications. She's married to Lawrence Lisska, M.D., with whom she has two sons - William, a Vanderbilt University sophomore, and Joe, a University of Florida law graduate.



Besty Lovett with Emily Lisska



Peggy Allcorn with Patsy Moore



Ward Lariscy with Caroline Burroughs



Jane and Bob Still with Barbara Harrell

West Beaver Street, surrounding area create new business district



Rail Yard District Business Council officers and board members: Thomas Duke, Jeff Edelson, Kirk Sandifer, Jeff Edwards, Annie Murphy, Chef Chriss Brown, Chris Webster, District 9 Councilman Garrett Dennis, Kara Scremin; board members not present were Don Gibson and Kristin Keen.

By **Kate A. Hallock**

Resident Community News

Embracing that strength is, indeed, found in unity, nearly 350 businesses in a 4.5-square-mile area bisected by West Beaver Street compose the Rail Yard District Business Council, a newly-formed nonprofit. West of I-95 and north of I-10, the area includes neighborhoods such as Mixon Town, New Town, Brooklyn and Lackawanna.

At the new council's May 9 meeting, approximately two dozen of those businesses sent representatives to learn about the group's leadership, the history of the railyard area and the opportunities to join committees to make positive change in the area.

The newly-coined district is not a small one in jobs and sales, reported Jeff Edwards, president of the nonprofit and chief financial officer for Beaver Street Fisheries, where the meeting was held. Nearly 6,300 people are employed in the Rail Yard District, bringing in more than \$2.6 billion in sales.

The business council has plans for the district, but even before the meeting, several items were accomplished, including repairs of viaducts, street lights, roadways and railroad crossings. In addition, the Rail Yard District Business Council was the winner of the LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) Community Development Award.

With its 501(c)(3) status approved, officers and a board of directors were named. In addition to Edwards as president, Annie Murphy (Eco Relics) will serve as vice president; Chef Chriss Brown (Beaver Street Commissary) as secretary, and Chris Webster (Battalion Airsoft Arena) as treasurer. Board members include Kara Scremin (Engine 15/The Glass Factory), Kristin Keen (Rethreaded), Kirk Sandifer (Cain & Bultman), Tom Duke (Thomas

Duke Architect, PA), Don Gibson (Big D Building Center), and Jeff Edelson (Mixon Studios).

"It was a fantastic meeting to officially kick off the RYD Business Council," said Edwards. "We had 55 attendees...lots of new faces."

Calling themselves "yardies," members of the business council are signing up to serve on any of three committees: infrastructure, membership and marketing, all of which will foster and advocate for making the district the best possible business environment for the area's companies and new businesses.

In fact, the Planning Commission recently approved a zoning exception for a fitness center at 546 Myrtle Ave. in a vacant warehouse in a Light Industrial zoning district. The almost 13,000-square-foot warehouse, built in 1950, will be used for an indoor soccer training facility with three fields, exercise and locker rooms and a clubhouse area.

The Rail Yard District was one of the first to be recommended for funding for improvements through the Emerald Necklace project, according to Janet Owens, LISC executive director. The project will connect 14 miles of trails, parks and waterways that surround the urban core and will link at least 14 neighborhoods, including those within the Rail Yard District.

"This is one of Jacksonville's most impoverished ZIP Codes," said Webster, who was in commercial real estate until 2011, then started Battalion Airsoft Arena a year later. "When I came into this district, I fell in love with it, mainly because of the location. I wasn't afraid of things like access, appeal, safety. I looked at what businesses have already done it here."

The group is planning a community event in the fall to be held at the Jacksonville Farmer's Market.



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Jazzercise opens in new Westside location



Getting ready to cut the ribbon June 16 at the new location for the Westside Jazzercise franchise are instructors Clark LaBlond, Cheryl Virta, Sheri Parker, Monica Giotta, Jazzercise owner Lucia Miller, and Julie Anderson. After more than 30 years on Blanding Boulevard in the Lakeshore area, the fitness center re-opened June 12 at 4555 St. Johns Ave.

Navy dentist joins Schumacher Dentistry

Following five years of active duty as a dentist with the U.S. Navy, Broc Flores has joined the family and cosmetic dentistry practice of James L. Schumacher, 4201 Roosevelt Blvd., as an associate dentist.



Broc Flores

After obtaining bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry, Flores joined the U.S. Navy and earned his degree in dentistry in 2013 from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine on a Health Professional Scholarship. Flores joined Schumacher in May. His passion is in restorative dentistry, endodontics and removal of wisdom teeth. He will finish active duty in September, when he will increase his hours at the dental practice.

While serving at NAS Jacksonville, Flores and his wife, Stacey Branham, bought a home in Fishweir Park two years ago and built a garage in the backyard to serve as a brewing space.

"I have always wanted to open a brewery, it's always been a dream of mine," said Flores, who is building out the former Fat Kat Lounge on Edgewood Avenue for the Fishweir Brewing Company. Flores and Branham also welcomed their first child, Charlotte, into the family in April.

Riverside Avondale Preservation hires Avondale resident as new executive director

Warren Jones, a relative newcomer to Jacksonville, has been hired by the Riverside Avondale Preservation board of directors to be the nonprofit's new executive director.

Jones, a two-year resident of Avondale after he and his wife moved from Tallahassee to be closer to family, said he threw his hat into the ring because he enjoys living in the historic district.

"I love working with community. This gives me a sense of purpose, so I get something out of it, and it also allows me to help our community be the type of community

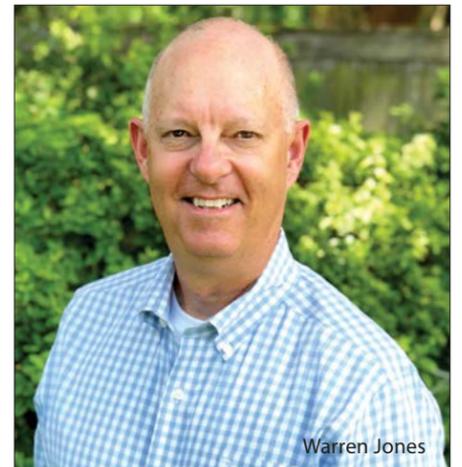
people want to live in. Everyone has an idea of what that means, and how a community comes together and defines that may change a little bit over time," he said.

One of the advantages Jones brings to the position as a newcomer is that he's asking questions. "I'm able to ask questions about why we're doing this or that, and refresh people's memories about why we're doing some things. My sense of discovery in communicating that may be helpful."

In Tallahassee, Jones was vice president and chief communications officer at

Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, a 772-bed not-for-profit hospital, where he was responsible for community engagement, media relations, and overall communications strategy and implementation. He has since worked as a marketing and communications consultant at Inflection Point Communications. He is a graduate of the University of Florida with a degree in broadcast journalism.

The position had been vacant since RAP's previous director resigned in February.



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Florida Forum chairpersons introduced at luncheon

Members of The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital convened at the Ortega home of Robert and Poppy Clements May 25 to kick off the 2018-2019 Florida Forum Speaker Series with a luncheon introducing the Forum's chairs, Christine Hieb of Ortega and Suzanne Hinckley of Ponte Vedra Beach.

Hieb joined the Women's Board in 2012. She twice chaired Garden Week at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens as well as the Cummer Ball, and was a longtime volunteer at The Bolles School where her children attended.

Hinkley is a longtime supporter of Wolfson Children's Hospital, where she's been a volunteer since 1989. She is past president of the WCH Auxiliary, served on the Baptist Health Foundation Board for nine years and joined the Women's Board in 2011. Hinckley is also past president of the Cummer Council. "I have been a passionate supporter of WCH since I moved to Jacksonville in the late '80s. Children are our future, and without the help of WCH and the Women's Board, some would not reach their full potential.

Jacksonville is lucky to have such a great organization helping the children in our community and beyond," she said.

Together with the annual Arts & Antique Show, the 27th annual Florida Forum will contribute vital funds for a five-year, \$4 million pledge supporting the creation of a new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

The 2018-2019 series will open on Oct. 17 with veteran journalist Lara Logan, presented by Landstar. The series continues on Jan. 28, 2019 when Florida Blue presents Bryan Cranston, an acclaimed actor, writer, producer, director, and author. The season concludes March 27, 2019, with Pro Football Hall of Fame member Tony Dungy, presented by Wells Fargo.

About this year's lineup, Hieb noted, "We are over the moon excited about this year's series. It's a diverse group of speakers that should appeal to many people. We also believe that our speakers are committed to the mission of Wolfson Children's Hospital and are enthusiastic about the funding target, the new NICU."



The speaker series is presented by long-time partners Wells Fargo, Florida Blue and Landstar, and will take place at the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts.

Front: Suzanne Hinckley with Michael Aubin, hospital president, Elizabeth Langley, Women's Board president, and Christine Hieb, and members of The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital

Avondale man joins local realty firm

Shane Brisentine, of Avondale, has joined the Avondale office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty as a Realtor.

Brisentine has 20 years of retail management and business experience – including sole proprietor of Shane Alan Art Images, a landscape and fine art photography business. An avid traveler, he has visited 27 states, three U.S. territories, and five countries, but chose to put down roots in Northeast Florida 13 years ago.



Shane Brisentine

Community Foundation brings on new officer

Mariette Brodeur, J.D., joined The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida as Gift Planning Officer in May 2018. She will provide gift planning services for donors and prospective donors, and will coordinate communication with, and provide leadership and support to the Foundation's Professional Advisory Councils. Brodeur has 25 years of experience providing legal counsel and policy advice in the areas of healthcare, human services and public health. She received her Doctor of Law degree from St. Louis University School of Law.



Mariette Brodeur

Short film to compete in New England film festival

The locally-produced film, Ortega River Rats, was chosen to compete against 59 other short films in the dramatic category for the 27th Annual Woods Hole Film Festival, located on Cape Cod.

The festival's short film lineup includes 17 World premieres, 41 New England premieres and 30 Massachusetts premieres in four categories: dramatic, animated, comedy, and documentary.

Ortega River Rats, a 15-minute film produced by Lakeside Park resident Duane A. Sikes and Grace Herzog Bryan of Ortega Forest, was written by Sharon Y. Cobb of Avondale, and includes many local actors. The film held its premier at Sun-Ray Cinema Jan. 21 for a standing-room-only crowd.

The Woods Hole Festival is scheduled for July 28-August 4.



Box office poster for Ortega River Rats



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Avondale resident establishes insurance brokerage, risk management firm

Rick Stein, a 25-year veteran in the insurance brokerage industry, recently established Wellhouse Company, an independent, privately-owned insurance brokerage and risk management firm. The Avondale resident founded the firm after the sale of his previous company, Fletcher Stein, to private equity-backed Acisure.



Rick Stein

Stein started in the industry as the president of Palmer & Cay's Florida operations, a storied regional brokerage firm in the Southeast, and then served as co-CEO and Managing Partner at both Lanier Upshaw and Fletcher Stein (formerly McNeill, Garrison & Fletcher).

He spent the latter part of 2017 putting together a team that includes two other industry veterans, Kerrie Kenna and Shelby Weikel, and his son, Richard. Stein's goal is to provide high-touch service and complete coverage for any potential client's business or personal risks.

Kenna handles Wellhouse Company's commercial lines and carrier relationships. She brings 20 years of experience in account management and underwriting, most recently at LRA Insurance and Fletcher Stein.

Weikel services and develops the company's personal lines. During her 17-year career, she has been consistently recognized for outstanding service by Five Star Professional, most recently with the Browning Agency of Ponte Vedra.

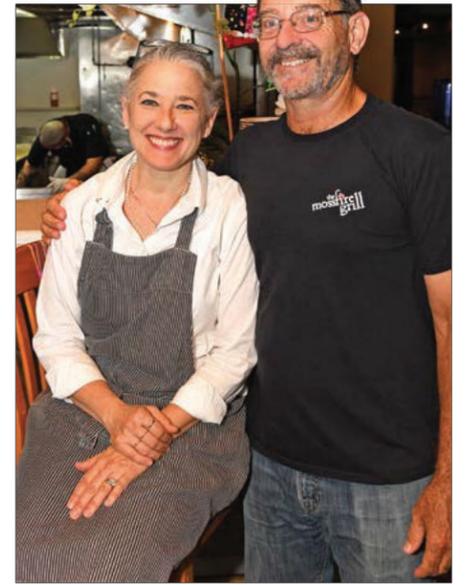
Richard Stein focuses on the company's growth and operations. He has a background in investment banking and was instrumental in working with Rick to determine the best path for the company. Wellhouse Company focuses on clients with complex corporate risks, smaller businesses with intricate business owner exposures, and private clients.

Mossfire Grill celebrates 20 years in 5 Points

When Drew and Scooter Cavins moved to Jacksonville from Denver in 1998, they purchased the former Riverside Grille to share their passion for Southwestern food with the community, but little did they imagine they would celebrate the Mossfire Grill's 20th birthday June 15. In their third year in business they renovated the restaurant and added the bar, then bought the building in 2002.

The couple originally named their restaurant the Tumbleweed Grill but received a request to change it from an out-of-state business with the same name. Scooter said Mossfire Grill is a locally-derived, customer-generated name. "Mark Rinaman suggested it and it stuck," she said.

Scooter gives credit to the establishment's success to its patrons and its staff, many of whom have been with the Cavins for more than 10 years. "The local community, from top city leaders down, has embraced us," she said. "It's all about our customers."



Scooter and Drew Cavins

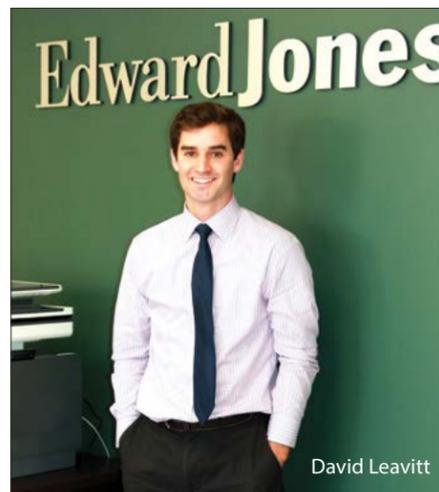
Financial advisor opens doors in Avondale Shoppes

David Leavitt, a financial advisor with Edward Jones, recently opened his own office in the Shoppes of Avondale, at 3578 St. Johns Ave., after three years working at the company's Ortega/Venetia office.

Although he was raised in Mandarin, Leavitt's mother grew up in Avondale and he calls the area home. His new office was a former Fro-Yo (frozen yogurt shop) and he said the construction took five months to turn it into an Edward Jones location.

"I love this area, it's beautiful and historic," said Leavitt. "There's fantastic foot traffic, and it's a high-quality, clean area. It consistently has a fresh feeling outside that people want to be around."

Leavitt offers advice for retirement savings and income strategies, intergenerational planning, estate and legacy strategies, and more. He said he never dreamed of being a financial advisor, but growing up he enjoyed community service with Lakewood United Methodist Church, and said this job combines finance and service.



David Leavitt

"This job is really a service job. I'm out meeting people and ultimately help them reach their finance goals. I really do enjoy the relationships I've built with my clients," he said. Leavitt is a member of the St. Vincent's Shircliff Society's Council.

A graduate of The Episcopal School of Jacksonville and Auburn University, Leavitt holds a degree in finance and has been with Edwards Jones since 2014. The outdoor enthusiast enjoys surfing, rock climbing and soccer. Leavitt will be married July 28 to Betsy Baggett, a geometry teacher at Mandarin High School, and the couple will make their home in Miramar.

Local attorneys celebrated for five decades of service

Twenty-five attorneys from the 4th Judicial Circuit were honored at The Florida Bar's annual convention, June 13-15 in Orlando, for reaching the milestone of 50 years of service in the profession.

This year, a total of 314 Florida lawyers admitted to the Bar in 1968 were honored, including 25 who practice in the 4th Judicial Circuit. Eleven are residents within *The Resident's* readership, including Timothy Austin Burleigh, A. Hamilton Cooke, Stephen Ellsworth Day, Lawrence Howard Lankford, Douglas John Milne, Earl Smith Poitevent III, Simon Donald Rothstein, Arnold Herbert Slott, Richard C. Stoddard, Rolf Harvy Towe, and Edward Jacob Witten.

The other honorees who practice in the 4th Judicial Circuit include Leonard Mayer Alterman, Charles Warner Arnold, Jr., Earl Middleton Barker, Jr., Donald L. Braddock, John Ferrell Fannin, Hugh McKay Flether, William A. Hamilton, III, Arthur Ivan Jacobs, Michael Alan Jennings, Daniel Irvine McCranie, Charles Thomas Shad, William J. Sheppard, Frederick R. Short, Jr., and Eric Brian Smith.

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Retiring from Baptist Health, Allaire ends career on high note

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Pierre Allaire, Ph. D. often joked he had one fundraising campaign left in him, and boy, was it a doozy.

When Allaire retired from his role as Chief Development Officer of the Baptist Health Foundation at the end of March, he left big shoes to fill, having raised \$138 million in five years by spearheading the healthcare system's "Securing Tomorrow Together, the Campaign for Baptist Health." It was the first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign for the five-hospital health system, which is based in San Marco.

"Pierre has an undeniable gift, having led the most successful comprehensive campaign in the history of Baptist Health and to our knowledge, Jacksonville's history," said Hugh Greene, president and chief executive officer of Baptist Health. "While we celebrated his retirement in March, we will be forever grateful for his impact on the lives of our patients, now and for decades to come."

"Pierre has an undeniable gift, having led the most successful comprehensive campaign in the history of Baptist Health and to our knowledge, Jacksonville's history."

— Hugh Greene, president and chief executive officer of Baptist Health

The secret to raising so much money for Baptist was a combination of things and hard work, Allaire said. "The health system had well-defined, strategic goals and a strong following in a community that wants to support it," he said. "We made a compelling case and asked for that support. Also, we were able to increase our staff. You can't raise that kind of money with a small group of fundraisers, so we doubled the staff."

Allaire was well qualified to head Baptist's first-ever comprehensive campaign. After earning his bachelor's degree in science from St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, he picked up a master's degree and a doctorate in biology from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, and the University of Louisville in Kentucky, respectively.

From 1985 to 2013, he worked in development at Clemson University, the University of Florida, and the University of North Florida. During his tenure at UNF as vice president for Institutional Advancement and executive director of the UNF Foundation, he oversaw two campaigns raising \$130 million and \$103 million.

Working for the Baptist Health Foundation was the perfect way to cap his career, he said. "I'd been at UNF for 17 years, and I had done those two big campaigns. When this position came about and taking into consideration that my academic background is biology, I thought working for a health system – getting back to the life sciences – would be interesting," said Allaire. "Then having the opportunity to work with Hugh Greene and Audrey Moran (Senior Vice President for Social Responsibility and Community Advocacy), and other Baptist professionals was enticing. The fact that



Pierre Allaire, Ph. D.

Baptist is a faith-based organization also appealed to me since I had been at three public universities. Putting all that together, it was a great opportunity for me to be at Baptist, run the foundation, build the program, and do a campaign."

Although he officially retired three months ago, Allaire has barely had time to relax. He still plans to remain active in his profession by working as a consultant. He also will spend time on his hobbies – bicycling, bird watching, and traveling. A trip to Europe is planned with his wife, Lorraine, for later this year, and then there is time to be spent with the grandchildren.

"We have five grandchildren in town, and I'm on three boards, so I won't be lacking in anything to do," he said. "This is week seven. I've been busy for seven weeks, and I don't see that changing," he added. "But it's a nice pace, and in retirement, you get to control things a little bit more."



Teresa Madrid

Sisters expand drapery workroom in Park and King historic district

When Joyce Gay started a home-based business selling pillow covers with invisible zippers on Etsy four years ago, she never dreamed she'd have a storefront in Riverside. But after expanding her line of goods to curtains and valances, it became more than one person could manage. In 2016, Gay asked her sister, Teresa Madrid, to move to Jacksonville from Colorado and manage Fresh Canopy while Gay held up the creative side.

Shortly thereafter, when the business threatened to overtake the home, the women opened their first location on King Street last year, thinking 1,100-square-foot of space was more than they would ever need. But after adding more products – pillow inserts, café-style curtains, tree skirts, pet crate covers and more – in less than a year they discovered they needed to move again.

Desiring to stay in the Park and King business corridor, Fresh Canopy moved across the intersection to 2663 Park St. in March. For more information, visit freshcanopy.com.

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Career teachers honored with excellence award

Four Jacksonville teachers, including a teacher at San Jose Catholic School, received the 2018 Gladys Prior Awards for Career Teaching Excellence May 22 at an awards dinner at the River Club. The awards were established by Gilchrist Berg, founder and president of Water Street Capital, to honor teachers who have had lifelong careers in teaching and inspiring students.

As of this year, 84 teachers will have been recognized with a Gladys Prior Award, an award given for excellence in teaching for the last 21 years. To date, Berg has given more than \$1 million to honor Jacksonville teachers with an award named after his fourth-grade teacher, Gladys Prior, at Ortega Elementary School.

The 2018 winners include MaryBeth Jones, San Jose Catholic School; Joan Bacon, LaVilla Middle School of the Arts; Virginia Dickert, Jacksonville Country Day School, and Darellee Naccarato, Seabreeze Elementary School. Together,

these teachers have a combination of 119 years of teaching experience.

The University of North Florida College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) manages this gift and coordinates the annual award competition. Each of these career teachers will receive \$15,000. "The success of our community directly correlates to the excellence of our teachers," said Dr. Diane Yendol-Hoppey, COEHS dean. "Great teachers change students' lives."

Jones, of Beauclerc, teaches third grade at San Jose Catholic, where she has been for 35 years. Bacon, a Hidden Hills resident, teaches science at LaVilla, located in downtown Jacksonville, and is a veteran teacher of over 40 years. Dickert, of Bartram Park, is a music teacher with over 23 years in the classroom at Jacksonville Country Day. Naccarato, a Jacksonville Beach resident, is music teacher at Seabreeze Elementary in Jacksonville Beach and has been a teacher for 19 years.



Back row: Dr. Diane Yendol-Hoppey, UNF College of Education and Human Services dean, and Gilchrist Berg, who established the Gladys Prior Award; middle row: MaryBeth Jones and Darellee Naccarato; front: Joan Bacon and Virginia Dickert. (Photo credit: Michael Heath)

San Marco company acquires Nashville agency

Burdette Ketchum, an integrated marketing agency on Kings Avenue in San Marco, has recently acquired North Star Destination Strategies, a leading national place-branding agency based in Nashville, Tenn.



Will Ketchum

North Star helps counties, cities, downtown districts and states achieve competitive identities to serve their economic development, tourism and community vitality goals. North Star uses a highly proprietary approach to research, strategy formation, branding, and bold creative thinking and has worked with more than 200 communities across 42 states.

"This acquisition solidifies Burdette Ketchum's capabilities in city, county and real estate branding and marketing, and allows us to expand this work nationally," said Avondale resident Will Ketchum, president and CEO of Burdette Ketchum.

North Star will remain a distinct division of Burdette Ketchum, maintaining offices in Jacksonville and Nashville. Burdette Ketchum will continue to service its core clients in a variety of industries, many of which are leading Jacksonville brands, as it has since its founding in 1996.

"Through our work with JAXUSA Partnership in marketing the Northeast Florida region and on the truJAX initiative mapping a vision for Jacksonville's global identity, we understand how place and community branding are becoming more essential and play a critical role in a community's strength and competitiveness," said Ketchum.

North Florida Land Trust receives state preservation award



Friederike Mittner (President, Florida Trust for Preservation), Christie Fitzpatrick (Deputy Assistant Secretary of State), Jim McCarthy (President, NFLT), Keith Holt (2018 NFLT Board Chair), Adam Hoyles (2016 NFLT Board Chair) and Marc Hudson (NFLT Land Protection Director)

After receiving an award on the local level, North Florida Land Trust was recognized two weeks later on the state level for the same project. Following the annual Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission awards May 3, NFLT was presented with the 2018 Florida Preservation Organizational Achievement award for work done to acquire and preserve the 1898 Spanish American War Fort. The award was presented by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation at a ceremony May 18 at the Jessie Ball duPont Center.

NFLT partnered with the National Park Service in 2015 to serve as the acquisition and fundraising partner to save the fort. After a year-long capital campaign to raise funds to purchase the property, NFLT acquired the fort in 2016 and will turn it over to the National Park Service, who plans to add it to the Fort Caroline National Memorial as a public access park.

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2038 College Street
3BR/2BA updated 2-story with all the charm that people love in this neighborhood. Features a fireplace and tall coffered ceilings, natural wood work, hardwood floors, and a renovated gourmet kitchen. 2,530 sq ft. \$449,900



1417 Menna Street
2BR/1BA with gorgeous wood floors, tile fireplace, kitchen with stainless steel appliances and granite counters, renovated bath taken to the studs with marble on walls and floor. Screen enclosed room overlooks back yard. 1,056 sq ft. \$239,900



729 King Street
3BR/1.1BA classic bungalow features kitchen, mud room/laundry, living room with fireplace, formal dining room, hardwood floors throughout, tile in kitchen and baths. On a corner lot with a storage shed. 1,186 sq ft. \$181,500



3022 St. Johns Avenue
This previous RAP tour of homes (showcase property) offers a large chefs kitchen, 3BR/3BA, charming dining room, large light & bright living room with fire place. Huge master includes a renovated en suite bathroom. 3,186 sq ft. \$749,000



4429 Iroquois Avenue
This home features 3BR/2BA, a very open living and dining area with fireplace and built in bookshelves. Kitchen with breakfast room with french doors that open up to a great deck for entertaining and a spacious back yard. 1,791 sq ft. \$349,000



1406 Donald Street
Beautiful 3BR/2BA home features original hardwood floors, fresh exterior paint, an eat-in kitchen with built ins, a brick patio, and a garage for your storage or workshop needs. 1,268 sq ft. \$259,900.



2875 Sydney Street
Recently renovated 2BR/1BA corner lot home in the heart of Avondale. Downstairs includes a bonus room or workshop. Newer kitchen and bath. 1,253 sq ft. \$195,000.



3211 Tivoli Street
3BR/2BA all brick home with beautiful hardwood floors and upgraded baths is not to be missed. The bedrooms are a split plan with a master en-suite. The 2 car garage would make a great workshop space. 1,494 sq ft. \$310,000

Delicious Destinations

Culinary superstars gather for the annual 'must-attend' fundraiser

The most anticipated weekend in the year is just around the corner, and that's why connoisseurs of gourmet food and fine wine have already made reservations for the 17th Annual Delicious Destinations.

The five-star culinary experience and fundraiser for St. Vincent's Foundation will take place Friday, September 7th and Saturday, September 8th at The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

Delicious Destinations has become Northeast Florida's premiere destination for scrumptious cuisine, with two days of fine wine and delectable dining flavored by philanthropy that lasts all year long. Top chefs from around the country, as well as local culinary superstars, show off their skills while contributing their time and talent to support St. Vincent's Community Outreach Programs.

"The 17th Annual Delicious Destinations affords food and wine connoisseurs an extraordinary opportunity. They can visit the top 14 chefs at internationally known resorts in one event. Support from our community for St. Vincent's Outreach Programs is more important than ever. This is a great example of celebrating with our community for our community," said Jane R. Lanier, CFRE, President and System Chief Development Officer of St. Vincent's Foundation.

Led by event partners The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits, Delicious Destinations benefits St. Vincent's Mobile Health Outreach Ministry, which includes Rural Outreach, Urban Outreach and Pediatric Outreach.

The annual combination of cuisine and charitable giving has inspired some of the nation's finest chefs to create an unforgettable dining experience, and this year is no exception. More than a dozen executive, banquet, sous and pastry chefs from Denver to Savannah, from Greenbrier, W. Virginia to Sea Island and more will prepare culinary delights.

The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club's Executive Chef Hermann Muller has said there is a soft spot in every chef's heart for the opportunity to give back to the community while showcasing what they do best. With Jane Lanier, as one of the founders of the fundraiser, Host Chef Muller annually coordinates the visiting chefs and the menus.

No feast is complete without fine wine, supplied by Southern Glazer's and explained by wine educator, Julie Pepi, a second-level sommelier and director of the Heritage Collection for Trincherro Family Estates.



2017 Delicious Destinations Co-Chairs Amy Wacaster, Sala Pradhan and Mollie Sumner



Rick and Lynn Mullaney and Drs. Nina and Samer Garas

The weekend's events

On September 7th, the Celebrity Chef by the Sea Luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

Executive Chef Hermann Muller of the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club will be the guest of honor at the VIP Preview Reception Saturday, September 8th, 6 p.m., where guests can sample culinary masterpieces.

The main event, Delicious Destinations – A Gourmet Food and Wine Tasting, will follow at 7 p.m. featuring creations by Chef Muller as well as Chef Nathan Beriau (Palmetto Bluff), Chef Bogdan Boorean (Mar-a-Lago), Chef Olivier de Busschere (Gate Gourmet), Chef Garrett Gooch (Ritz Carlton, Denver), Chef Dusty Grove (The DeSoto), Chef Daniel McCathern (Hilton Atlanta), Chef Steve Mengel (The Greenbrier),

Chef Mitchell Pagan (Mariner Sands), Chef Chris Pickren (The Lodge & Club), Chef Darin Sehnert (Chef Darin's Kitchen Table), Chef Darek Stennes (The River Club), Chef Tim Turner (Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club) and Chef Daniel Zeal (The Lodge, Sea Island).

In addition, the silent and live auctions at Delicious Destinations offers friendly competition for those hoping to place the winning bids for enticing packages such as the "Dinner of a Lifetime," a gourmet feast for ten prepared by Chef Hermann Muller in your home.

To become a sponsor of Delicious Destinations or to make reservations for any of the events, contact Lauren Corley in the St. Vincent's Foundation Office at (904) 308-7306 or Lauren.Corley@Ascension.org, or visit deliciousdestinationsjax.com

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Passion for public education puts Nuland in best position

Karen Nuland believes in the public school system so much she began volunteering 30 years ago – even before she started her own family.

“I have a deep love for public schools. They are the only way some kids are ever going to get out of their situation,” said the community-minded president of the Lakeside Homeowners Association.

Nuland is capitalizing on 30 years’ experience working with parents, teachers and students in the Duval County Public Schools and taking her passion for public education to the top, running for District 6 school board representative. Past president of the 25,000-member Duval County Council of PTAs, the district’s largest and oldest child advocacy organization in Florida, Nuland is endorsed by the Duval Teachers Union.



“Jacksonville has a world-class medical system, so don’t you think we should have a world-class education system?”

— Karen Nuland

Among her many endorsements is this one by a well-regarded community leader who was named one of the 50 most influential people in Northeast Florida in 2010. “I think Karen will do a great job as a member of the School Board. She is a strong advocate for improving our school system and is dedicated to insuring a quality education for our children,” said Wayne Wood, founder of Riverside Avondale Preservation.

In 1991, as a volunteer with the Duval Public Education Fund, Nuland was tasked with presenting roses to the Teachers of the Year and thought, “We can do better than that.” The next year she launched the Eddy Awards, now a black-tie optional gala with business partners who help elevate the role of Jacksonville’s best teachers.

Nuland herself is a product of public education. Her mother graduated from Landon High School in the 1950s, Nuland from Edward White High School and her two sons from Stanton College Preparatory High School.

“You mostly hear bad things about public schools, but there are wonderful students, wonderful teachers and wonderful parents in the public schools. Duval County has an 80 percent high school graduation rate and does it with less funding and more students than St. Johns County,” she said.

The recent \$62 million cut in the district’s budget is alarming but it doesn’t faze Nuland, who looks at it as another challenge to address. “We still have to educate every child in Duval County and we will still manage to do great things with less money,”



With supporters young and old, Karen Nuland (right, behind campaign sign) walks through Avondale to introduce herself to future constituents.

she said, recalling when arts, music and physical education were dropped due to funding at her sons’ elementary school. “The community came together, filling in the gaps by providing P.E. classes and art; we called it Art in a Cart,” Nuland said.

Her mission – to help secure a quality education for all – is challenging, but “Jacksonville has a world-class medical system, so don’t you think we should have a world-class education system?” she said.

Nuland has three priorities to ensure that mission is successful. First, she sincerely believes that every high school should have at least one career-ready program in addition to college preparatory classes. “All students need to prepare for the future one way or another,” said Nuland.

Her second priority addresses the aging facilities and sometimes outdated technology in some of the oldest school buildings in

the state of Florida. Just within District 6, five of its 17 elementary schools – Central Riverside, Fishweir, Ortega, Ruth N. Upson and West Riverside – are over a century old. “As a school board, it’s incumbent upon us to make sure our students and staff literally have a good foundation to learn and teach in,” Nuland said.

Finally, ever the community-minded citizen, Nuland wants to increase and strengthen business, faith-based and neighborhood partnerships in each school. While many elementary schools and some middle and high schools enjoy the benefits of a “friends” group, not all are so lucky, she said.

To learn more about Karen Nuland’s priorities as a member of the Duval County Public School Board, visit her website (karennuland.com) or give her a call at (904) 233-3054. She’ll be more than happy to share her passion for your child’s education.

pd pol.adv. pd and approved by Karen Nuland for School Board

The Salvation Army to hold school supplies drive for local kids in need

The Salvation Army in Jacksonville will help local families send their kids back to school prepared for a new school year. The nonprofit will hold a back-to-school supplies drive now through July 20 and is asking for help.

The cost of school supplies can put a strain on families with limited resources, so local businesses, churches, groups, and individuals can help by hosting a collection. The

Salvation Army will distribute the supplies on August 3 to families who applied and demonstrated financial need.

Anyone interested in hosting a school supplies collection should call (904) 301-4846 or email meghan.keith@uss.salvationarmy.org to sign up. Individuals wishing to drop off supplies may do so during business hours through July 20 at The Salvation Army’s downtown locations at 900 W.

Adams St. or 328 N. Ocean St. (Monday through Friday only at Ocean St location).

Requested supplies include backpacks for K-12 boys and girls, folders, scissors, rulers, crayons, pencils, markers, pens, colored pencils, loose-leaf paper, glue sticks, composition notebooks, spiral notebooks, hand sanitizer, and baggies.



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Public school budget cuts present opportunities, challenges for downtown museum

By Karen J. Rieley
Resident Community News

Due to proposed budget cuts in arts education, including field trips, the Museum of Contemporary Art – Jacksonville, or MOCA, will continue to get creative in order to reach beyond its doors and engage young minds.

Dedicated arts magnet schools, such as Central Riverside and Fishweir Elementary Schools, and LaVilla and Douglas Anderson Schools of the Arts, could see their arts programs cut to one day a week or lose arts resource teachers, thus limiting opportunities for exposure to the arts.

While MOCA provides arts education for Duval County Public School children as well, government cuts in arts budgets will present challenges for the museum, too. “Currently, we no longer have government funding to bring children in Title I schools to our museum,” said Nan Kavanaugh, director of communications and marketing. “Sponsorships and private funding have become critical.”

It was private funding in 2016 through a gift from J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver that allows the museum to employ an educator for family and children’s programs, and offer two flagship education programs. As the Weaver Educator, Anthony Aiuppy oversees “Voice of the People,” which brings fourth-graders from underserved schools to the museum twice a year to write an essay about an art piece and record an interpretive art essay for museum visitors to hear, and “Art Aviators,” an educational initiative designed for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and other exceptionalities.

In the meantime, MOCA is creatively working to attract visitors of all ages. For example, it hosts hands-on family days to get children into the museum, where they can engage with the permanent art.

The museum recently collaborated with Friends of Hemming Park on a Family Day, and is working with the other local museums and the main Jacksonville Public Library next door.

“We are also looking for outreach opportunities outside of downtown, such as satellite or pop-up art events like the one we hosted in Space 42 art gallery in Riverside,” said Kavanaugh.

In January, the museum teamed up with Space 42 to host New York City artist Rosemarie Fiore as she did a live “smoke painting” performance. “We want people to have the opportunity to experience contemporary art outside of our downtown walls,” Kavanaugh said.

Exposing youth to contemporary art in an educational format isn’t brand-new to the 94-year-old museum. Since 2009, MOCA has had a flourishing relationship between its artists and scholars and the University of North Florida students, faculty and staff.

“MOCA provides UNF with a learning laboratory in which ideas important to our time and place can be explored,” said MOCA’s new director, Caitlin Doherty. “That vitality, sense of exploration and curiosity drive artists and scholars alike and serve as a bridge back to our Jacksonville community as a whole.”

Doherty sees the challenge of deepening the relationship between UNF and downtown Jacksonville as an opportunity for growth that will attract new audiences to the museum.



The Museum of Contemporary Art at Hemming Park

The museum is making strides in increasing UNF student and faculty involvement beyond merely taking field trips to the museum. As one example, more UNF art classes are actually based at the museum.

UNF’s gallery space in the museum is coordinated by regionally-known artist and art teacher Jim Draper. He works with UNF faculty who guide students in creating their own art shows in the museum.

“Our goal is to have students understand all aspects of creating art,” Kavanaugh said. “While not every student will become a well-known artist, with exposure to all aspects of the arts, a student may end up curating art, funding the arts, loaning art from a personal collection and appreciating art, in general.”

In 2014, MOCA added a student-in-residence program with separate studio space. The student works with a curator, directs the installation team in hanging the student’s art and has the opportunity to interact with the public who comes to view the student art.

UNF students can also work in a paid position as MOCA ambassadors. They are the first point of contact for visitors at the guest relations desk and throughout the museum. The program is open to all UNF graduate and undergraduate students who have a passion for museums, art history, and contemporary art.

Gabbi Bautista is a public relations major at UNF. Bautista, who graduated from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, appreciates the opportunity to interconnect arts and media and hopes to put her high school art skills to use in working with the media as a public relations professional someday.

“It is a very fun job,” Bautista said. “People often tell me how nice it is to have someone in the museum to talk to them about our works of art.”

The museum also offers internships to UNF students. Interns are exposed to art and art history, art education, the museum profession, and public programming.

MOCA is the perfect setting for art students as it is “self-curating,” according

to Kavanaugh, explaining that it researches, collects, documents and creates its own exhibitions, rather than renting art shows like many museums choose to do.

Conversely, the museum’s first sculpture-only exhibition, “A Dark Place of Dreams,” will travel to Charleston, S. Carolina, after it closes here Sept. 9. The monochromatic assemblages of Louise Nevelson (1899-1988), one of the pioneering American sculptors of the 20th century, will stand alongside three contemporary artists: Chakaia Booker, Lauren Fensterstock and Kate Gilmore.

“For those living in or nearby downtown, a visit to MOCA can provide a transformational experience through the arts but, short of that, you can just enjoy a great meal, send your kids to a fun art camp or be entertained by a special film in the auditorium,” said Charles Gilman, outgoing board president. He will pass the torch to Rick Hawthorne, attorney at Driver, McAfee, Peek & Hawthorne, as the incoming board president.

Museum shop closing for new retail venture

Taking a step toward downtown revitalization, the museum is partnering with Troy Spurlin, owner of the 5 Points retail store Generation Us, to transition the museum shop to create a contemporary retail destination retail.

A larger initiative includes redevelopment of the lobby to make the museum’s first floor an open community space and to bring more people downtown, according to Doherty.

Spurlin, who also owns Troy Spurlin Interiors in Riverside, served as MOCA’s director of marketing and special events from 2004 to 2007. He decided to open a second retail store to be part of the focus on stimulating downtown commerce.

After the closing sale, which runs through July 14, the MOCA Shop will close for renovations, with an anticipated opening to kick off the fall exhibition season.



UNF student Gabbi Bautista with Nan Kavanaugh, director of communications and marketing

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There's nothing better than dogs, babies and a Jaguar football player. They were all on hand as the Pajcics made donations for important causes in our community. Jags kicker Josh Lambo won a closest to the pin contest at the Pajcic yard golf event last month, so the Pajcics offered \$6,000 to Josh's charity of choice. He selected the Fur Sisters - Furever Urs Rescue, Inc, a no-kill dog shelter in Jacksonville Beach. That's where Josh and his wife got their rescue named Lana a few months ago. Josh said he was grateful for the opportunity Pajcic & Pajcic gave him, and since the FUR sisters meant so much to his family, choosing the local rescue was the perfect



fit. Also, The Pajcic Firm pledged to match every donation and all prizes won at the golf event for Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, so JALA got a \$6,000 check as well. Helen Nicholson and her baby were representing The Pajcic Family Foundation and Michael Pajcic was representing the law firm. JALA's Jim Kowalski was there, as well. In all, the Pajcic golf event raised more than \$150,000 for legal aid.

Michael Pajcic thoroughly enjoyed reading to pre-kindergarten students at North Shore Elementary School. He read them a book about what to expect next year when they are in kindergarten. It is all part of Jax Kids Book Club supported by the Pajcic Firm. The organization encourages kids to read and supplies them with books and other materials with the hopes that they develop a life-long love of reading.



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Anna Heise with Tracy Arthur

North Florida School of Special Education combines dinner and craft cocktails with a local twist

Capitalizing on the popularity of its urban farm, Berry Good Farms, the North Florida School of Special Education launched a new "farm to cocktail" dinner series June 15 at Manifest Distilling.

The benefit celebrated the farm, the students of the school's micro-enterprises, and community partnerships with the release of 128 bottles of a bespoke Ginger Citrus Vodka made using Kaffir lime leaves, ginger root, and a small portion of Florida citrus to create a unique, distilled vodka found only at the downtown distillery. For



Kristen and Tom Majdanics

the hip Asian-inspired dinner, Berry Good Farm's Chef Brett Swearingen teamed up with Chef Dennis Chan of Blue Bamboo to serve the 75 guests a unique repast in an intimate setting.



Dr. Fabir and Nicole Mody



Tommy and Judi Zitiello with Janine Nolan



Joe and Caryn Carreiro with Eric and Chavet Mason



Sunshine, Carmen and Precious Townsend



Valerie de la Torre with Bonnie Solloway and Pam Joiner

Funk and Zitiello champion hope for two great causes

Two great causes – pancreatic cancer research at the Mayo Clinic and the JT Townsend Foundation – benefited from one spectacular gala and golf tournament when the Funk-Zitiello Foundation held its 2nd Annual Champions of Hope Gala and Golf Classic June 15 at TPC Sawgrass.

"JT was the most impactful person I have ever met in my life," said PGA golfer Fred Funk, referring to JT Townsend, an Episcopal High football player who suffered a spinal cord injury on the field in 2004 and passed away in 2013. "Then when Judi [Zitiello, a four-year survivor] came down with pancreatic cancer, we realized we really needed to get this thing going."

The two-day event raised more than \$618,000, topping last year's amount by \$18,000.



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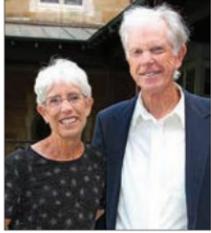
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Madison Shelly and Sarah Morris with Mandy Gerhardt and Kevin Klevenz



Tad Dickman and Spencer Wickenden with Sydney Foran and Max Zaun



Diane Hale and Charlie Parker



Linda Cooper and Shelton Hull



Dr. Ross and Jean Krueger



Steve Wickersham and Glenna Veiga with Susan and John Bunker



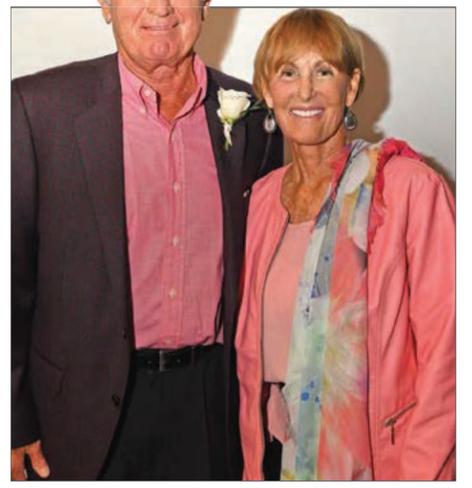
Brooke and Fernando Acosta-Rua



Nancy and Gary Chartrand



Tom and Kristina McManus



Steve and Gerri Spurrier

Jay Fund draws support from celebrities at signature fundraiser

The 23rd Annual Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Celebrity Golf Classic and Dinner raised well over half a million dollars to help local families tackling childhood cancer. The two-day event, held May 20-21 at TPC Sawgrass, drew dozens of sports and entertainment celebrities such as Supermodel Kim Alexis, ESPN sportscasters Chris Berman, Chris Mortensen and Sean McDonough, former Jacksonville Jaguars mascot Curtis Dvorak, and local sports anchor Dan Hicken, and many others.

The signature event became the foundation on which the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund was built. When this annual tradition began in 1996 it raised \$51,600. This year the event brought in \$588,000 from the tournament of 160 golfers and from the more than 450 guests who attended the one-of-a-kind dinner and auction the evening before, where they honored local families tackling cancer.

Art, music create beautiful memories for 25 years

In celebration of the Riverside Fine Arts Association's 25th Anniversary, a black tie-optional gala was held June 9 at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, where 60 guests from all over Jacksonville enjoyed a cocktail reception and dinner, musical performances, and a silent auction featuring the artwork of Jacksonville artists.

The nonprofit was founded in 1993 by Dr. Ross Krueger, Lorraine Roetgtes, Ted Pappas, Dr. David Moomaw and John F. Gaillard to offer local, national and international performers and small musical ensembles the opportunity to perform in the unique setting of the Riverside-based church where the recent benefit was held. The associations offers six concerts a year and funds Project Listen, a free music outreach program in the public schools.



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Floral art exhibit benefits Cummer garden restoration

An opening night reception was held June 6 at The Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens for a new display, "Azaleas to Zinnias: A Floral Exhibition," which supports restoration of the Riverside museum's gardens damaged by Hurricane Irma.

It was the largest Jacksonville Artists Guild participation ever, according to Tim Baker, JAG president. Sixty-four artists presented work for consideration in the exhibit; eight pieces were selected to hang at the Cummer and 34 pieces are on display at Berdy Dental Group.

The artists' works displayed at the Cummer include Susan Astleford of Epping Forest, awarded Best in Show; Lynn Matyi of Avondale, who received the Judges Recognition Award; Ron Episcopo of Riverside, Helen Ashmead of St. Nicholas, Julie Giuliani of Ortega Farms, Mary Sumner of Ortega, Pamela Walker Hart of Ponte Vedra Beach, and Reggie Przybysz of Riverside.

"Gardens really have become enduring symbols of hope and beauty, which seem



Glenn Jones and Ron Episcopo, exhibit chair

to be in such perpetual need in this world. We are very thankful for what the Cummer does here, it's greatly appreciated," said Baker as he presented a check to Dr. Nelda Damiano, Cummer Curator, for the Garden Restoration Fund.

Visitors to the dessert reception at Berdy Dental, 1511 Stockton St., cast ballots for "Fan Favorite," which was awarded to Doug Johnson, a Deerwood resident and retired radiation oncologist.



Brett and Debbie Cantrell with Jane Arnold (center)



Drs. Cary and Christian Berdy



Exhibit Co-chair Cookie Davis with Jean Dodd



Mary Sumner and Liz Broxton



John Hurtibise with Ric Goodman and his granddaughter, Ryan Brooke Goodman

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'Celebrities' don aprons to serve homeless, help stomp out hunger

The 24th annual Miracle on Ashley Street Celebrity Servers luncheon held May 18 at the Clara White Mission commanded an army of 160 celebrity servers and 50 volunteers to make and serve food at 46 stations to more than 1,300 homeless and food-insecure people.

"When we say 'celebrity,' that can be anyone with a willingness to help. We usually have congressional members, senators, City Councilmembers, someone from the Mayor's office, if not the Mayor, and community leaders," said Rosa Nichols, Clara White Mission's marketing director. "Many companies will send their CEO, their directors, managers within their organizations to donate 30 minutes of their time to serve food. Any time you stand behind our lines and assist with stomping out hunger, you are a celebrity."



State Representative Tracy Davis with Seth Williams, publisher of *The Resident*

Hosted by Richard Nunn, WJXT Channel 4 Meteorologist, the event featured Chartwells Chef William Ratley and Training Chef Keith Smith, who were responsible for providing three of the dishes from a menu which included seven types of entrees, a dozen sides, desserts and lemonade.

The three-hour benefit raised \$67,000, and title sponsors were Citi and the Delores Barr Weaver Fund.



Jane Buttermore, Beth Tramel and Chartwells Executive Chef Will Ratley



Chief Brian Kee, Councilmen Jim Love and Matt Schellenberg



Front: Martha VanDerMallie, Mary Cumella, Emily McCarthy, Ariane Canlas, Wendy Mueller; back: Rebecca Russo, Karen McCarthy, Donna Libal, Shaine Canlas, Joanne Caraway

Jacksonville chapter of national sorority association awards scholarships

The Jacksonville Alumnae Panhellenic Association (JAPA) held its annual Spring Luncheon at Marsh Landing Country Club May 19, celebrating 104 years of providing assistance to local graduating high school seniors who will continue their education.

Four students were selected on the basis of recommendations, grade point averages, high school activities, community involvement, and need. Each recipient was sponsored by a current JAPA member.

Ariane Canlas, a senior at Paxon School for Advanced Studies, was sponsored by JAPA member Rebecca Russo. Canlas, the daughter of Shaine and Armando Canlas, plans to attend the University of North Florida.

Emily McCarthy, a senior at Fleming Island High School, was sponsored by JAPA members Hope Diamantis and Kari Hooks. McCarthy, the daughter of Karen and Peter McCarthy, has chosen to enroll in Florida State University.

Katherine Begley, sponsored by JAPA member Joanne Caraway, is the daughter of Ellen and Steve Bagley of Ortega Forest. She will be attending the University of Tennessee.

Sara Himebauch, who plans to attend the University of South Carolina, is the



Sara Himebauch



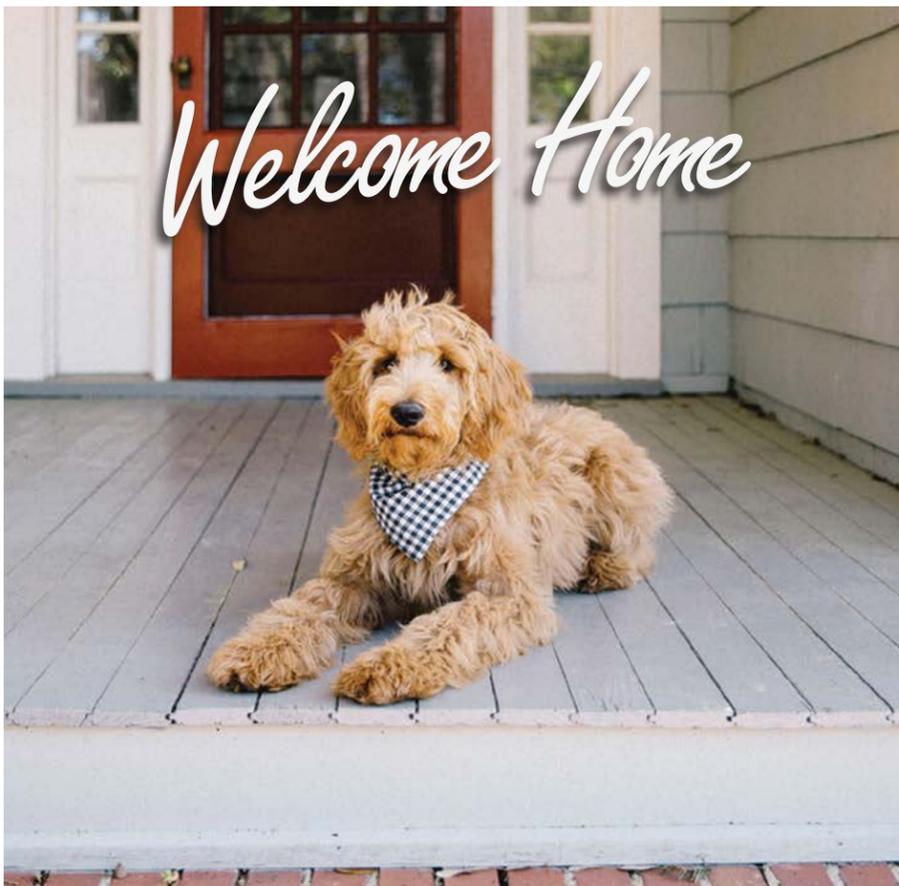
Katherine Begley

daughter of Catherine Kirkpatrick and Chris Himebauch. She was sponsored by Martha VanDerMallie of San Marco.

Neither Begley nor Himebauch were able to attend the luncheon as their graduation from The Episcopal School of Jacksonville was held at the same time.

Mary Cumella of Riverside and Wendy Mueller of Murray Hill were the co-chairs of JAPA's Scholarship Committee this year.

Following the presentation of scholarships, installation of newly-elected JAPA officers included Brandy Hibbard, president; Patricia Lawrence, vice president, and Holli Hiltbrand, recording secretary. Riverside resident Jayne Jett, treasurer, and Kayla Gothier, corresponding secretary, will be installed at a later date.



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Annual memorial fishing tournament a success; scholarship awarded

The 11th Annual Clay Roberts Memorial Inshore Slam Tournament sponsored by American Electrical Contracting and the Key Auto Company Junior Angler Tournament welcomed 93 registered fishermen to Beach Marine June 16.

Forty-five teams, including junior anglers, weighed in fish. Fifteen slams (one flounder, red and trout each) weighed in, with the top prize of \$1,500 going to Eddie Cabler and Brian Dutcher, whose catch weighed in at a near-record 15.11 pounds. First place category winners were Leroy Holloway (7.01 lb. red), Larry Finch (5.05 lb. trout) and Ryan Hall (5.35 lb. flounder), who each received \$1,000.

The junior angler winner was Elijah Cabler with a red weighing 5.96 pounds.

In River Or Ocean, the foundation started by Gary, Terry and Casey Roberts in 2008 in memory of son and brother, Clay, announced that the 11th Clay Roberts

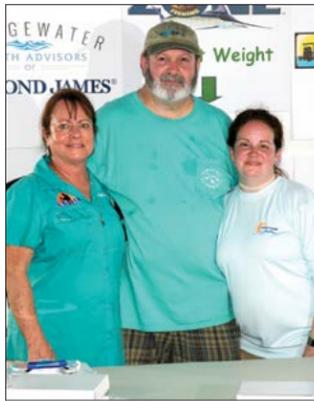


Elijah Cabler (center) won first place in the Key Auto Company Junior Anglers competition and the Inshore Slam winners were Eddie Cabler (left) and Brian Dutcher (right).

Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Connor Sidman, a graduating senior at Bishop Kenny. Sidman was selected by the Scholarship Committee as the student who best emulated Clay's spirit and values. Sidman fished in the tournament along with three other past scholarship winners, Hunter Parry, Will Parry and Natalie Hart.



Five of the nine Junior Anglers who placed in the competition show off their prizes.



Clay Roberts Memorial Inshore Slam Tournament Founders Terry and Gary Roberts with daughter Casey

Jacksonville residents compete in lip sync battle to support lung health



Mike and Pam Korn, Kelley and Tim Strong, Marc Mayo, Eric Holshouser, Anne Mayo, Lori Holshouser, Mike and Erin Lufkin

Four local celebrity teams competed against each other to win the Lip Sync for Lungs Live Battle and raise more than \$57,000 for the American Lung Association May 18 at Friday Musicale.

More than 150 supporters in attendance cheered on winner Gonzalo Mejia, sales manager at Watson Realty Corp's San Jose office.

When asked about his experience, Mejia said, "I decided to participate in the Lip Sync for Lungs as an opportunity to help other who suffer from lung diseases. Through my efforts to raise awareness and educate others about these health issues, a friend of mine felt touched by them and decided to quit smoking. For me that is the best reward I could have gotten from participating. That is the real win."

Other contestants included Orangetheory Fitness Head Trainer and Studio Manager

Bryant Bass and Matthew Malone; Jessica Morgan, Communications Director of Jacksonville Moms Blog with special guests Vicky Lane and Megan Kilis, as well as Kendall Fordham, Financial Advisor at Raymond James, accompanied by special guest AJ Cann of the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Event sponsors included Nemours Children's Specialty Care, The PQH Group, Crowley Maritime Corporation, The Main Street America Group, Duval Motor Company, Watson Realty San Marco, Eric and Lori Holshouser of Buchanan Ingersoll, & Rooney PC, Selphi Eco Salon, The CSI Companies, Cunningham Jewelers, Inc, Legacy Ale Works, Carve Vodka, Sight and Sound Productions, and PRP Wines.

All proceeds from the event will go to The American Lung Association mission of saving lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease, through research, education and advocacy.

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Small charity with mighty swing serves up 'cure to ace cancer'

Eight years ago, three members of the Deerwood community came together with the desire to help "serve up a cure" for cancer and started a charity tennis tournament in 2011, raising \$15,000 in that inaugural year.

This year's event, held June 8-10 at Deerwood Country Club, included two night of socializing and two days of tennis competition.

The annual event supports the Ellie Kavalieros DIPG Pediatric Brain Cancer Research Fund, Community Hospice & Palliative Care and The Gabriel House of Care. Last year each received \$10,000 from the tennis tournament.

Serving Up A Cure founders Brian Monroe, Bill Sharp and Tom Gable have raised and given away over \$210,000 in total to local cancer treatment and research organizations.



Serving Up A Cure founders Bill Sharp, Tom Gable and Brian Monroe



Rayhana Goll, Kendall Taylor, Shylo Kline and Carol Chaffin

Charity Burn raises nearly \$10,000 for Volunteers in Medicine



George and Leslie Baccash, Leslie Gordon, Mary Pat Corrigan, Donna and Rick Fenchel

Nearly 200 Orangetheory Fitness members, and Volunteers in Medicine volunteers and donors participated in a series of "Charity Burns" April 24-May 2 at locations throughout Northeast Florida. The collaborative fundraising initiative was spearheaded by Leslie Gordon, Volunteers in Medicine's April Woman With Heart.

Held in seven locations for a week, participants walked, ran and rowed, burning more than 70,000 calories and nearly 3,000 "splat" points. A "splat" point is earned every minute a participant keeps their heart rate at 84 percent or higher – the theory behind the "splat" point was scientifically proven to keep fat burning over a longer period of time post-workout.

Orangetheory Fitness owners Leslie and George Baccash and Rick and Donna Fenchel believe in the importance of giving back to the communities where their members live, work and play. Acknowledging

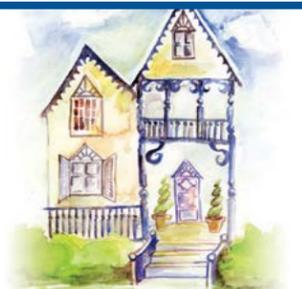
that "community" is one of the company's core values, they have embedded it in their business model by donating dollars for splat points earned to several community nonprofit partners.

The Fenchels and the Baccashes joined Volunteers in Medicine CEO Mary Pat Corrigan and 2018 April Woman With Heart Leslie Gordon to celebrate the amazing partnership with the presentation of a check totaling more than \$5,000 from the seven "Charity Burn" events. Orangetheory Fitness members stepped up to the match challenge, donating additional dollars for "splat" points earned for a grand total of nearly \$10,000.

Women With Heart are an exclusive and select group of Northeast Florida women recognized annually by Volunteers in Medicine for their leadership, philanthropy and service to the community at the organization's signature fundraising luncheon.

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Civil War submarine highlights historic battles

Drawing interest from many local residents, a quarter-scale replica of the CSS H.L. Hunley submarine was on display June 16 at the Museum of Southern History, 4304 Herschel St.

Among the visitors were Florida Congressman Jay Fant and his son, Jack, who dropped by to check out the exhibit, tour the museum and enjoy barbecue. Fishweir Park resident Monica Schramer brought her sons, Evan and Brendan, to what she said is one of their favorite local museums.

In addition to the submarine on display, members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Kirby-Smith Camp 1209 and the United Daughters of the Confederacy Martha Reid 19 wore period attire and provided oral history about The War Between the States.

The original Hunley was built in Mobile, Alabama by Horace Lawson Hunley to fight the Union blockade of Charleston's harbor in 1863. The crew hand-cranked a propeller to power the 40-foot-long craft, which had only a candle and a compass to guide them.



Jay Fant and his son, Jack, peruse drawings of the interior of the CSS Hunley.

The craft sank during its test run in August 1863, killing five crew members. It sank again in October 1863, killing all eight crew, including Hunley. After the Feb. 17, 1864 attack on the USS Housatonic, the Hunley sank for the third time, along with all eight crewmen.

The barbecue sale, along with a bake sale and book sale, raised nearly \$1,500 to finance expansion and renovation, according to Evelyn Wright, a museum volunteer who organized the event with board member Ben Willingham.



Sons of the Confederacy, Kirby Smith Camp 1209: John Ruff, Frank Marjenjoff, John Carson, Chris Bunton and Kim Hoffecker

Sanctuary on 8th gets fresh look, funds from local marina



Marina staff and boaters from The Marina at Ortega Landing donated material, labor and a check for \$500 to The Sanctuary on 8th Street.

When IGY Marinas – the management company for the Lakeside-based Marina at Ortega Landing – sought a local nonprofit for its worldwide service day project, one of its boating clients recommended The Sanctuary on 8th Street.

Leslie Jones, a longtime San Marco resident and realtor, was on the founding board of the Springfield-based nonprofit, which provides afterschool, summer school and homeschool programs. A slip holder at the marina for her 42-foot catamaran, Now & Zen, which offers sailing charters on the St. Johns River, Jones suggested the Sanctuary to Cam Melangton, the marina's general manager.

Once a post office, The Sanctuary's 88-year-old building needed a good sprucing up on the exterior, so Melangton and 14 others – including five staff and nine volunteers from the marina's boating

community – power washed the building and sidewalk, repainted the front of the building in lavender and green, and installed tropical-themed stained-glass vinyl graphics on boarded-up windows. Fresh mulch was also placed around trees at the "Giving Day" event.

"June 9th was a day that IGY Marinas all came together to support a greater cause in their communities, and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to help The Sanctuary on 8th Street improve the charity's branding and curb appeal," said Melangton. "It was amazing to hear the cars honking and people yelling to thank us while we were working – it just gave everyone such a great feeling."

In addition to nearly 100 manhours in volunteer labor, the Marina at Ortega Landing donated nearly \$3,000 in paint, mulch and window graphics, plus a check for \$500 to fund summer school supplies at The Sanctuary.



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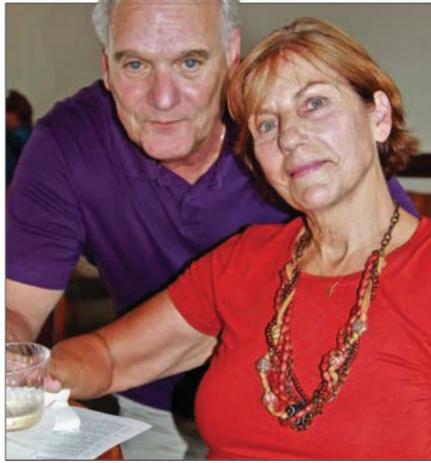
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Gerald Wilkerson for Duval County Judge, Group 3

Nonprofit gathers to celebrate with suds and diaper donations

Supporters of Emergency Pregnancy Services came out for the 44-year-old Riverside-based nonprofit's fundraising event May 23.

Live music provided an enjoyable background for guests as they browsed silent auction items, and enjoyed a brew and light hors d'oeuvres after donating a package of diapers at the "Beer for Life" event.

Since 1974, EPS has offered options counseling for pregnant teens and women, adoption and post-abortion support, as well as maternity and infant clothing, diapers, formula and other nursery items.



Mike and Janine Ondina



Ellie King, Sandra Duggan, Ruthie Simmons, Ben Simmons



Lucy and Phil Bravo with Stephen Turner and Kevin Mooneyhan



Autumn Martinage, Patricia Cronk, Brooke Acosta-Rua, Margaret Cavin

Mentoring artists display works at church gallery

An artists' reception was held June 6 at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church for its newest exhibit, this one honoring the mentor/mentee relationship among artists.

The show features the art of seven well-known Jacksonville artists, all of whom have contributed to the growth of the art community. Each work is paired with that of a mentee who the artists feel embodies the concept of absorbing the learning experiences and then synthesizes a new direction in their own art.

The paired artists include University of North Florida professor Louise Freshman Brown with Anna Reynolds-Patterson, adjunct instructor Jim Draper with Laura Schwenn, and associate professor Nofa Dixon with Cole Collier; Paul Ladnier, retired from UNF, with Tonya Lee; Brian Frus, associate professor at Jacksonville University, with Maria Beaty; Dustin Harewood, professor at FSCJ, Kent Campus, and Joanne Cellar, and Jim Smith, visual



Joanne Cellar with mentor Dustin Harewood

arts instructor at The Bolles School, with Sarah Peyton.

The exhibit, at 4001 Hendricks Ave., runs through the end of August, and includes paintings, sculptures, collages, ceramics and glass. For more information, call (904) 396-7745.



Louise Freshman Brown with her mentee, Anna Reynolds-Patterson



Laura Schwenn with mentor Jim Draper

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Resident honors wife's memory with project to fill food banks

By **Kate A. Hallock**
Resident Community News

Nearly four dozen volunteers representing nine groups gathered early on June 2 at Trinity Lutheran Church, at the corner of Park Street and McDuff Avenue, to bag 12,500 pounds of potatoes for 13 area food banks and agencies.

The event, the 1st Annual Neena Eisenberg Potato Drop, was organized by Sam Eisenberg, whose wife of 66 years, Cornelia "Neena," passed away March 4. Members of Avondale United Methodist Church for 24 years, the couple had been involved with the Society of St Andrew since 2002, helping glean unneeded harvests for use by local food banks. Sam, who is a member of the Men's Garden Club, wanted to honor his wife's memory by establishing what he hopes will become an annual event.

The potatoes, along with some lemons and some onions, came from UF Test Field (IFAS) in Hastings and from Feeding

Northeast Florida, and were delivered in nine bins to Trinity's parking lot the evening prior. After getting bagged in 3-lb. and 10-lb. plastic bags, the produce was picked up by food agencies who had committed to receiving the potatoes, including the Trinity Food Bank, which accepted 2,000 pounds' worth. Eisenberg's original goal was 40,000 pounds, but there were not enough commitments for that amount.

The Society of St. Andrew was formed in 1979 in Virginia as an intentional community of two families called to life and ministry together in Christ. It has grown into an ecumenical, nonprofit dedicated to leading others into lives of Christian community and service. Since 1983, the Society of St. Andrew has salvaged fresh, nutritious produce from American farms – produce that otherwise would be left to rot – and delivered it to agencies across the nation that serve the poor.

"When you go out into a field and look at the amount of stuff in the field and know tomorrow they're going to plow it under, it's sickening, especially when you think about the number of people who are going hungry in America," said Larry Rood, Northeast Florida area coordinator for the Society of St. Andrew. "Our goal is to lower the number of pounds that are going to be plowed under and to lower the number of people who aren't going to get food."

The volunteering groups were primarily local churches, including Trinity, Avondale United Methodist Church, Christ Church, Family Church, Celebration Church, and City Bible Church, as well as the Master Gardeners from UF, the Men's Garden Club, and employees from United HealthCare. For more information about the Society of St. Andrew, visit endhunger.org.



Jim and Beth Masters work with Master Gardeners Debra McEachin and Coleen Foucht to fill bags of potatoes for local food banks.



Larry Rood, center, shows Marty Gottlieb and Judy Mitchell how to tie off a 3-lb. bag after filling from a bin of red potatoes.



Some of the many volunteers who came to Trinity Lutheran Church June 2 to bag 12,500 pounds of potatoes.



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WAY WE WERE: MARVIN GLENN HOLLIS

BY PEGGY HARRELL JENNINGS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Marvin Hollis, 93, has been coming and going almost from the time he was born.

Fifteen months after he was born Nov. 4, 1924, his mother passed away. His siblings – two brothers and a sister – were 10, 13 and 15 when he was born. He was raised by his grandmother until his father remarried, then his father died when he was 11.

For several years, Hollis lived with various relatives, including an aunt and uncle who owned a drugstore, then with his sister and her husband in Colorado, then went back to his hometown, Texahoma, Oklahoma for eighth grade to live with a cousin and her husband, whom he helped with planting, plowing, and harvesting.

His brothers bought him a horse and buggy to travel the two and a half miles back and forth to grade school, and the enterprising teen soon earned a contract with the School Board to carry drinking water to the country school, which had no well. He earned the vast sum of \$4 a month.

Although most of the local families had opted to send their children to the city school, a teacher was hired for an eight-month contract for the country school during his last year there. When Hollis arrived the first day at the one-room

schoolhouse, he found he was the only eighth-grader and his sole classmate was a fourth-grade girl. “I was the teacher’s pet, valedictorian and head of the class,” he joked.

After finishing eighth grade, Hollis moved into town to go to high school and stayed at Mrs. McDaniel’s boarding house. “Two or three of us slept at her house, and if it snowed she fed the kids from the school and they spent the night,” he said. “Sometimes there’d be four or six kids in a bed with you. My brothers paid her \$13.50 a month and she fed me and washed and ironed my clothes. She was a mother to a lot of people. She was a midwife, too. She probably brought over 100 children into the world. She passed on while I was in the service.”

In 1941, during his junior year in high school a local boy had joined the Marine Corps and came back to town dressed in Marine blues.

“I thought that was the most beautiful uniform I had ever seen. Therefore, I decided to drop out of school and join the Marines,” recalled Hollis about what eventually became a three-year circuitous route from Oklahoma to Murray Hill.

“I hitchhiked the 108 miles from Texahoma to Amarillo, Texas to the recruiting station, which was at the post office. Since I was only 17 they said I had to have my brother sign for me. So, I hitchhiked back home. My oldest brother said he would not sign. But the next to the oldest said, ‘Oh hell, you might as well sign. He’s not going to amount to a hill of beans anyway.’ So, I hitchhiked back to Amarillo the next day, Nov. 25, 1941 and enlisted.”

War was declared on Dec. 7, 1941, and by Jan. 2, 1942 Hollis was training on the



Marvin and Isabel Hollis with daughter, Jan

rifle range in California then boarded a ship to “somewhere.” That “somewhere” happened to be Pearl Harbor. “We saw all the destruction. Ships were upside down. We thought the world was coming to an end. We were put on trucks with no lights and taken to a tent in a camp – had an evening meal – then were taken back to the harbor to work. Afterwards, we were separated out. There were about 300 of us to go to different places, and I was sent to Midway Island,” said Hollis.

Eleven hundred miles from Pearl Harbor, Midway, a tiny atoll in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, consisted of two islands – Sand and Eastern. “The airstrip was on Sand and the rest on Eastern. I was on Eastern for 17 months,” Hollis said.

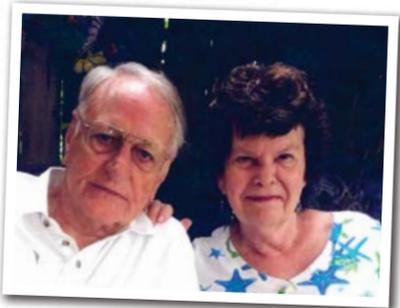
“We had a telephone outfit in a dugout. We got a message, which was previously relayed from a submarine to Admiral [Chester] Nimitz (U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander), that

the Japanese were coming to bomb us. Some ships went out to intercept. Supplies were brought in. We rolled barbed wire and bound it together. Then someone would swim out and attach it offshore.”

In addition, the Marines built gun emplacements, laid sandbags and shelters and readied themselves for the assault which began on June 4 and continued until June 7, 1942. “They blew up our water supply and our mess hall,” he said.

After his time at Midway, for which he has received many accolades, certificates and recognitions, Hollis ended up back in Pearl Harbor, then tiny Eniwetok Atoll and Guam until the end of the war. While at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, Hollis had hitchhiked to Jacksonville a few times to visit his sister who had “married a guy who worked for the Jacksonville Journal

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37



Marvin Hollis and Sandy Bahret



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newspaper,” so, in 1944 at age 21, he stuck out his thumb in Oklahoma and headed east. “I had money in my shoes, cap and several pockets,” laughed Hollis, as he recalled that adventure. “I made it to Shreveport, but couldn’t catch a ride, so I dozed a while at a filling station, then a car passed with only one person in it. I said a bad word, but he turned around and came back. He asked if I could drive. He was an Army officer and was a bit drunk. He gave me his billfold to buy gas, fed me, then I caught a ride in a truck to Jacksonville. I only lacked a credit and a half to finish high school, so I went to school on Duval Street and for \$21 got my diploma, then I was off to the University of Florida.”

After a few misstarts, on the recommendation of a professor Hollis decided on a degree in agriculture, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in 1949. In the meantime, while in Jacksonville on a visit, he met a young woman at the Rexall Drug Store on Edgewood Avenue – Isabel Watkins.

“She was from Jacksonville; her folks lived on Gilmore Street in Riverside. I don’t know what possessed me. I just fell in love,” he

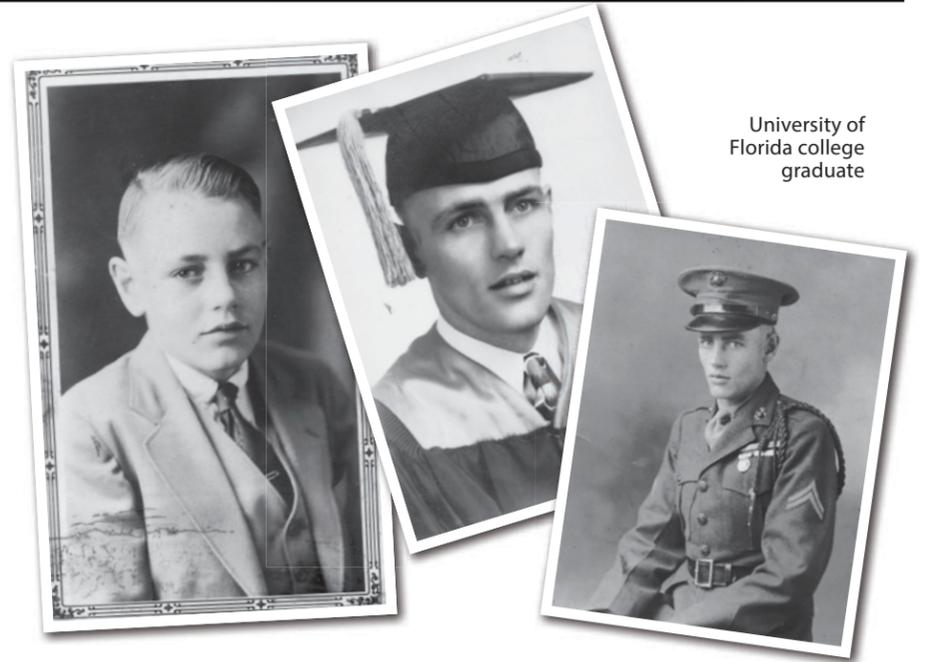
said. The couple married Dec. 22, 1946 at what was then Wesley Memorial Methodist Church on Stockton Street and moved back to Gainesville for Hollis to continue school.

After graduation they came to Jacksonville and bought a house on Lancaster Street in Murray Hill and baby Jan, now Jan Hollis Mathis, and the mother of Jeremy and Cody, was born in December 1952. Hollis worked as parts manager at Ferguson Tractor Place on Edgewood, then the Ford Tractor Place on 5th Street, then David Brown Tractors. He and Isabel won a trip to England to tour the Brown factory and sightsee in London.

Unexpectedly, Hollis received a call from Smith Hardware Company in North Carolina asking him to move up there and take over the wholesale farm equipment and hardware business. They offered incentives, such as paying to move him and his family, buying his gas, helping him get a house and a significant raise. He flew up and “talked and talked.” The persistent company called Isabel and convinced her. “When I went into the office to resign my job with Brown, my boss offered a lot of incentives to get me to stay. I said, ‘Well, if you can do it now why didn’t you do it before?’ So, we went to North Carolina for a few years.”

When the Hollises returned to Jacksonville, he retired from the workforce but a glance at his current calendar shows the many committees, duties, activities and meetings he has with Murray Hill Methodist Church – Men’s Club, Wesley Fellowship, Sunday School, Finance Committee, and president of Young at Heart for the past eight years. A Young at Heart member remarked that he is impressed with Hollis’ posture, saying, “He is ramrod straight – just like he came out of the Marines.”

Hollis was frequently asked to participate in programs related to the Battle of Midway, but his wife, Isabel, was ill and then passed



University of Florida college graduate

Marvin Hollis in the eighth grade

In the U.S. Marine Corps



Marvin Hollis with World War II memorabilia

away in 2008. Afterwards, his daughter, Jan, encouraged him to attend commemoration services and sometimes accompanied him. He has been a guest speaker at several organizations and at the Naval Air Station. A table in his home is filled with plaques, statues, flags and other memorabilia recognizing his service in the Marines and at the Battle of Midway.

Despite his world travels with the military, and his cross-county hitchhiking days, Hollis and his long-time companion, Sandy Bahret, don’t travel as much as they used to since she is still employed fulltime. Previously they had traveled to Mexico and the Bahamas.

“We met in Sunday School at Murray Hill Methodist about eight years ago. My wife had passed on and Sandy was a widow; I had tickets to some shows downtown, so I called and asked her, as a friend, if she would like to go and it gradually developed into more,” he said.

Hollis said he doesn’t even know how to turn on a computer, has few hobbies, and doesn’t go to movies, but at age 93 is in excellent health and just likes “hanging out” with Sandy, and an abandoned cat named No Name, which lives in his garage.

“I read a bit of everything. I used to walk and exercise but now I just live my life,” he said.

Although he still spends a lot of time in Murray Hill, Hollis and Bahret live at Settler’s Landing, where he continues in a leadership role as treasurer of the Homeowners’ Association. When asked about changes in Murray Hill, he remarked, “There are new stores coming and going, new eating joints, but it’s mostly the same.”

Hollis has also been coming and going for almost a century – from a small town in Oklahoma to the middle of the Pacific Ocean, from Jacksonville to North Carolina and back, and he’s still going strong. Plus, he doesn’t have to hitchhike anymore.

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Senior enjoys dancing, seeks more partners

By **Kate A. Hallock**
Resident Community News

Tom Hightower isn't normally a wallflower, but decreasing attendance at the Lane Wiley Senior Center's weekly ballroom dance sessions has the 85-year-old Lakeside Park resident worried that he may have to hang up his dancing shoes.

The Westside center, located at 6710 Wiley Rd., used to welcome close to 100 men and women on Tuesday evenings tapping toes and swinging to music by Side-by-Side, a duo who has played there for the past three years. Randy Rickard, on piano, and Ron Spencer, on bass and trombone, provide the tunes that get the seniors up and moving, doing a two-step, some line dancing and, if there are enough women attending, a little ballroom dancing.

"We have some really nice people out here," said Hightower. "This is such a nice place, with a big floor and a kitchen."

"The band is really good. I'd like to get more people to come," he said. "Sometimes a bus comes from Florida Christian Apartments, so we have a group of 20 or so."

Hightower learned to dance in his late teens/early twenties while in the service.

"This is such a nice place, with a big floor and a kitchen... The band is really good. I'd like to get more people to come."

— Tom Hightower



Tom Hightower

After quitting high school in the 10th grade to join the Air Force at age 17, he ended up in Lubbock, Texas. He said it was a "dry" county, so he and his young bride, Yvonne, would hitchhike from the base to a private club to dance, have a few beers and relax.

After serving for four years as a training crew member on B-25 twin-engine bombers, when he left the Air Force at age 21, Hightower moved to Jacksonville, where his sister was a beautician downtown before getting her own shop, Laura's, in Murray Hill.

Hightower worked at Naval Air Station Jacksonville rebuilding aircraft for 35 years before retiring in 1987. In the late 1960s, he bought a home in the Lakeside Park area, which he said is a "straight shot down San Juan Avenue" to the Lane Wiley Senior Center.

In addition to weekly dances, the center offers resources for computer labs, billiards and table tennis, instructor-led sewing classes, and exercise equipment, and is often available for private rentals.

Sock hop evokes fun memories

Recalling their own days of "rockin' around the clock," nearly 150 residents at The Windsor Ortega and visitors turned out for a summer sock hop and barbecue under the front portico of the assisted living and memory care residence at 5939 Roosevelt Blvd. Vintage cars courtesy of The Clay County Cruisers and plenty of polka dot decorations gave the June 9 event a festive feel, and many enjoyed treats from Cool Scoops ice cream truck.

The sock hop is one of the ways The Windsor helps its memory care residents recall their past and make them feel comfortable in their environment. The event was also an opportunity for potential residents to visit the facility, which opened in Ortega/Venetia in 2014.



Jerry Orr and Dale Taylor



Eleanor Smith and Leah Kelly were visitors at The Windsor during a Summer Sock Hop.



Dr. Howard Acree, a resident at The Windsor, was a longtime, well-known veterinarian in the area.



Visitors Blanche Demers with Phyllis and Sherman Thatcher at The Windsor's Summer Sock Hop



Rebecca McNeil with her father, Jerry Faircloth, and cousin, Heather Rosdol



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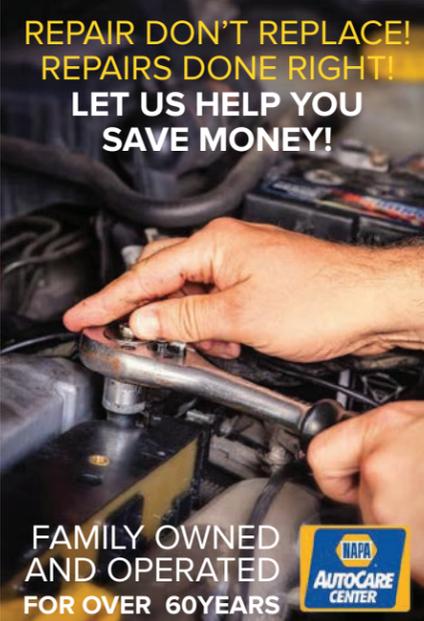
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Nonprofit dance company celebrates 40 years, takes performances to seniors

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

When Debra Rankin's grandfather was a resident at St. Catherine's Labouré Place in 1978, he was unable to get out and attend the Jacksonville Concert Ballet Company's end-of-year recital. Rankin, as company director, decided to take her troupe on the road to perform for him and other residents. Now, 40 years later, the "road show" has become a joy-filled tradition for the company.

Today, several of the present-day dancers are the children of those first performers, and the dancers get as great a blessing from performing as the residents do from watching, said Rankin, a Murray Hill resident.

"It's important for young people to learn to give back to the community by sharing their talents. These performances help our dancers gain confidence and poise. Performing in unusual venues stretches the dancers' capabilities and gives them the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and technique," she said. "It gives the younger ones an appreciation and understanding of those whose lives are different from their own. We give these performances as a gift to the community."

Recently the company celebrated its anniversary performing selections from Vivaldi's "Seasons" for residents at St. Catherine's Labouré Place, Cross Creek Nursing Home and Signature HealthCARE nursing homes.

The nonprofit consists of a junior and senior company of dancers who are accepted by audition. Many of the dancers train at Baggs Studio of Ballet in Murray Hill, and many are enrolled in public performing arts schools. Most perform in the annual

Jacksonville Community Nutcracker in December as well.

Rankin said several of the dancers who have come up "through the ranks" are now contributing choreographers.

Ida Vera, who has performed with the company for 12 years, made her choreographic debut for the senior company with a moving dance, "Three Rounds and a Sound," to the soundtrack from the movie, "Schindler's List." Pamela Litz, who started in the junior company at age 9, and whose mother performed with the JCBC in previous years, created "Trois," a jazz number performed by Caroline Owen, Morgan Murwain and Larris Bostick, alternating with David Brandon.

The JCBC is a family affair with the Rankins in harmony with dance, music and marriage. Roslyn and Curtis Evelyn are another married duo. There are several sets of sisters and brothers, including Caroline and Jack Owen, Lanny and Morgan Murwain, Chelsea and Chase Virta-Steel, Chris McGill, his sister Melissa Cooper, and her daughter Alana Cooper. To paraphrase an old expression, "The family that dances together, stays together."

When you spend hours in class and rehearsal each week and are dependent on one another for a successful program, the bonds of friendship become like family. The "Not So Over the Hill Gang," Sue Barry, Dr. George Trotter, Peggy Harrell and the Evelyns, have been performing together for more years than they wish to mention.

Numerous comments were made by the senior care facility residents about the strength of the male dancers, and the beauty and grace of the girls. They enjoyed Hugh Rankin's tuba playing and educational dance



Carousel Waltz finale



Pam Litz and Chris McGill



Ballerina Ida Vera, front, with Dr. George Trotter, Roslyn and Curtis Evelyn and Sue Barry

history remarks. Many swayed back and forth in their wheelchairs to "Up the Lazy River" and a gospel favorite, "Just a Closer Walk with Thee."

Shouts of "Thank you! Thank you so much! It was beautiful," followed the dancers

out the door. "It is heartwarming to see the smiles on the folks' faces, knowing that most can't get out to enjoy the arts. The gratitude expressed is very humbling and I am blessed more than the residents," said Sue Barry.



Jay Stuckey and his son, James, with Hella Shull, Judy Klein, John Peck and Mary Lou Sutherlin get ready to add more plants to the front of the Murray Hill Library.

New ramp installed at Murray Hill library, bike racks to come

A small group from the Friends of the Murray Hill Library donned work gloves for a morning of planting at the Edgewood Avenue-based library June 9. A recent installation by the City of Jacksonville of a ramp in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act opened a new area for planting shrubs and flowers, according to Judy Klein, member of the Friends group.

Because there is no irrigation system at the library or ready source of water, Master Gardner Hella Schull chose plants which are drought-tolerant for locations that will receive at least a minimal amount of rain water. Klein said the group had

requested a water spigot be installed on the front of the building but was told it was not in the City's budget. To care for newly-installed plants, they have to bring buckets of water from the library's restroom, she said.

In addition to the ramp, the City put in an automatic door for easier access by wheelchair-bound residents. Five new bicycle racks will also be installed and the library's book return drop book will be painted blue to match the racks.

The Friends of the Murray Hill Library are planning a celebration for the branch's 50th anniversary in December.



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Operation New Uniform graduates largest cohort in four-year history

Fifteen veterans seeking careers

By Susan D. Brandenburg
Resident Community News

Bradley Dedeaux is seeking a career in management. "A career," he stresses. "Not just a job."

An Army veteran who won a football scholarship to the University of Kansas and graduated with a degree in business management, Dedeaux was part of the 25th Cohort of Operation New Uniform graduation June 8.

An executive training program co-founded in 2014 by Navy veteran and University of North Florida graduate Justin Justice and Michele McManamon, co-owner and operator of Sandler Training, ONU provides veterans with the tools, mindset and ability to confidently search for, find and retain their dream careers. The program helps bridge the transition gap that many veterans face, offering job preparedness training, interview coaching, resume writing workshops and many other professional development exercises.

Dedeaux knew he was a natural leader, but something was holding him back from conveying that self-confidence to potential employers. "I didn't know where to turn," he said, "and then someone told me about ONU."

Noting that ONU is so much more than vocational rehab, Dedeaux stood at the



Bradley Dedeaux, Michele McManamon and Kevin Rasch

podium confidently, thanking not only his instructors but his fellow veterans for the support and camaraderie established in the short but intensive 3½ week training program. "We really grew a close bond," he declared, revealing that he lost both of his parents to illness a few years back and that ONU truly became like a family to him. "I'm eternally indebted to ONU," he said. "Anything they need from me, I'm there."

The graduation for 15 veterans, held at The Haskell Company in Riverside, was the largest in ONU's four-year history. There were nine graduates in Cohort 25, including Georgina L. Williams, Roger Hausman, Joanna C. Jackoby, Nicole R. Scott, Bradley Dedeaux, Willie D. Tippens, Mathew Elkins, Christopher Manley and Alison Houston, and six in Cohort 2 of ONU at Night, including Shelia Meola, Mickla Adams, Willie

Johnson, Gunther Helms, Quincy Donohue and Steven Drenning-Blalock.

As each professionally-dressed, confident-looking graduate came to the podium, the power of the program was evident. In addition to family members, many attendees who crowded the room were corporate supporters and sponsors of ONU, on hand to congratulate graduates and scout for potential employees, including veteran-committed companies such as Miller Electric, Wells Fargo, Haskell and Macquarie group.

Following speeches by graduates and presentation of a number of special awards, Michele McManamon, who has just accepted the position of executive director of Operation New Uniform, introduced two new ONU team members, Cedric Twillie, director of veteran training, and Bella D'Errico, marketing director.

Kevin Rasch, a retired Navy helicopter pilot and a member of ONU's Cohort 15 graduating class, was on hand to witness the 25th Cohort graduation and provide whatever support he can to his fellow veterans. Now managing the Wounded Warrior Project's "Warriors to Work," Rasch noted he has found that sometimes the more senior you are in the military, the more difficult it is to transition into the corporate environment.

As an executive with the Wounded Warrior Project, Rasch now helps veterans with career coaching in a program similar to ONU and is excited at the interaction between his agency and ONU. "We serve a wider demographic than ONU, reaching out nationally,

but we work in the same space and it's heartening to see how many organizations are here to help veterans transition," he said. "I try to attend as many ONU graduations as possible. The talent that veterans bring to the table is impressive."

Rasch and his family live in Avondale. "My wife, Beth, and I bought the Avondale house back in 2000 because we were drawn to the culture of the neighborhood, and we've lived there ever since, minus a few years when we were living overseas," Rasch said. "Now we are raising our four children, ages 6 to 14, in local schools and enjoying our permanent home."

Operation New Uniform offers veterans a new sense of permanency and the opportunity to participate in the program at no charge. There is a 97 percent success rate for graduates, most of whom have landed a career that provides at least \$60,000 per year. As of the recent graduation, 217 veterans have gone through ONU's program. McManamon commended the Haskell Company for partnering with ONU and hosting the graduation. She encouraged all present to consider supporting ONU with "time, talent and treasure."

Pausing for a photograph with Bradley Dedeaux and Kevin Rasch, McManamon said, "It was nice to have alum like Kevin Rasch, from Cohort 15, join us to support their new alum family in Cohort 25, like Brad Dedeaux. We're proud of all our alum and that support is ongoing. Any veteran who needs our help can feel free to reach out to us at (904) 328-1600."

The Great Sunscreen Debate: Which type is best for you?

Medical students share tips for minimizing skin cancer risk

A Riverside resident and regular reader of *The Resident*, Joshua Patton, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Candidate 2019, teamed up with Megan Barber, Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate 2019, teamed up to share professional advice to help reduce the risk of sun cancer while still getting out and enjoying the great outdoors.

Sunlight consists of UVA and UVB radiation. The UVA rays penetrate deeper into the skin and cause premature skin aging. Alternatively, UVB rays are what cause skin to "tan" and "burn." Although each causes its own damage, both are linked with skin cancer, so apply broad-spectrum sunscreen to all exposed skin every time you go outside.

Research shows one of five Americans will be diagnosed with skin cancer. The three main types of skin cancer are basal cell carcinoma (BCC), squamous cell carcinoma (SCC), and malignant melanoma (MM). BCC is the most common and

fortunately has the least chance to metastasize. SCC is the next most common and has a minimal chance of spreading. MM, however, is the worst of the three and has the highest chance of metastasizing. Most importantly, using sunscreen can decrease the incidence of all three.

What is commonly known as "sunscreen" actually falls into the broad category of photoprotective agents. The two main photoprotective agents are sunblock, which is opaque and "blocks" the sun, and sunscreen, which is translucent and must be reapplied frequently.

Two important ingredients to look for in a sunblock are titanium dioxide and zinc oxide. Both act by reflecting UV rays and do not degrade in sunlight. For this reason, they are recommended for use in children and those with sensitive skin. Newer zinc oxide and titanium dioxide containing products are micronized which allows them to "disappear" into dark skin.

Alternatively, avobenzone is the best known chemical in sunscreens, and is the most widely used organic ingredient. When purchasing photoprotective agents, ingredients to avoid are para-aminobenzoic acid (PABA), oxybenzone, homosalate, and octinoxate. People with allergy-prone skin, acne, or rosacea should avoid products with fragrances as these may exacerbate their conditions. For dry skin, choose a sunscreen with moisturizers such as lanolin, oils, or dimethicone.

For minimal sun exposure, such as walking to the car, SPF 15 is sufficient. With extended

time in the sun, SPF 30 or greater is advised. Additionally, although a product may be water- or sweat-resistant, it is still recommended to apply at least 30 minutes before sun exposure and reapply every two hours or after toweling off.

The two biggest reasons sunscreens fail is under-application and failure to reapply. A normal-sized adult should use one ounce (capacity of a shot glass) of sunscreen each application to cover from head to toe. The most commonly uncovered parts are feet, upper back, bikini area, and hands.

The best advice to avoid premature skin aging and the risk of skin cancer is to avoid direct sun exposure between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., reapply sunscreen at least every two hours, spend most of the time in the shade while outside, and wear a wide-brimmed hat and long sleeves when in the sun.

The next time you shop for sunscreen, remember – the best sunscreen is the one you will consistently use.

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Turners Underseal can take the 'moist' out of crawlspace breeding grounds

Most crawlspace problems occur because of one thing: moisture.

"Rodents don't like dry, insects don't like dry, mold and mildew doesn't like dry, wood rot doesn't like dry," said Chris Turner, owner of Turners Underseal. "They all thrive in a warm, moist environment."

Eliminate the moisture and all kinds of good things happen, Turner said. "Dry, healthy air comes into your house and you breathe clean air. Your doors and windows don't stick, and your wood floors don't warp. The bottom line is it really is all about breathing healthy air in your home. Crawlspace moisture is your enemy – you need to stop it," he said.

Before Reggie and Rita Walden bought their 1925 Avondale home in March 2017, they had never lived in a house with an open crawlspace, so they didn't know it could be the source of a problem. "I have a very sensitive sense of smell," said Rita, "and the mustiness and mildew made me think that perhaps things weren't clean enough."

Rita also said towels never got totally dry and pots and pans would get spotting that looked like mildew. Then they discovered moisture in the crawlspace of their home, and initially thought the best solution was a spray foam. When that didn't remove or stop more moisture, mold and rot from occurring, the Waldens turned to Turners Underseal, who installed a dehumidifier system with modifications.

"I saw his ad in *The Resident* and gave Chris a call," said Rita. "He came out and put in a dehumidifier and it has taken care

of the problem. I haven't noticed musty odors or dampness since."

Moist crawlspaces are breeding grounds for mold and mildew, and can make you sick, especially if you have allergies or asthma, Turner explained. But even if you're not prone to allergies, contaminants from crawlspaces can still irritate your eyes, skin, nose, throat, and lungs.

"Just about the only way to maintain a dry crawlspace year-round is to use a permanently installed, commercial-quality dehumidifier, like Turners Underseal compact unit," said Turner, who is passionate about health – yours and your home's.

"We install a 200-square-foot liner with a mounting pad under the commercial dehumidifier with an automatic pump, partial vent closings and drainage to the outside for trouble-free operation," he said, adding that getting the crawlspace dry and

keeping it that way will prevent it from becoming a nasty breeding ground while improving indoor air quality.

With over 30 years' experience as a certified indoor air quality professional, Turner knows his stuff when it comes to healthy, dry crawlspaces, and that was immediately evident to the Waldens.

"You need to find the source of the problem before you can find the solution," said Rita Walden, who said she would recommend Turners Underseal to anyone.

In addition to crawlspace wood sealing and crawlspace liners, Turners Underseal also does home air quality inspection. For 10 percent off wood treatment services, contact Chris Turner at (904) 903-9569, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., or check out Turners Underseal at turnersunderseal.com



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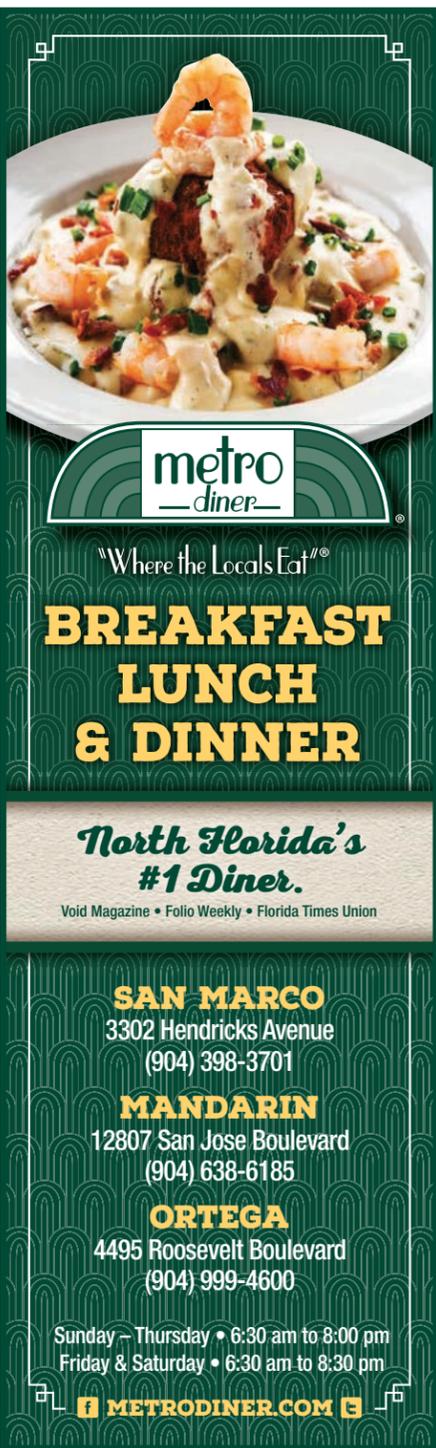
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Siblings of cancer patients welcomed into new support group

Recognizing that childhood cancer affects the whole family, the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation recently took a step toward ensuring that siblings going through the experience are provided with peer support and education.

The foundation launched the new sibling support program, Just Among You Siblings (J.A.Y.S. Team), June 7 at TIAA Bank Field with the help of the Jacksonville Jaguars.

"The goal of the Jay Fund is to be there for the whole family," said Keli Coughlin, executive director, who introduced Kimberly Todd, sibling support program specialist.

"The goal of the program is to hold quarterly events for siblings age 6-18 to meet in a relaxed, recreational setting, share common struggles and feelings, an opportunity to learn more about their sibling's diagnosis and treatments," said Todd, who previously worked as a child life specialist at the Proton Therapy Institute. "J.A.Y.S. Team will provide siblings with opportunities to express their thoughts, fears, and feelings openly and to promote positive coping."



Melanie Blanc (left), a leukemia survivor, played a game of giant Jenga with her sister, Emily, and brother, Tyler.



Chris Tomberlin brought his daughters, Addison and Emerson, to the event with help from his sister-in-law, Ashley, left.

After the program kickoff, more than 150 childhood cancer families were given a behind-the-scenes tour of TIAA Bank Field, a meet-and-greet with some of the Jacksonville Jaguars, and then treated to dinner and an ice cream sundae bar.

The Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation was created in 1996 in honor of Jay McGillis who played for the Boston College Eagles when Coughlin served as head coach. In the eight months between Jay's diagnosis and the day he lost his battle to cancer, the Coughlin family saw first-hand the physical, emotional and financial strains the illness caused the McGillis Family. The foundation's mission is to help families tackle childhood cancer by providing comprehensive financial, emotional and practical support.



Theo Kelly, 6, was busy on artwork during the event. He is currently battling Optic Nerve Glioma.

Local groups support Haiti's extreme poor



Steve Werlin, author of "To Fool the Rain: Haiti's Poor and Their Pathway to a Better Life," speaks to supporters of Fonkoze Jacksonville.

A reception at St. Vincent's Spirituality Center, held April 27, updated Fonkoze's Jacksonville community about the work ongoing in Haiti, and gave prospective supporters an opportunity to learn more about the organization.

They also met Steve Werlin, a former Chicago college dean who moved to Haiti, where he serves as Fonkoze's communications and learning officer for Chemen Lavi Miyò (CLM), a program for the extreme poor.

Fonkoze, (pronounced fon-kow-ZAY, which means "shoulder to shoulder"), provides financial and humanitarian services in Haiti, and is supported locally by Haitian Microfinance, Inc., a foundation established by Michael Fisher, and by Riverside Presbyterian Church and Uptown Civitan.

The organization also announced donations made to the CLM Summer Camp program will be matched by a Jacksonville donor. CLM's Summer Camps give Haitian children of CLM families a rare chance to spend time together playing, eating well and learning during the summer school break. Just \$15 will send a child to a summer camp, and each gift marked for Summer Camps will be matched. Donations may be made through the Fonkoze website at www.fonkoze.org.



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Stockton students enjoy annual art, culture day

John N.C. Stockton Elementary School students enjoyed a day full of art and culture at its May 18 Art Fest, an all-day event where students learn about several countries by rotating between art projects and cultural activities from around the world. There were also workshops, which focused on other forms of art. Professionals in their fields ran the workshops and volunteers helped students with the art projects.

The art events included Russian Matryoshka, or stacking, dolls, Mexican sugar skulls, Indian henna (mehndi) art, Monet-style oil pastel water lily drawings, African face masks, Chinese dragons, Guatemalan worry dolls, Egyptian amulets with hieroglyphics, Scotland tin punch art, Native American totem poles, Japanese koinobori (carp streamer kites), and Zimbabwean thumb pianos.

The cultural workshops included fencing, karate, Capoeira (a Brazilian martial art that combines dance and acrobatics), yoga, juggling, gymnastics, and creating a musical beat with drums, beat boards, and tambourines.

Capoeira Jacksonville, Gyminators Gymnastics, CMAI Karate, and Jacksonville Fencing Club volunteered their time and expertise for the fun-filled day, enjoyed by students, parents and grandparents. Some even dressed up in their country's heritage costumes and researched extra information to share.



First-grade students enjoy drums, beat boards, and tambourines at Stockton Elementary Schools' Art Fest.



Hilda Barragan finishes a Guatemalan worry doll.



Maddox Breeding, Morgan Wu, Mason Dupree, Zoe Szilagyi and Laurel Halliday make Russian Matryoshka or stacking dolls.



Noah, Olivia and Landon create Mexican sugar skulls.



Nathan Bell and Charlie Poleski made Japanese koinobori - carp streamer kites.

Snyder track and field team has state champs

Bishop John Snyder High School's Track and Field teams had a very successful season, with Semaj McGhee and Jalen Chance becoming the school's first individual state champions at the state meet May 4-5. McGhee became only the second Northeast Florida female to sweep the jumps, winning high jump, long jump and triple jump. Chance also won triple jump, completing a sweep of that event for Snyder. Alana Lecointe found success in shot put placing second.

In all, the girls' team placed third, the highest finish ever for the program, and all six girls who qualified for the state meet broke a school record, placed or both. The boys placed sixth as a team, also the highest ever finish in program history. This built on the earlier season success of the girls' and boys' teams sweeping the team titles at the region meet and the boys



Semaj McGhee, Head Coach Nathan Stanley, Jalen Chance

winning districts. There were 13 new school records set this year, 13 individual district champions and 13 individual region champions.

"The hard work and long hours these athletes invested in their individual and team events paid off in a big way at the state championship," said Head Coach Nathan Stanley. "I couldn't be more proud of each and every one of Snyder's track and field members."

Crossing guards honored at retirement for service

At the end of the school year, beloved Fishweir Elementary School crossing guards, John and Janet Reiger, retired from service and were honored by the school's Parent-Teacher Association June 1.

Mrs. Janet, as she is lovingly known by students, staff and parents, had served Duval County Public Schools for 12 years and remembered every student's name, including former students and parents. Neighbors would honk and wave to see her smile. Mr. John had served seven years, protecting the rear of the school and bus zone, where he would give his favorite students mints.

In honor of their place in the Fishweir "family," the PTA presented the Reigers with signs which permanently name their crossing spots as "Reiger Corner." On last day of school, parents and students presented the couple with handmade



Front: Max Hardaker, Zinnia Hardaker, Chloe Marshall, Lily and Daisy Hardaker; back: John Reiger, Casey Marshall, Janet Reiger

cards, flowers and gift cards for retirement, telling them they will be dearly missed in the neighborhood.

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- ◆ Driver's Education



Sanctuary on 8th volunteer receives Eagle Scout award

Henry Caine, a Sanctuary on 8th Street graduate, received his Eagle Scout badge and medal in a ceremony at the Springfield-based nonprofit May 22.

Caine, age 18, achieved the 21 merit badges required to receive the Eagle Scout award, the highest rank that the Boy Scouts offers. Only 4 percent of Boy Scout members attain this prestigious honor. For his final project, Caine rebuilt an outdoor playhouse for the Sanctuary on 8th Street, an after-school and summer program Caine attended for many years.

A member of Boy Scout Troop 622, Caine also volunteers at Sanctuary and coached the 9- to 10-year-old basketball team in the Riverside Presbyterian Church league.

Janet Reagor, associate director, said they wanted to have the ceremony at the Sanctuary so he can show off his project and hopefully inspire some of the students to go into Scouting.

“The Boy Scouts changed my life by showing me the way to live by the Boy Scout code and teaching me life skills,” said Caine.

Caine presented the Sanctuary’s Executive Director Rick Cartlidge with the Mentor Pin for his role in guiding and encouraging the young man the past eight years.

“We are very proud of Henry’s achievement of becoming an Eagle Scout,” said Cartlidge. “He has been an integral part of the Sanctuary since he started attending in 2009. He is a role model for our children and we are excited to have him working this summer during our camp.”

“The Boy Scouts changed my life by showing me the way to live by the Boy Scout code and teaching me life skills.”

— Henry Caine



Eagle Scout Henry Caine

Goats, gastronomy, and good times at school farmers market



Executive Council Farmers Market Chair Sara Brackin with Vice Chair Joelle Lockett

The 11th Annual Farmers Market for the Bolles Upper School, held March 15, provided a perfect day of shopping and relaxation under the San Jose Campus oaks. Students visited a variety of vendors offering unique wares and fabulous fare including fresh flowers, toffee, crepes, wildflower honey, ice pops, smoothies, jewelry, and much more.

It was a treat to shop with local nonprofit organizations representing the McKenzie Club, the North Florida School of Special Education’s Berry Good Farm’s Barkin’ Biscuits, Angels for Allison, and Rethreaded. The petting zoo was aflutter with activity as students bonded with baby goats, guinea pigs, bunnies, ponies, pigs, ducklings, and sheep.



Ogechi Jones, Keshawn Waters, Marissa Mack, and seated, Josephyne Clark

Students turn hands to vintage skill for community service

In less than two months, a dedicated group of about 10 students at Robert E. Lee High School worked 136 hours on a special project for the homeless and for sheltered animals.

The AVID (Advancement vis Individual Determination) group took up crochet hooks and skeins of yarn to create blankets, hats and scarves for a community service project.

“We could not decide if it would be for homeless individuals or animals so they decided to do both,” said Pamela Clark, AVID coordinator. “We will be donating 10 hats, 10 scarves, and five blankets to the Sulzbacher Center and 20 blankets to the

animal shelter on Forest Street. “We were not a big group but every stitch was done with love.”

Some of the students already knew how to crochet, but Clark taught the others.

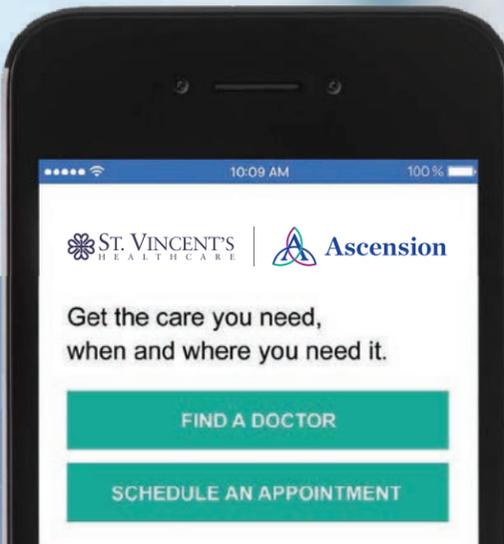
“We are open to any community donations of crochet supplies or if individuals want to crochet a blanket or such we will add them to our donation baskets,” said Clark.

Donations can be dropped off at Robert E. Lee High School, 1200 McDuff Ave. S., to the attention of Pamela Clark, who will collect the supplies or finished items for the group’s return at the beginning of the school year.

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Three from Bishop Kenny are Mary Award finalists

Three Bishop Kenny High School seniors were among 12 students from throughout the greater Jacksonville area named as finalists in the annual Mary Awards Program sponsored by St. Vincent's HealthCare. Each finalist is selected for her work in one of four categories: academics, volunteerism, leadership and athletics.

The Bishop Kenny finalists were Emma Jane Warren, Kylee Meehan and Madeline Ward.

The Mary Awards honor the courage and willingness of young women, all seniors in high school, who are serving their faith communities and their neighbors. All the finalists were recognized and honored by



Emma Jane Warren, Kylee Meehan and Madeline Ward

the Jacksonville community and St. Vincent's HealthCare in Riverside during an evening program and dinner held at San Jose Country Club in April.

Sixth-grade students honored for community service

The Annual 6th Grade Service Luncheon held May 24 provided an opportunity for Riverside Presbyterian Day School to honor the sixth-graders for their commitment to spread grace, compassion, hope and kindness throughout Jacksonville. The students were also treated to a speech from former professional tennis player MaliVai Washington on the importance of giving back.

This past school year 51 sixth-graders supported 10 local agencies and provided over 4,095 hours of community service for the following organizations: Catholic Charities Jacksonville, City Rescue Mission, Downtown Ecumenical Services Council, Family Promise of Jacksonville, The WELL Jax, Impact Learning Center, MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation, Presbyterian Social Ministries, The Sanctuary on 8th Street, and Sulzbacher.



William Green and MaliVai Washington, former professional tennis player



Lilly Rain Charles, Maia McEvoy, Olivia Meux



Charles Massey, Garrett Spinner, Emily Goldie and Lorianna Capes

Ruth N. Upson fifth graders rank in top 5 percent

Four students from Ruth N. Upson Elementary were honored during a county-wide Fifth Grade Recognition Ceremony for scoring in the Top 5 percent of Duval County fifth-graders.

Charles Massey, Garrett Spinner and Emily Goldie from Tamara Bettes' class and Lorianna Capes from Jennifer Cogburn's class were recognized during a ceremony at Atlantic Coast High School.

Dr. Sheree Cagle, region chief for Duval County Public Schools presented the awards. The Top 5 percent ranking has been a system-wide program for the past 15 years.

The students were also recognized at the Murray Hill school's year-end awards program by Principal Yvonne Spinner.

Avondale girl named student of year

St. John's Country Day School selected fifth-graders Grace Dunton, an Avondale resident, and Ty Neal as the 2017-2018 Best All-Around Lower School Students of the Year. St. John's recognized Grace and Ty for their achievements in academics, athletics, and arts.





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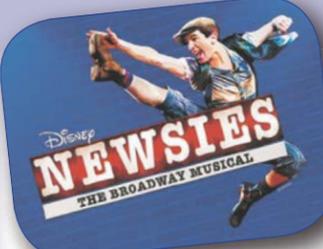
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Neighborhood students recognized in Reflections competition

Eleven students from schools in Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods received state and national recognition in the 2018 PTA Reflections Competition, 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, "Within Reach," and could submit entries in one or more of six categories – dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, and the visual arts.

Benjamin Peralta of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts won Awards of Excellence, the highest, for his work in dance choreography, on the county, state and national levels.

Ava MacDowell, a student at Hendricks Avenue Elementary, received national recognition with an Award of Merit in photography. She received Awards of Excellence both in the state and county competitions.

Receiving Awards of Excellence in the Florida PTA State Competition in their divisions were Nicolle Alexandra Bahamon of Julia Landon Middle School, and DA students Elsa Kang and Corey Kreisel. Also from DA, Mathew Sommers, Sydney Connor, Ashley Kramer, Hannah Overfield and Darvin Nelson won Awards of Merit in the State competition.

Two students from Hendricks Avenue Elementary, Emma Lee and Kelsie Kiernan, took home Awards of Merit from Hendricks Avenue Elementary.

In the Duval County Competition, students from Douglas Anderson, Hendricks Avenue Elementary, Julia Landon Middle School, and Stanton College Preparatory School also performed well.

Eleven DA students received Awards of Excellence including Peralta, Sommers, Connor, Kramer, Overfield, Nelson, Kang, and Keisel as well as Haley Andrews, Antonio Colon, and Travis Davis. Receiving

Awards of Merit were Haley Pafford, Jordan Warner, Kyiara Brown, Brianna Eisman, Jessica Oleynik and Kaylin Hillman.

Six students from Hendricks Avenue Elementary received Awards of Excellence in the Duval County competition: Emma Lee, Magnolia Betancourt, Sophia MacDowell, Ava MacDowell, Bella Bond, and Kelsie Kiernan. Being recognized with Awards of Merit from HAE were Catherine Shore and Burke Scharer.

At Julia Landon College Preparatory School, two students, Nicolle Alexandra Bahamon and Charlotte Caccam received Awards of Excellence. Five students received Awards of Merit: Bonny Bruzos, Campbell Scharer, Michael Weidle, Samira Isack and Richard Matthew Chavez.

At Stanton College Preparatory School, Alexandru Bordanca of Ortega and Gannon Nolan of Avondale received Awards of Merit in literature.

Bishop Kenny basketball recognized for good sportsmanship



Bishop Kenny Head Girls' Basketball Coach Charlea Clark, Check Probes of the Southern Association of Basketball Officials (SABO), and Bishop Kenny Head Boys' Basketball Coach Jerry Buckley

The Southern Association of Basketball Officials (SABO) bestowed its coveted 2017-2018 J.C. Green Sportsmanship Award to the Bishop Kenny basketball program during a special presentation in late April.

Receiving the award were the school's Head Basketball Coach Charlea Clark and Head Boys' Basketball Coach Jerry Buckley. The award is presented to the school that best exemplifies the true meaning of sportsmanship towards its fellow student athletes, coaches, and officials.

"This type of award is every bit as important as a trophy won in competition," said Bishop Kenny Athletic Director Mark Thorson. "I am honored that our students and coaches have been recognized in this way."

Phoenix Society inducts 20 young men, women

Bolles Fine and Performing Arts Director Laura Rippel, and Kelly Cullen, sponsor of the Phoenix Society, led the induction of 20 new student members to the Phoenix Society May 10 in Lynch Theater on the Bolles Upper School San Jose Campus. Many friends, family, faculty and society members were present.

New members include Alexis Andrews, Brooke Bowmaster, Madison Clubb, Jake Goldman, Lily Guo, Olivia Harris, Rachel Johns, Brooke Kent, Lanie Kirchhoff, Gabriela Landolfo, Allyssa McAdoo, Marlo Morales, River Reynolds, Marla Saikali, Serena

Scalcione, Spenser Smith, Pam Sun, Angela Sun, Chance Thomson and Tyler Wang.

Founded in 1967 by noted Bolles arts educator Arthur Carnes, the Phoenix Society is an honor society within the Bolles fine and performing arts department that recognizes juniors and seniors who excel in two or more areas of the arts. Phoenix Society candidates demonstrate a commitment to the demands of artistic vision, delight in the process of creative discovery and show gratefulness and humility in the face of achievement.



Front: Rachel Johns, Serena Scalcione, Marlo Morales, Lanie Kirchhoff; back: Chance Thomson, Tyler Wang, Jake Goldman, Spenser Smith, River Reynolds, Marla Saikali, Madison Clubb, Olivia Harris, Lily Guo and Honorary Faculty inductee Daphne Vagenas; not pictured: Alexis Andrews, Brooke Bowmaster, Brooke Kent, Gabriela Landolfo, Allyssa McAdoo, Pam Sun, Angela Sun

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Fifth Annual Dream Day gives joy to children with life-threatening illnesses

The Fifth Annual “Dream Day” event – a partnership between Dreams Come True of Jacksonville and San Marco-based PRI Productions transformed the lives of 40 children with life-threatening illnesses even as the local studio was transformed into the ultimate entertainment venue for children.

Following a 150-foot red-carpet entrance with blue and white confetti and a cheering crowd, the boys and girls were escorted by their favorite storybook, movie and television characters into a wonderland of music, games, magic and food.

Each child participating in the event has been served throughout his/her medical journey by Dreams Come True. Dream Day, hosted and made possible each year through the generosity of PRI Productions, a number of local businesses and nearly 200 volunteers, is part of a program which provides unique experiences for children before and after their dream is granted.



Brooklyn Gregory escorted by Ariel

American Heritage Girls receive badges in Court of Awards

American Heritage Girls Troop FL0611 of Avondale held its year-end Court of Awards June 7 at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, which hosts the troop’s bi-monthly meetings. This year the girls earned badges in Cinematography, Horsemanship, Living in USA, Caring for Your Environment, and Sewing. An extra service patch was earned to commemorate the girls’ community service projects throughout the year, and several girls earned additional badges on



their own time. The troop will break for the summer, resuming in the fall. For more information, look for American Heritage Girls Avondale on Facebook.



The Venetia Elementary School’s Comfort Crew led a toy drive to benefit Orange Park Medical Center. Plastic buckets were filled with items for indoor and outdoor play.

Venetia student club extends comfort outside school walls

Venetia Elementary School’s 451 students came together during a two-week Summer Toy Drive in May to collect toys for the Orange Park Medical Center, where the items will be given to children who come into the medical center’s care.

The drive was sponsored by one of the school’s clubs, Anchored 4 Life, whose Comfort Crew provides support to both military and non-military students who experience change due to moves and parent deployments. The club gives out welcome, moving, deployment and “together again” kits when students need peer encouragement.

Anchored 4 Life is a program sponsored by the military, and Venetia Elementary draws students from nearby NAS Jacksonville. Fourth- and fifth-grade students serve as team leaders, with two

crew members in each classroom to serve as buddy for the day, according to Ellyn Osborne, a second-grade teacher at the school. “They do activities with new kids or those going through transitions. They also post character development quotes around the school and will choose kids to teach lessons about them.”

The toy drive was a competition between kindergarten through fifth grades, with the grade bringing the most new toys winning an ice cream party. The second grade won.

As a medical magnet school, Venetia Elementary sends its 60 fifth-graders to Orange Park Medical Center on a field trip, where they tour different departments and test the surgery robot. “This is our way of giving back to them, where the medical center can give toys to children at need,” said Osborne.

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Second-grader wins chess 'tournaparty'

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School hosted The Knight School Jacksonville's Chess Tournaparty on May 19. The school was a chess frenzy, packed with students and parents from schools all over town.

Eight first- through fifth-grade students participated on the St. Mark's team, and St. Mark's second-grader, Kendel Badger, won the event as the 2018 Rainbow Champion.

The Knight School is a national organization with a fun and interactive, party-style approach to teaching chess in schools. Led by Coach R.E.B. Phillips, the Jacksonville Chapter began as an after-school activity at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School and has quickly spread throughout Jacksonville in several other public and private schools.



St. Mark's Rainbow Champion, Kendel Badger, during a match



Bishop Kenny students show off rockets made using the school's 3D computers

Bishop Kenny students blast off using 3D modeling

Scott Givonetti of Avondale, a teacher at Bishop Kenny High School, and his class of Digital Information Technology students recently launched rockets they designed in their classroom and manufactured in part, using one of the school's 3D computers.

At the heart of the project is a design process, which provides a framework to teach 21st-century concepts that include collaboration and creativity. The students learned 3D modeling and printing using

a variety of software while honing their math skills with applied trigonometry in combination with the application of an iPad app used for home construction.

"STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) literacy is more than just math or science knowledge," said Givonetti. "It's learning to work together in a technology-rich future where challenges will require a mix of skills found in this project."



Duval County students compete in international fair

Five students from Duval County competed in the International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, Penn., in May. Standing outside the exhibit hall in Pittsburgh are Devanik Biswas of Stanton College Preparatory School; Katelyn Nicholson, The Episcopal School of Jacksonville; Mary Alice Young, Bishop Kenny High School; Julia Downes and Isaac Zhang, both of The Episcopal School of Jacksonville.

Food, toys, blankets collected for animal shelter

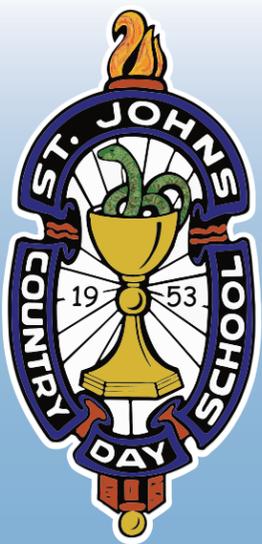
John N.C. Stockton Elementary School in Ortega Forest was selected to start an Anchored 4 Life program for the recent 2017-2018 school year. Sponsored by the U.S. Navy, the student-led program provides support services to Stockton students going through transitional periods, such as a parent's deployment, reintegration or moving to a new school.

In April, Anchored 4 Life team leaders hosted a donation drive for Animal Care and Protective Services as a service project. They collected everything from food to



Edward Julian, Emily Bartley, Phelps Miller, Olivia Zilla, Jayden McClam (kneeling)

toys and blankets, filling two large boxes, which they delivered May 19 to the Forest Street animal shelter.



\$2.2 million awarded by colleges and universities

17 seniors eligible for over \$631,000 in Florida Bright Future awards

6 received athletic scholarships

2 National Merit Commended Scholars

6 AP Scholars



ST. JOHNS COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL Class of 2018

St. Johns seniors were accepted to the following colleges and universities:

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| American University | Florida Institute of Technology | New College of Florida | The University of Tampa |
| Belmont University | Florida State College at Jacksonville | North Carolina State University | Troy University |
| Berry College | Florida State University | Nova Southeastern University | University of Central Florida |
| Birmingham-Southern College | Georgetown University | Oglethorpe University | University of Florida |
| Case Western Reserve University | Hawaii Pacific University | Pace University, New York City | University of Georgia |
| Columbia University | Hofstra University | Palm Beach State College | University of Miami |
| Eckerd College | Jacksonville University | Pennsylvania State University | University of Michigan |
| Elon University | Judson College-AL | Rollins College | University of Minnesota, Twin Cities |
| Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Univ. | Liberty University | Rutgers University-New Brunswick | University of North Carolina at Asheville |
| Emory University | Louisiana State University | Samford University | University of North Florida |
| Emory University (Oxford College) | National University of Ireland | Santa Fe College | University of South Carolina |
| Fairfield University (University College) | Maynooth | Savannah College of Art and Design | University of South Florida, St. Pete |
| Flagler College | McGill University | St. Johns River State College | University of South Florida, Tampa |
| Florida Atlantic University | Middlebury College | Stetson University | Valdosta State University |
| Florida Gulf Coast University | National University of Ireland Galway | Tallahassee Community College | |
| | | Texas Christian University | |

Magnolia Ball kicks off debutante season

The 2018 Jacksonville Debutante Coterie was presented June 15 during the Magnolia Ball at Timuquana Country Club. The coterie will make its final, formal bow on Saturday, Dec. 22 during the annual Christmas Ball at the Florida Yacht Club.

The 16 young women are Christina Michael Alexander, a student at Valdosta State University; Claudette Priestman Bryan, a student at the University of Florida; Elizabeth Farley Callaghan, a student at Florida Gulf Coast University; Phoebe McDonald Clements, a student at Vanderbilt University; Sarah Patricia Duggan, a student at the University of Florida; Virginia-Anne Knight Feeley, a student at Texas Christian

University; Ashton Kay Hanigan, a student at Virginia Tech; Chase Pierpont Nicholson, a student at Southern Methodist University; Anne Elizabeth Pentaleri, a student at the United States Naval Academy; Anne Bayley Shoemaker, a student at Tulane University; Dawson Elizabeth Simpson, a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Charlotte Isabella Steilberg, a student at the University of Georgia; Caroline Jordan Still, a student at the University of Virginia; Francesca Schofield Walton, a student at Princeton University; Emma Reade Whitner, a student at the University of Florida, and Kathryn Compton Williams, a student at Washington and Lee University.



Front: Chase Pierpont Nicholson, Phoebe McDonald Clements, Ashton Kay Hanigan, Caroline Jordan Still, Emma Reade Whitner, Christina Michael Alexander, Sarah Patricia Duggan; back: Claudette Priestman Bryan, Anne Elizabeth Pentaleri, Anne Bayley Shoemaker, Charlotte Isabella Steilberg, Dawson Elizabeth Simpson, Francesca Schofield Walton, and Virginia-Anne Knight Feeley. Not pictured: Elizabeth Farley Callaghan and Kathryn Compton Williams. (Photo courtesy Janet Masterson Photography)



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Flashbacks



Governor Napoleon Bonaparte Broward, Florida's 19th governor 1905-1909, and his brother, Montcalm Broward (far left), with enormous jewfish, circa 1910. Gov. Broward (right, wearing white shirt and suspenders) died at age 53 prior to gallstone surgery on Oct. 1, 1910. He and his wife, Annie, had eight daughters and one son.



Two women wearing bathing costumes on the beach in the early 1900s hold a parasol to keep the sun off their faces.



As it is today, boating on the St. Johns River was a favorite pastime during the summer in the early 1900s. (From the Leah Mary Cox photo collection)



The Springfield Park swimming pool was a popular place during the heat of summer in Jacksonville. The city's first municipal pool opened in 1922, then a new one was built in 1939. A polio scare in the 1950s temporarily closed the pool, which eventually closed for good in 1961 following a racial integration effort, and demolished in 1970.

Courtesy of Jacksonville Historical Society Archives. To see more of the amazing historical photos from the Jacksonville Historical Archives, visit www.jaxhistory.org/research/

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