

RIVERSIDE · AVONDALE · ORTEGA · MURRAY HILL

Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS



Spreading kindness

Miss Teen Florida USA Rylie Spicker takes a selfie with West Riverside second-graders Tennyson Haas, Tierra Butler, Lillanys Ruiz and Yamile Martinez during Kindness Day Feb. 14 at West Riverside Elementary.

READ MORE, PAGE 51



Suds for kids

Cary Berdy, Chris Berdy and Camden Smith had the opportunity to sample more than 100 craft beers from regional and national breweries during the 7th Annual Riverside Craft Beer Festival Feb. 22 at Riverside Arts Market. Proceeds from the event benefited Community PedsCare® and charities supported by the Riverside Rotary Foundation.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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P.12 | CEO Brett McClung discusses future of Baptist Health

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Leading by example

Laura Garcia and her daughter, Eliana, plant the tree they adopted during the Love Boone Park South event Feb. 8.

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Rosy future for mobile ministry

David and Amy Meyer, Ted and Nancy McGowan joined St. Vincent's Foundation President Virginia Hall and Mac McGeehee in enjoying the annual Red Rose Ball, and elegant black-tie affair, at the River Club to support St. Vincent's Mobile Health Outreach Ministry.

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5 Points groups come together

A long list of community groups, businesses and arts organizations have come together with the common goal of making 5 Points more beautiful and easier to navigate and are calling their association the 5 Points Collaborative.

While there are a lot of ideas on the table, the group and its members narrowed down some objectives, Riverside Avondale Preservation Executive Director Warren Jones announced at a press conference in January. He was joined by 5 Points Merchants Association President Kelly Pickard and District 14 Councilwoman Randy DeFoor.

"It's an exciting time for 5 Points and Riverside," DeFoor said at the conference. "Great things are coming on board."

The collaborative's main objectives are four-fold: to work with the City on forging a partnership and defining how that will look, developing a plan to revitalize and develop the area under the overpass, making it easier to get around the area through better and more uniform signage and figuring out ways that visitors and residents can take

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



City councilwoman Randy DeFoor, Riverside Avondale Preservation Executive Director Warren Jones and 5 Points Merchants Association President Kelly Pickard announce that a community group, the 5 Points Collaborative, has formed to make the area more beautiful and walkable.

National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum flying toward phase 1 goal



Donors to POW/MIA Memorial & Museum participate in a ceremonial groundbreaking at the memorial, 6112 POW-MIA Parkway, Jan. 18.

By Jennifer Edwards, Resident Community News

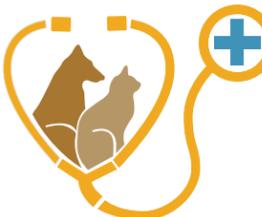
By the second week of February, the National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum had already experienced enough advancements to make 2020 a banner year.

In January, a standing-room only crowd of between 350 and 400 people crowded the recently restored Chapel of the High Speed pass for an official groundbreaking on the multi-phase, multi-year project to transform and expand the 26-acre memorial.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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Local artist Jason Tetlak created this mural after funding the project through Kickstarter and despite some community opposition.

Bill Murray mural faces pushback from residents

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

Local artist Jason Tetlak has finished his latest creation at the corner of Plymouth Street and Edgewood Avenue, a vibrantly colored mural featuring Bill Murray's face and the words Murray Hill, a playful take on the neighborhood's name. The artwork, in electric shades of aqua, orange, lilac and sunshine yellow, is impossible to miss when traveling into the neighborhood under the Edgewood overpass.

However, not everyone is happy that the mural is the most visible introduction to the neighborhood.

First, there's the problem of loosely strung-together concepts. The comedian and actor Bill Murray made his fortune on being well-liked and funny but has no ties to the area other than the coincidence of his last name. There's also construction going on right next door that is set to cover up the mural with retail space and storage units. And, one of the more influential civic organizations – the Murray Hill Preservation Association – declined to approve the project.

"We are a community, we are a neighborhood, we are supposed to talk things out," said MHPA At-large member Jose Lazcano. "It says something that he gained the financial support to do it. But that

building is set to be covered up by the retail space."

Tetlak did not return multiple interview requests from *The Resident*, so it's hard to tell the story from the artist's side. However, it's clear that the work had some support and financial backing. Eighty-eight people pledged more than \$2,700 in less than three weeks for the work, according to a Kickstarter page dedicated to raising funds for the mural. An unveiling party was scheduled for Feb. 29.

However, the design was a problem for others who didn't support the project, some of whom even went so far as to create a petition at Change.org.

"Let's let the community have a say in deciding how to paint the most prominent wall in Murray Hill, and not leave it up to just one artist," reads the description page for the "Murray Hill, not BILL Murray Hill" petition, which was signed by 141 people as of Feb. 26.

"We as a community of residents, business owners, and commuters who pass the wall daily should have a say in the design of the mural," the description reads. "If you do not want your neighborhood entrance to boast a photo of Bill Murray (while we all may love him, he is not in any way related to Jacksonville or Murray Hill), please consider signing this petition and forwarding it to anyone who may feel the same."

Seasoned salesman joins The Resident

Andrew Majewski, a long-time Venetia resident, has joined the Resident Community News Group as its new director of New Business Development.

A self-starter with an entrepreneurial spirit who excels in building long-term relationships, Majewski has many years of experience in sales, management, and customer service.



Andrew Majewski

After graduating from Chittenango High School in Upstate New York, he continued taking courses in OCM BOCES education and computer technologies while he started and established his own successful business, DuraSeal Tarvia Maintenance, a driveway maintenance firm in Syracuse, N.Y.

Four years later, he sold the business and went to work for True Green ChemLawn beginning first in Syracuse, N.Y. but later transferring to Atlanta, Ga., where he held a senior route position and trained new employees.

While in Atlanta, he later became an account representative for Dealer Specialties, one of the first companies to forge into internet marketing for car dealerships. He excelled in on-line marketing, and after a few years, he was promoted by Dealer Specialties as a market/operations

manager for the North Florida and South Georgia region. With the new position, Majewski was asked to transfer, being offered his choice of setting up headquarters in either Destin, Ft. Walton or Jacksonville. Having selected Jacksonville, he serviced a large territory in North Florida and South Georgia for many years.

After working for nearly a decade in his managerial position,

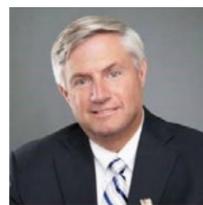
Majewski left Dealer Specialties to become an independent contractor with Leapforce, where he performed evaluations on web results for a major search engine.

Prior to working at *The Resident*, he was employed as an independent Shipt Shopper/Driver, serving the needs of his own customer base. At Shipt, he delivered over 8,000 orders over the course of four years while traveling throughout the United States and helping to launch new markets.

In joining *The Resident's* full-time staff, Majewski said he is excited about tackling a new challenge. "I wanted to get back into selling and customer service – doing what I've done all my life," he said.

Majewski has been married for 23 years to his wife, Kate. The couple has three children, Austyn, 19, Parker, 15, and Paityn, 13.

Carlucci to hold listening session on resiliency April 1



Councilman Matt Carlucci

St. John's Cathedral and Green Spirits are hosting a Community Listening Session with Councilman Matt Carlucci, the committee chair of the recently chartered City Council Special Committee on Resiliency at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 1, in Taliaferro Hall at St. John's Cathedral, 256 East Church St. All are welcome.

Carlucci will give a brief update on the activities and progress-to-date of the special committee and will answer questions regarding flooding, sea-level rise and severe weather that face the city.

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great floorplan



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Riverside Avondale Preservation awards, gala venue announced

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

It was standing room only at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd when a crowd of 200 attended the Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) annual meeting Feb. 20, which featured a change in board leadership, a list of annual preservation award winners and the beginning of a history series taught by RAP Founder Wayne Wood.

During the meeting, RAP board chair Nancy Powell announced she was stepping down from her position, although she would remain on the board for another year. Powell was recently named the executive director for Scenic Jax.

“Thank you so much for being here. It has been a really rewarding five years,” she told the crowd. “I have one more year on the board and then I am passing the baton. We get to do fun things, interesting things, find out what’s going on, problem-solve. I want to give a shout-out to all the committee members and board members since 1974. There’s so much we have done. We needed to be able to think through what our role is today.” Powell complimented Executive Director Warren Jones and the work Jones had been able to accomplish with a small staff.

“The last accomplishment I am so proud of ... we were able to plant 385 trees in this past year,” she added. “I am passing the baton to the next board chair, Brooks Andrews. “He has shown much leadership both in San Marco, and he came over here and has been very active in the parks, just a great leader. I am happy to turn over the reins, as of today, right now,” she said.



A passing of the torch took place when the incoming Board Chair, Brooks Andrews, presented the outgoing Board Chair, Nancy Powell, with a bronze commemorative Riverside Avondale Preservation plaque as a token of appreciation for her hard work and dedication to the organization. Andrews assumed the role of Board Chair the evening of the awards ceremony. Photo courtesy of Norris Creation

Jones and Andrews both thanked Powell for her service.

Besides RAP and Scenic Jax, Powell also acts as an advocate for downtown and is on the marketing committee for the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra.

For his part, Andrews said he continues to follow the legacy of RAP founder Wayne Wood. Among his goals as chair are focusing on preservation, on parks, on smart growth and “most importantly, we’re going to have fun this year. Everybody in this room, this is the year to volunteer. If you ever thought about volunteering, now is your time. We need you this year. It’s going to be a wonderful celebration. The intention is to celebrate our community and bring our neighbors inside and outside of Riverside Avondale.”

And for those looking to lead?

“Anybody can be board chair,” he jokingly told the crowd. “Last year, I was picking up dog poop in the park. Now I’m board chair.”

Gala venue announced

RAP officials also announced the venue for this year’s gala. Lawson Carr, board member and Anniversary Celebration Committee chair, said the event would commemorate the 150th anniversary of Riverside and 100th anniversary of Avondale, and that Lane-Towers House in Avondale.

“This year-long (anniversary) celebration is going to culminate the Saturday after the gala in Riverside Park,” Carr explained. “The idea is to have an extra special Riverside Arts Market and transfer that energy to the park afterward. There will be music, family activities all day long, a birthday party with

RAP Preservation Award Winners

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Adaptive Reuse Award 2020

2105 Park Street
The Thomsen Companies - Hans, Patsy, Christian & Dori Thomsen
JAA Architects, Inc - Kali Blais
Duckworth Construction - Jake Chamberlin

Architectural Rehabilitation Award 2020

2606 Park Street
Jacksonville Pediatrics
Nathan Bussey
Terry Smalls, Contractor

Architectural Rehabilitation Award 2020

2717 Riverside Avenue
D.W. Meyers Constructors, Inc. David Meyers
Richard Skinner & Associates, David B. Case AIA
Studio M Design, Marsha Faulkner

RESIDENTIAL

Architectural Rehabilitation Award 2020

3886 Eloise Street
Bold City Properties, Glenn Chandler

Architectural Rehabilitation Award 2020

2605 Herschel Street
Donny Mak

Architectural Rehabilitation Award 2020

2982 St. Johns Avenue
McGregor & Mary Elizabeth Lott
South Quarter Build

Southeastern Subcontractors, Kevin Dougherty

Outstanding New Construction 2020

1881 Powell Place
William Leuthold, Architect
Homeowners, Maggie & Doug Rowe
John Merrill Homes, Adam Merrill

cupcakes and we will activate different parts of the park with food vendors and entertainers and our arts partners in the community. It’s not just going to be music. It’s going to be a fun afternoon.”

The growing list of celebratory events will begin with a historic church tour Saturday, March 21.

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AVONDALE WATERFRONT

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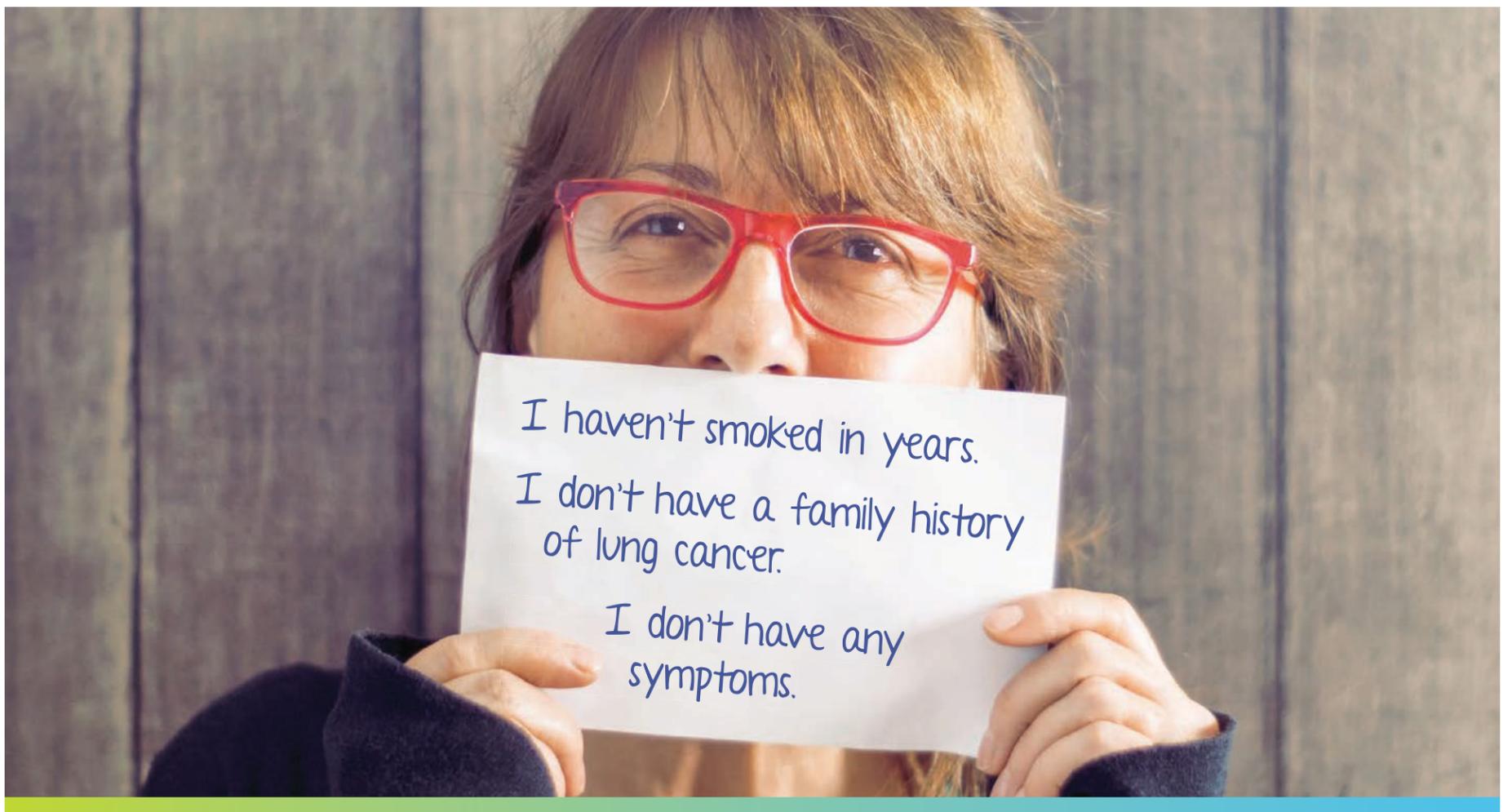
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Families turn out to adopt Boone Park trees



JEA Forester Joe Anderson demonstrates the proper way to plant and care for the trees during the Love Boone Park South event.

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

The Friends of Boone Park South, JEA, Greenscape and a large group of area residents gathered forces at the park Feb. 8 to clean up the park and help it become more densely forested. Boone Park South is the 10-acre portion of the 28-acre park between St. Johns Avenue and Herschel Street.

Families signed up to plant and adopt a tree, with a commitment to water the tree twice a week for the first three weeks and once a week through the summer. Greenscape co-sponsored the event and JEA Forester Joe Anderson was on hand to demonstrate the proper way to plant and care for the trees. Anderson works closely with Greenscape, the non-profit that provided the trees.

"We just want to make this park a great place," said Friends President and Founder Pamela Telis. Before events commenced, she read one of her favorite quotes to the crowd: "The one who plants trees knowing they will never sit in their shade has begun to understand the meaning of life."

Telis said that 21 families signed up to adopt one of a variety of trees, including swamp chestnut oak, red maple, pignut hickory, live oak, red oak and green ash. Others who hadn't signed up came, also. And of the families, only one third had previously adopted a tree.

The group also planted some pine trees in what is admittedly an experiment. Boone's forest is an oak/hickory/pine forest, which provides a lot of shade, while pines need a lot of light. But because the park has lost so many pine trees, Friends decided to give it a try.

"It was quite a success!" Telis said after the event. "It's getting so popular that I can hardly

keep up with demand. It's a great thing. I think people want to do something in our community. It's obviously taken off and several people have talked to me about doing something in other parks. I think that the model we have for the tree planting and our Friends group can be adapted to any park. That's what I would like to see, to make our parks great."

Thomas John and Jennifer Simmons and their daughter, Margaret, 18 months, were one of the many families who came to plant a tree in the brisk morning air.

"We walk in the park almost every day, and Pamela is our neighbor and told us about it," Simmons shared. "We thought it was great. We are always in the park, we live right in the neighborhood, and we were happy to be able to plant a tree and name it after our daughter and be a part of the day."

People like Simmons' young family were the ones Telis wanted to get involved.

"Those young families with children are the ones who are in the park all the time. What a model for the children. The children say, 'That's my tree.' That's making a difference for the next generation."

The gathering was the fourth annual observance of Love Boone Park South. However, Friends of Boone Park South first planted more than 58 trees and bushes there in 2015, *The Resident* reported. Half died due to lack of water, but the adopt-a-tree program has been successful in keeping most new plantings alive because residents commit to making sure they are adequately watered.

"People are out in the park anyway on a weekly basis," Telis said. "Having to walk through the park on a regular basis is kind of a fun chore."

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Listed By Ed Akers



715 MOORE AVENUE – \$312,990
4 BR | 2 BA | 2,167 SQFT.
Listed By Ed Akers



1405 DONALD STREET – \$385,000
3 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 2,090 SQFT.
Listed By Cindy Corey



1254 HOLLYWOOD AVENUE – \$525,000
4 BR | 2 BA | 2 HBA | 2,508 SQFT.
Listed By Tony Caribaltes



1418 DONALD STREET – \$235,000
2 BR | 2 BA | 1,476 SQFT.
Listed By Tony Caribaltes



1520 BARRS STREET – \$675,000
4 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 3,428 SQFT.
Listed By Wade Griffin



4600 MUNDY DRIVE SOUTH – \$3,500,000
5 BR | 5 BA | 2 HBA | 8,119 SQFT.
Listed By Wade Griffin



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4815 ARAPAHOE AVENUE – \$599,000
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Listed By Wade Griffin



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4 BR | 2 BA | 1 HBA | 2,935 SQFT.
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JEA, funding for Murray Hill light project, discussed during town hall

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

The now-canceled push to sell and privatize the Jacksonville Electric Authority, mooring overnight in the Ortega River, a public art project made of light that recently netted funding, and reports of crime in the neighborhood were a sampling of the issues discussed by District 14 Councilwoman Randy DeFoor, and during a well-attended town hall at Ortega United Methodist Church Jan. 30.

Also attending the meeting was At-Large Group 4 Councilman Matt Carlucci, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Assistant Chief W. Mike Johnson, zone 4 commander, Hampton Ray of the Florida Department of Transportation, Jacksonville Traffic Engineer Chris LeDew and Nancy Veasey of JEA.

"I've only been in office for six months, but it feels like six years," DeFoor joked. She celebrated the cessation of talks to sell JEA. She said she had joined part of a City committee that would investigate the nature of the sale and its leadership, and that the committee would begin its work in February. Both she and At-Large Group 4 City Councilman Matt Carlucci, who also attended the meeting, got a lot of applause from the crowd of about 100 for their role in stopping the sale.

"I will do my best to ensure this doesn't happen again," she said.

Another person who got some appreciative applause was Johnson. He attended because of reports that violent crime was up prodigiously over the past year. The bottom line of his talk? People here don't have to worry.



State Rep. Wyman Duggan and City Councilwoman Randy DeFoor discuss a variety of topics during a town hall at the end of January.

Violent crime

"We are in zone 4 and zone 4 has a lot of activity," he began, noting zone 4 contains not only Riverside, Avondale and Ortega, but also all the Westside. Last year, Jacksonville saw more homicides than it had in over a decade, and many were in zone 4, however, only a small percentage of people are committing most violent crime, which is driven by drug-related retaliatory shootings, he said.

"I can tell you, if you are not involved in drugs and gangs and running with people that are, the chances of being a victim of violent crimes are low. Most of it is group-related incidents," Johnson said.

As of Jan. 30, there had been no homicides, however a man was shot and killed in the early hours of Feb. 16 in Riverside. Johnson does give out the traditional advice that keeps people from becoming victims of theft: "Lock your vehicle. We had 400 guns taken out of vehicles in the city last year."

Johnson said he'd also like to see more police officers patrolling the area, and invited people to give their opinion about that at the sheriff's watch meeting on the fourth Thursday of every month, to be conducted at the church at 7 p.m. in the Boyd Chapel.

Abandoned vessels

A hot topic for residents along the Ortega River has been what to do about vessels that are abandoned and left to float in the area. Florida Representative Wyman Duggan, who represents Ortega, said at the meeting that had introduced legislation that would make it illegal to moor in the river overnight, in hopes of keeping the waterways clear.

But many residents that live on boats in the river don't agree with the proposed legislation because it would directly affect them. Several attended the meeting, which turned somewhat contentious when the topic came up.

Duggan said that the derelict vessels that were in the river have been removed, at a cost of about \$20,000 per vessel, which is paid for with tax money. He said his legislation would add the Ortega River to a list of rivers in which overnight mooring is prohibited.

Part of the reason for that is to move along people who live in houseboats that are not moored at a marina, and who are not disposing of their sewage properly, said DeFoor, who agrees with the pending legislation.

"I have volunteered to sunset that legislation after two years," Duggan said. "We are not trying to prevent legitimate boaters from using that waterway. We are trying to get that waterway back to a pristine condition."

But Alex Madsen, who owns Ocean Oaks Painting and Construction LLC, said he has three boats and can't afford the expense of having marina slips for all three.

"You're worried about three people out there pooping in the water. What about all the sewage that got flushed into the water after Irma because there is no resiliency?" Others went on to dispute the legislation.

DeFoor pointed out that this was obviously a contentious topic, and eventually tabled discussion for the time being.

Murray Hill Light Project gets funding

In less controversial news, a public art project with a lot of public support recently got funding, DeFoor said. The City of Jacksonville and the Florida Department of Transportation are working on a \$4.4 million project that would transform Edgewood Avenue from U.S. 17 to the Lenox Avenue intersection and beyond. Part of the project includes cleaning the Roosevelt overpass, and local art lovers and community advocates had hoped that it could then become a canvas for public art.

Specifically, they had hoped San Antonio-based artist Bill Fitzgibbons could be hired to install multi-colored, programmable public lighting to transform the concrete. He could make the colors static or dynamic, set them to one program or 15 to 20 programs so the lights change. When he spoke to *The Resident* in December, Fitzgibbons said community input would determine the final design.

Now, the project will proceed with \$50,000 in funding, DeFoor said. For information about his light displays, visit www.billfitzgibbons.com.

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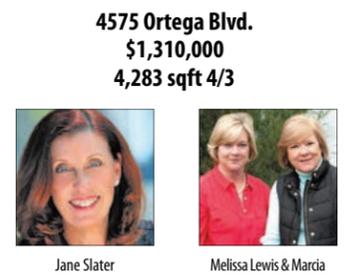
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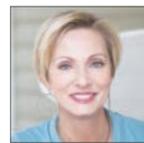
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Bar closing dispute leads to homicide

PARK AND KING AREA ROCKED BY SHOOTING

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

The shooting-death of a 23-year-old Bryceville man visiting the Park and King area shattered the peace in Riverside Feb. 16. Known for its endless number of beer taps and dining establishments, as well as a welcoming sense of place, the popular strip was disrupted by an incident out of character for the nature of the neighborhood.

The body of Blake Hendrix was found in the early morning hours near the Burger King at King and Forbes streets, according to the Jacksonville chapter of MAD DADS, a group whose name stands for Men Against Destruction Defending Against Drugs and Social Disorder.

According to anonymous sources who claimed to be close to the victim, the incident began around closing time (2 a.m.) when a disagreement escalated within a local bar and spilled into the street. It is unclear whether Hendrix

was directly engaged in the altercation, but the subsequent result was that he was shot and killed.

The shooting was an aberration for the area, which rarely sees much violent crime. At the end of January, there had been no homicides reported in zone 4, which includes Riverside, Avondale, Ortega and portions of the greater Westside, making the shooting the first this year for the zone, according to Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Assistant Chief W. Mike Johnson, zone 4 commander.

Less than a week later, 28-year-old Rodney Barnard Braziel Jr. of Argyle Forest was arrested and charged with second-degree murder and discharging a firearm in public, Duval County Court records show. At press time, Braziel was being held without bond at the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Department of Corrections and was set to appear in court March 16. The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office had not provided *The Resident* with any information in relation to the incident as of press time.

A GoFundMe page dedicated to Hendrix's memorial had raised more than half its goal of \$15,000 less than two weeks after the incident. The site described Hendrix as having touched many lives "as he walked this earth amongst (us) as a son, brother, grandson, cousin, uncle



Blake Hendrix

and friend to many of us before being called to his heavenly home. Free spirit, charismatic and gregarious are only a few words which can be used to describe the late Blake Hendrix. With a personality that was infectious and often envied by those around him, how do you say goodbye? It has been said 'to know him, was to love him.' There could be no truer statement."

Hendrix was a 2014 graduate of West Nassau High School and worked at W.W. Gay Mechanical Contractor, Gainesville, according to his obituary. He attended Light House Baptist Church and loved fast cars, especially Mustangs. His funeral was conducted Feb. 22 at First Baptist Church Middleburg.

5 Points groups come together FROM PAGE 1

advantage of a new Post Street dock and water-taxi service. DeFoor said the dock would be completed by the end of the summer. It's to be located between the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens and the Garden Club of Jax and will bring visitors to 5 Points by water taxi.

"We spent the last six months having a series of meetings, going on walking tours ... One of the priorities, Lomax (Street),

was taken off the board because that's already commencing this year," said Pickard, who owns Alewife on Park Street. The road is part of a multi-year, \$1.5 million project to redo several roadways in 5 Points, *The Resident* reported in October. Lomax Street will be the first portion tackled and is to be reconfigured to create a more walkable district and eliminate the congestion caused by the prominent 5 Points intersection.

The collaborative wants to work on other ways to make the area more beautiful and will include area residents, landlords and

the city working together to work on landscaping and trash removal. Pickard would also like to see Post Street become more pedestrian friendly.

Post Street is a major gateway into 5 Points, she noted, as is Riverside Park. Collaborative members said that coming up with a park master plan includes what happens to the duck pond when money comes available in the next couple of years. They are also working on planning what happens under the bridge when the Florida Department of Transportation is done with its construction.

Rick Pariani, a RAP board member, is helping with branding efforts. "We want to think of a thematic element," he said. "We have not decided on what the thematic element will be for the graphic design." He wants the community to decide. When he talks about a thematic element, he means a unifying look, similar to how RAP uses the "Life" statute as its symbol, and Winter Park, a peacock. Now, he said the leading candidate is the famous 5 Points beacon. In short, the objective is to determine how to take advantage of the physical framework and animate it.

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National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum

FROM PAGE 1

In February, efforts to raise \$1 million to bring in four historic aircraft and complete phase 1 of the project were nearing completion.

And, as March closed in, a bill that would give the museum designation as the only national POW/MIA memorial and museum in the country was moving through Congress, Memorial Executive Director Mike Cassata said.

“Unfortunately, the piece in the country that is missing is the ‘missing in action,’ and we will be both a memorial and a museum that will go from World War II up to now,” Cassata said, adding that while there is a national historic site for prisoners of war (POW) memorial near Andersonville, Ga., the site deals primarily with the Civil War and doesn’t include those missing in action (MIA). There’s also POW memorial in California, but it only contains a statue.

“I still get questions about that,” he said.

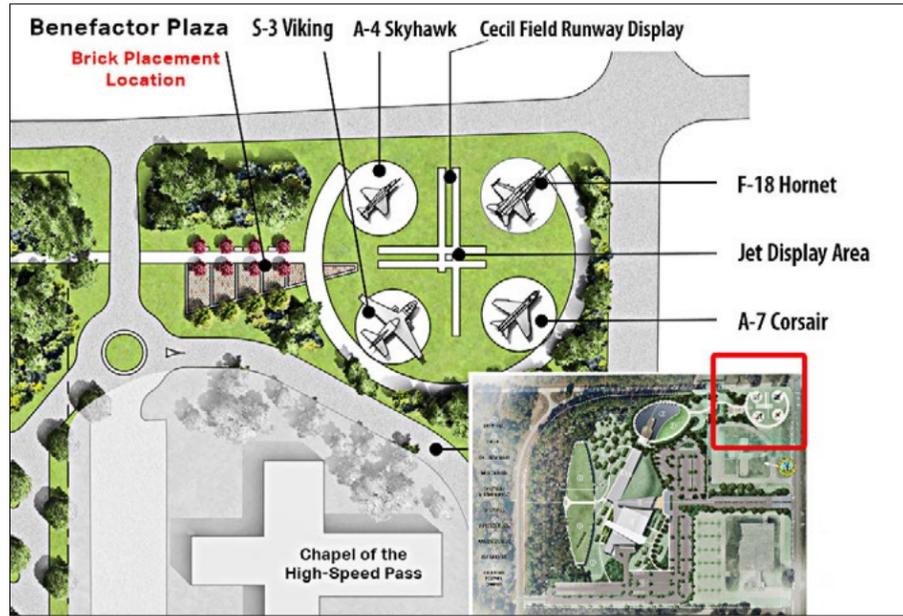
As far as the full-steam-ahead fundraising, Cassata said the museum had raised more than 70% of the \$1 million toward the first phase, including in-kind services, and had sold out of fundraising memorial bricks for the year, although donors could still purchase bricks for 2021. On top of all that largesse, the North Florida chapter of the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association, the Florida Irrigation Society and Baker Landscaping, a local company, also collectively donated \$150,000 in irrigation and landscaping services and materials to landscape around the four aircraft that form the heart of the first phase. The aircraft are to sit in a square formation bounded by a semi-circular walkway northeast of the chapel, atop a concrete pad the Seabees will pour and form as a donation, said Doug Register, memorial volunteer.

Flying toward the goal

Memorial officials hope to grace that pad with four specific planes that either were typical of the type that flew out of the former NAS Cecil Field Master Jet Base (now Cecil



A standing-room-only crowd fills the Chapel of the High Speed pass during the museum’s ceremonial groundbreaking Jan. 18.



Renderings of phase 1 of the POW/MIA Memorial & Museum expansion project.

Commerce Center and the site of the memorial and museum) or that, preferably, were of that type that flew missions from the base.

On that front, memorial officials are one down, three to go, said Memorial Communications Director John Sutherland.

Sutherland said that one of the aircraft, an A-7 Corsair, was already in hand, which *The Resident* reported in October, but that it was now in the final stages of restoration. Pilots from Cecil Field flew the A-7, an attack aircraft, in several missions in Vietnam, he said.

“It’s in excellent shape,” Cassata added. “We’re just looking to get a paint job.”

Sutherland said the organization was also working with the Florida-based National Naval Aviation Museum to procure an A-4 Skyhawk, an S-3 Viking, and an FA-18 Hornet. The staff of both the memorial and aviation museum were eyeing three aircraft that had previously flown from Cecil.

Cassata said the idea for the plane portion of the memorial, which would be placed atop a pad, came from a sculpture already installed at the memorial almost three decades ago.

“After Desert Storm, the memorial existed but they updated it (with the sculpture) to include (Navy Lt. Cmdr. Michael) Scott Speicher and (Navy Lt. Robert John) ‘B.J.’ Dwyer,” he explained. “Dwyer is still missing in action. In the 1990s, the memorial got a starburst sculpture out there. That’s where we got these four aircraft.”

Speicher, a Jacksonville pilot, was the first casualty of the Persian Gulf War when, on Jan. 17, 1991, his plane was shot down. He was flying an FA-18 and had been stationed aboard the U.S.S. Saratoga. He was identified as missing in action, and his fate wasn’t known until 2009, when U.S. Marines in Iraq found his remains after they learned that the nomads called Bedouins had buried them, according to a U.S. Department of Defense news release. Dwyer went down less than three weeks after Speicher and

neither Dwyer nor his remains have been found. He was also flying an FA-18.

Cassata and Sutherland said fundraising for the memorial continues. One way the group continues to raise money is by selling memorial bricks through its website. The efforts have been so successful that the first order of bricks has been sold and placed. Sutherland said more than 200 bricks have been spoken for. Donors can still purchase a brick, but they will not be placed until 2021. The memorial bricks will be placed in a benefactor area leading up to the aircraft.

Sutherland said the memorial might also soon have an aid to fundraising, or perhaps enlistment, beside the memorial bricks and its other efforts.



The restored A-7, retired from NAS Cecil Field Master Jet Base, that will join three other craft at the completion of phase I of the project.

“‘Top Gun: Maverick’ is coming out this summer,” Sutherland said. “We’ll have to do something to go along with that. Hopefully, it will get people interested in aviation.”

The film is a sequel to the extremely popular “Top Gun,” which was released in 1986 and starred a young Tom Cruise as a feisty fighter pilot and Kelly McGillis as his love interest. After the movie came out, enlistment increased as much as 500%, author and longtime journalist David L. Robb wrote in his 2004 book, “Operation Hollywood: How the Pentagon Shapes and Censors the Movies.”

ASK THE EXPERT

THIS WILL ALL MAKE SENSE

“This will all make sense when I am older. Someday I will see that this makes sense. One day, when I’m old and wise, I’ll think back and realize, that these were all completely normal events.” -Olaf, Frozen 2. When your morning commutes are filled with teddy grahams and Disney tunes, you become overly interested in Nabisco’s parent company, Mondelez as a stock idea and Walt Disney’s wisdom finally breaks through. The previous six months have caused my confusion bucket to overflow but I am no longer worried. In fact, I am comforted, because “I’ll look back and realize that these were all completely normal events.”

Putting money into a Japanese or certain European banks require you to pay the bank to hold your money, aka negative interest rates. Makes sense. The World Trade Organization collapsed and a trade deal was signed that requires China to buy more than double the agriculture products that it consumes. Or as American Action Forum’s Jacqueline Varas puts it, Phase I “necessitate(s) a 150% increase in Chinese purchases over 2017, or a 170% increase over a 5 year average, an increase that cannot possibly reflect market demand.” Command economies beating the old rules based international order, ok. The Astros took the mantel as the most hated team in baseball from the Yankees. I punnily did not see that curveball coming.

According to JP Morgan, corporate defaults increased by 50% last year while we were informed the federal deficit rose to \$1 trillion and the Fed dramatically increased its balance sheet. I’ve been told not to worry and don’t dare call it QE. A subtitled movie won the Oscar for best picture. In America, where foreign languages tend to remain that way and, according to the Dept. of Education, only 34% of 8th graders are proficient in reading, this is probably the most surprising thing on the list. ETFs and passive investing continued to become an ever higher percentage of overall investments. The eroding number of active investors selling bad companies and buying good ones surely won’t have any effect on market efficiency. Scott Miner, CIO of Guggenheim Investments, explained it best in his February report, “If it is in the index, buy it! This is what price discovery has become.” Finally, the coronavirus realistically already threatens China’s GDP growth for the first quarter to be “slashed to -6% annualized” (Guggenheim 2020) all while the S&P 500 made new highs. Yes, I used to worry about these small idiosyncrasies but I realized the song is right. “There’s no need to be terrified or tense. I’ll just dream about a time when I’m in my aged prime. ‘Cause when you’re older, absolutely everything makes sense. This is fine.”

Caleb Cronin is a financial advisor with Raymond James & Associates, Inc. Opinions expressed in the attached article are those of the author and are not necessarily those of Raymond James.

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CEO brings new vision of future growth to Baptist Health

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Brett McClung knew he had big shoes to fill when he took over from Hugh Greene as president and chief executive officer of Baptist Health eight months ago. Yet, the Texas native, who had never set foot on the First Coast before being considered for Baptist's top job, appears to fit right in as an executive who will build on Greene's legacy of growth and expand it with a vision of his own.

The son of a Methodist minister, McClung previously worked for Texas Health Resources, one of the largest faith-based, nonprofit health care systems in the United States. At the end of his 26-year tenure, he was executive vice president and chief operations leader for the North Zone of the company, which included nine hospitals and more than 150 points of care.

Taking over from Greene, who retired after leading the hospital system as president and CEO for 19 years, McClung now heads a locally governed health system comprised of five hospitals, including Wolfson Children's Hospital, as well as Baptist Home Health Care, and is also CEO of Coastal Community Health, which is an integrated network of seven hospitals that includes Baptist Health and Southeast Georgia Health System. In short, he oversees a system that cares for more patients than any other in the region.

"I've been privileged to be in healthcare for almost 30 years. My dad was a minister, and I grew up feeling like I needed to extend ministry in some way, so I've gravitated to faith-based health systems, and there are not many like Baptist Health in the country," McClung said, noting his new job is similar in scope to what he was doing in Texas. Meeting him, it is clear to see he is ready to choreograph a system that includes Baptist's extensive hospital network, which recently announced a new \$200 million, 100-bed full-service hospital on Fleming Island that will serve Clay County's growing population.

"It is a privilege to build on the incredible legacy going back 60 years of Baptist Health's founders – Preston Haskell, Jack Williams, O'Neal Douglas, and Bill Mason – who were completely committed to the health of the community," he said.

McClung's vision is one of future growth and will follow Baptist's new strategic plan that articulates five important points important to the health system. "Not everything we do is going to be a \$200-million new hospital because healthcare is expensive, and we're really keenly focused on how to make it accessible and easily navigable for the consumer," he said, adding that he wants to work on integrating Baptist Health's collection of physician offices, hospitals, cancer and heart centers and children's hospital so that



Brett McClung, FACHE

patients can go between them seamlessly. Through collaborating with partners such as Nemours Children's Specialty Care, he hopes to make Baptist a "one-stop shop, and not just for someone who needs intervention or health services." He hopes to have the health system be among the top 10% in the country in performance, and to design it so that people can trust Baptist as a source of health information, especially in genomics and fitness.

To accomplish this, Baptist will be rolling out its new "My Family App," in March, which will assist families in coordinating care and managing their health, particularly when members of the family are not sick.

He also plans to install a new electronic health record platform that will allow Baptist patients and customers to view their medical records online in real time.

"Part of growing for the future will be new relationships. Some of those things will be applications like you have on your phone that will make it easy to schedule appointments into a physician's office. Another will be partnering with health plans, and maybe even employers, around products and services that they may need directly from us. Having seen other markets in the country, we expect the healthcare market will continue to change and evolve dynamically in Northeast Florida, and we will be prepared for that," he continued. "We're also looking beyond Florida at opportunities to partner, collaborate, and learn from likeminded health systems, but then we're also looking way, way outside of health care for industries that make it easy for people to get the products or services that they need. When you think about travel – how people use Kayak to

get to the right location, or how they use Netflix to watch the right show – we're in a very digitally consumable marketplace for everything," he said.

"Our vision, 'a lifetime of health together,' which is new, doesn't say anything about sickness, or illness or fixing people that are broken or even delivering babies," he continued. "It's really about folding the walls of our hospitals down and continuing the incredible work that I didn't start, for sure. It's about our partnerships with community agencies in Jacksonville, and those community agencies may not be in healthcare but rather are likeminded and interested in what we refer to as the social determinant of health in positively impacting those social determinants like poverty, food scarcity, and lack of family or transportation. We want to look at how we can partner with those agencies locally and afar to improve the health of those in the community," he said.

One of the community agencies McClung is referring to is the United Way. "Being Baptist Health, we're the glue for about 25 different community agencies where, through grants and relationships or even shared board members, we're aligned with the work that they're doing. When we discharge somebody out of one of our hospitals, they go home, and the goal is for them to begin a normal life. Sometimes they need non-hospital resources to do that, and so many of our partner agencies are in a position to provide those things."

Another important relationship is with Sulzbacher Center. "We know that poverty is the cause of so many things we end up managing from a health perspective and from a city perspective downstream," he said. "How do we get upstream from poverty? I don't have a specific answer for that, but what I can tell you is that we don't get a pass. We should be part of answering that question, and we will be."

McClung understands Baptist Health is the single largest private sector employer in Northeast Florida. He regards its 12,000 employees as a sort of family and is committed to assisting them and their family members as well as the outlying community, in ways of being "as healthy as can be" physically, mentally, and spiritually. "I do believe we have an obligation to be a good partner in the community," he said. "The community is coming to us and trusting us with their sickness and their health."

Settling in Ortega

McClung said he and his wife, Nancy, have so fallen in love with Jacksonville that it was a challenge selecting a neighborhood to purchase a home. After more than 100 days of exploring the area, they finally settled on

Ortega, where they bought a 100-year-old house and began renovations. "It felt like home to us. We love to restore old homes. The one we bought is our fourth one," he said.

"We had this commitment: Our kids are grown, and they are both in California. This is a new chapter of our life. If we are going to move to Jacksonville, we are going to find a small, new home close to the office that's not on the water. However, fast forward and 100 days later, we bought a 100-year-old house that's three stories. It's not large, but it's on the other side of the river from the corporate office, and it's on the water. So, we're 0-4. But we fell in love with the place, that's why we did it, and we've had a lot of fun with it," he said, noting that when At-large Group 4 City Councilman Matt Carlucci heard about his plans he called it a "trifecta" because McClung and his wife had to redo the plumbing, electrical, and the roof.

Although he lives close to the Timuquana Country Club, McClung is not a golfer. He instead prefers to spend his free time jogging, hiking, fishing, and surfing, and travels out to the beach with his wife at least once a week.

He is also an accomplished musician, who plays piano, brass instruments, drums – anything but guitar – and enjoys singing. In Texas, he was a longtime member of a cover band that has gone by three different names – Providence, Crossroads and Back 40 – and once opened for the Texas stalwart Robert Earl Keen. "Music is in my blood. My dad played guitar. My mom sang. I was on a music scholarship in college," he said.

And it was in college that he met Nancy, his wife, while sitting in the last row of church. "She was late, and I was later. That was in the fall of 1987," he laughed, noting he has been married 28 years.

The couple has two daughters: Mackenzie, a senior at the University of Southern California, and Madison, a graduate of Stanford who is now working for a start-up firm in Palo Alto.

Moving to Jacksonville and working at Baptist has been an incredible experience, McClung said. "It's the best job I've ever had." I love the people I work with. I still think working at a safe, reliable, compassionate place for people that are having the worst day of their life is what I'm called to do." He added that when he was a boy he would travel with his father in their 1962 standard Volkswagen beetle to visit members of his father's congregation in the hospital.

"He had a weird schedule as a minister, and to get time with him, I would visit hospitals and we'd go fishing afterwards. I grew up around this, which is why I am here," he said.

"I want Northeast Florida to be the healthiest place to live and the chosen place for people to work. I think we can accomplish that."

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SERENITY BROTHERS

Building with integrity

Cumber introduces city bill to beef up sex trafficking regulations

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

On the heels of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, District 5 Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber, who has been working on a bill to help prevent human and sex trafficking in Duval County, joined City Council President Scott Wilson and City Council Vice President Tommy Hazouri in hosting a lunch-and-learn session for their fellow council members on Feb. 3 at City Hall.

Introduced by Cumber and Hazouri and co-sponsored by City Council members Randy White and Joyce Morgan, the purpose of Ordinance 2020-74 is to put stricter regulations on certain businesses and occupations to help prevent human and sex trafficking and to establish a sex trafficking survivors leadership council. To assist in explaining the bill and give insight into the magnitude of the problem, Cumber invited representatives from Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) to be part of a panel and answer questions from the council members.

Included in the discussion were C.J. Goodman, supervisory special agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Toshua Williams, group supervisor, Public Safety Group Department of Homeland Security, and Kirby Wedekind, protective security advisor at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Department of Homeland Security, and Jamie Rosseland, a sex trafficking survivor. Two unnamed members of JSO, who do undercover work for the city, also took part in the discussion via the phone.

"The impact of all sex crimes doesn't end at the end of the crime," said Cumber. "It's something that stays with survivors long after it happens. It lingers. I know this from personal experience, it never goes away. Sex trafficking is particularly heinous. The worst thing we can do, particularly with sex trafficking, but also with all sex crimes, is to make it so that people don't want to talk about it. We can't continue to keep these crimes in the shadows. It is an uncomfortable conversation, and I understand that, but it's more uncomfortable for the survivors," she said. "We need to hear their stories and have

an open dialogue. That's the only way we can eradicate it."

Goodman said that Florida is third behind California and Texas in human trafficking due to its location and highway system, and that the way to combat it is through federal, state and local partnerships. He also said most victims are United States citizens who were born in the U.S. and are brought across State lines, not illegal aliens.

"From the FBI's perspective, it's modern day slavery," he said. "It is abusive and terrible. Some of the folks living this kind of life are beaten and miserable." He added that, at the federal level, the FBI handles approximately 1,900 human trafficking cases a year and of the 44 human trafficking victims in Florida, 25 were under the age of 21.

"Many people think it happens in illegal industries, underground, or way out of the way, so nobody sees it, but that is just not true," he said. "In the majority of cases, it happens in legal industries – restaurants, cleaning services, construction companies and factories. Most companies or establishments are legitimate."

He also said it is a myth that most victims are targeted by strangers, such as depicted in the movie "Taken."

"The majority have it happen by people they know," he said. "A lot of victims are manipulated, coerced, and undergo fraud to get into the industry, then they are introduced to drugs and can't find their way out. Most human traffickers control their victims by using threats and psychological tricks. Some survivors say they are too scared for the safety of their loved ones. Others tell us they were so manipulated that they had no idea they were being trafficked," he continued, noting that in 3,000 cases the FBI has recovered over 3,600 children with the nine years being the age of the youngest actively trafficked victim.

One way the FBI is working to partner with parents to prevent human and sex trafficking is through its new program, "Be smart with your kid's smartphone," he said.

Meanwhile, Williams said that the Department of Homeland Security is using its "Blue Campaign," to assist with labor and sex trafficking. The Blue Campaign is a national initiative to educate the public, law



CJ Goodman, FBI; Toshua Williams, Department of Homeland Security; City Council President Scott Wilson; At-Large Group 3 City Councilman Tommy Hazouri Jr.; District 5 City Councilwoman LeAnna Cumber; Jamie Rosseland, sex trafficking survivor; and Kirby Wedekind, protective security advisor, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Department of Homeland Security.

enforcement, and other industry partners so that they can recognize the indicators of human trafficking, she said, noting that while drug dealers sell their products only once to make money, human traffickers use the same victims to make money over and over.

The JSO representatives mentioned most victims they deal with are female and under the age of 21. They also said that many are incoming college students who get enticed into working in clubs – many as dancers – over the summer to make money for college. Once they start working in the clubs, they often find themselves unable to leave the business for various reasons, they said.

"A lot of them don't make it into college," a JSO representative said, adding that human and sex trafficking takes place in nearly every hotel in Duval County. "Every single hotel in Jacksonville has trafficking. It doesn't matter if it's a \$29-a-night hotel or \$500 a night. It's in every single one across the board."

To help combat the problem, Cumber's bill will focus on three areas: hotels, clubs, and the establishment of a survivors' leadership council.

The ordinance will require everyone working in hotels to get trained to recognize sex trafficking, and it will require that signage be posted in the inside of all restroom doors and guest rooms. "This way people can see this is an issue, but also if they need help, the information is there," she said.

In order to bring the cost of JSO's monitoring of the Jacksonville club scene more in line with reality, the ordinance will increase licensing fees and require everyone working in the club, including managers and owners, to have training to recognize sex trafficking. "This will all be verified through the city," she said.

The bill also will require that dancers and other adult performers carry a work identification card, which will be obtained through JSO. "They will be fingerprinted and their fingerprints will be run through FDLE (Florida Department of Law Enforcement) and ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), and they will have to go through sex trafficking training before they get this card," Cumber said, adding that the ordinance will also raise the mandatory age of adult performers and dancers from 18 to 21.

The ordinance will also create a survivors' leadership council, made up of seven survivors, which will be tasked with evaluating how well current programs are working while making policy suggestions moving forward. "We want to know what we can do, particularly on the issue of demand," Cumber said. "How can the city address this, and how can we better work with our federal and state partners? We want them to report on what's working and what we have challenges with. This isn't an issue we should address one month out of the year. Having a report from the policy side is important."

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Murray Hill local looks to increase skating opportunities

By Jennifer Edwards
Resident Community News

After 4:30 p.m., the Mary Lena Gibbs Community Center, located in Sweetwater and not far from the Lakeshore neighborhood, gets busy when skaters of all ages come out, crowding the basketball area, which thanks to the efforts of local skater Conner Pumphrey, now sports brightly colored obstacles for people to navigate on their skateboards.

A couple of years ago, Pumphrey helped get the skateboard obstacles installed at the center and near a church on Beaver Street in the LaVilla neighborhood, and now he's thinking about trying to get others installed in other areas of the city. He's spent months working with City of Jacksonville staff, former District 14 Councilman Jim Love, and Riverside Avondale Preservation members. That was more than two years ago, and now, he's prepared to pursue a similar path again.

"I think I'm going to put in some new requests to get more installed by some other council folks, so I'll be putting together some new proposals," he wrote in an email. The skate spots aren't meant to be full-blown skate parks, but instead offer less-expensive pieces of equipment that allow skaters to use their boards for more than just coasting along a level surface.

"A skate park is like a putt-putt course," Pumphrey explained. "This is like putting one hole in every neighborhood."

Bud Campbell, coach for SOS Academy, which is located at the same site, said he initially was skeptical about the installation, but he's come around.

"I didn't want nothing to do with it," Campbell said. "But now, it's cool. You have guys coming from all over, age 45 on down to babies. One guy told me he was from Orange Park, another from Atlantic Boulevard, so that's a good thing."

Pumphrey got involved in the project because he likes to stay involved in his

community, he said. "I always like trying to have a hand in the neighborhood because this is where I grew up. I'm an avid skater. If I had one truth about my life, that's the one thing I can guarantee, that much I know."

He started skating when he was 11 and when his first skateboard "looked like something from the '80s, like one of those big cruiser boards from the Ninja Turtle movies," he said, describing a big banana-shaped board with bright pink wheels. "The graphics were rats in dumpsters and slime and garbage cans – just a little grungy." Now, he coasts on a board from Block Skate Supply in Springfield.

He wants to propose pieces that are the same size as those currently installed but that are more abstract, and he wants them to be spread throughout the city.

"You can plop them throughout neighborhoods and communities versus having one skatepark dedicated to the northside, or other neighborhoods," he explained. "They are smaller, cheaper, easier to say yes to, don't need a lot of funding. They are



Conner Pumphrey shows off the skateboard he bought locally.

picnic-table sizes ... nothing that is astronomically huge. I think the biggest piece that's over at the Beaver Street/LaVilla neighborhood, is 14 feet long, 2 feet wide and 2-and-a-half-feet tall. It's more like skateable art pieces instead of the big skate (parks) that cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. This just gives every neighborhood kid a place to skate in their neighborhood."

Weaver Park reopens in Riverside

The Winston Family YMCA marked the grand re-opening of Weaver Park, located at 221 Riverside Avenue on Feb. 17. The park is named for local philanthropists Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver and connects the YMCAs flagship facility to the Northbank Riverwalk. The park includes a fenced-in sunrise lawn, KaBOOM! playground and new landscaping, among other amenities.

The Weavers attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Weaver Park as well as the

reception in the Y's teaching kitchen, which featured refreshments from BlissFuel, the Winston YMCA's in-house juice and smoothie bar.

Weaver Park was first established thanks to a generous donation from the Weaver Family Foundation Fund, when the Winston Family Y opened its doors in 2016. Now, the park has been expanded to create more outdoor space for future family programming such as outdoor nights and fitness classes.



Eric Mann, YMCA chief operating officer, Delores Barr Weaver, J. Wayne Weaver and Timothy Burrows YMCA executive director. Photo by Dan Harris Photo Art

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Turners Underseal helps Ortega residents' respiratory issues

Joe and Tracy Markley bought their 1,850-square-foot mid-century home in Ortega more than five years ago, but it wasn't until recently that Joe started to make a connection between his frequent sinus issues, breathing problems and constant sneezing and his home, surrounded by water and infiltrated by Florida humidity. He had started doing some research on Nextdoor, he explained, trying to figure out how to handle the dampness that seemed to be seeping in and causing health problems. That's where he learned about Turners Underseal.

"I never had a crawlspace before or issues with humidity or moisture in my crawlspace," the Ohio native said. "We moved into the house and from the start, my wife and I have both had some kind of respiratory illness, sinus issues, constantly sneezing. We've been dealing with this for five years. I installed a dehumidifier and it helped with the moisture in the house, but we kept getting the stale odors that, as it came out, came from the crawlspace. I did quite a bit of research and saw a lot of recommendations on Nextdoor for Turners Underseal. Chris Turner came over and spent an hour and a half educating me on the differences between the encapsulation and dehumidifying the floor and ceiling."

That's when the couple decided to hire Turner to sanitize and install a system to keep the crawl space below the home dry. After learning more about the issue, Markley chose against encapsulating the space, a common remedy, and Turner himself adamantly opposed it for the crawl space – the

empty area beneath historic homes meant to allow access to plumbing and infrastructure. Encapsulation involves sheathing the area in plastic, which Turner says traps moisture and creates liquid pockets where sickness-producing mold can flourish. Turner instead uses various techniques including a mechanical drying system that keeps the space under the house sanitary and dry.

Markley said that when Turner came to the house to get a read on the interior condition of the home, the humidity level was more than what would cause the flooring to

"We moved into the house and from the start, my wife and I have both had some kind of respiratory illness, sinus issues, constantly sneezing."

buckle over time from air saturation. The couple also knew they wouldn't want their grandchildren breathing unsafe air.

"He was pretty convinced that he was going to make a big difference," Joe Markley said. "He came and sprayed the whole underside and then came and did the whole install. Legitimately, when I would get up in the morning, I could breathe in and there was a cracking in my chest, like (an) asthmatic."

But a little more than week after a treatment by Turners Underseal and "The crackling in my chest has gone, the sneezing has gone. So far, I've been satisfied," Markley said.



In addition to the Turners Underseal Dry Crawlspace System, Turners Underseal also does sub-floor sanitizing, permanent wood sealing and home air quality inspections. For \$300 off installation 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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LGBTQ Community Fund to underwrite film festival

The LGBTQ Community Fund for Northeast Florida will underwrite Jacksonville's first annual LGBTQ Film Festival in downtown Jacksonville, to take place at MOCA Jacksonville June 11-14, 2020. The Many Sides of Pride Film Festival will feature the best in LGBTQ film as well as films directed by members of the LGBTQ community to celebrate their diverse impact on the world of cinema.

"We are eager to bring to Northeast Florida a high caliber selection of films with timely topics for those in the LGBTQ community and their allies," said Joe Barton, chair of the advisory board of the LGBTQ Community Fund. "There is a wealth of talent creating films for and by the LGBTQ community, and my fellow board members feel strongly that this is a special opportunity for our city."



Nina Waters, president of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. Photo courtesy of laird/blac palm, inc.

The LGBTQ Community Fund has made a grant of \$36,700 to the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) Jacksonville, a Cultural Institute of the University of North Florida, to create this inaugural event. Over the course of four days, MOCA Jacksonville will present eight films, including documentaries and shorts, highlighting the diversity of LGBTQ stories and storytellers. Programming will include presentations from filmmakers, panel discussions with members of Jacksonville's LGBTQ community, and moderated post-film conversations. One of the many films to be featured is executive producer Patrick Dempsey's newest project, "Hurley," a film about the legendary sports-car racing driver Hurley Haywood. Haywood, who lives in St. Augustine, is expected to attend The Many Sides of Pride Film Festival.

"The Many Sides of Pride Film Festival will be an opportunity for all to explore the many powerful stories of the LGBTQ community through the lens of film," says MOCA Director Caitlin Doherty. "MOCA Jacksonville is grateful to partner with the LGBTQ Community Fund in creating this exciting cultural program for our city." As part of its annual grantmaking, the LGBTQ Community Fund also made three additional grants: \$25,000 to OneJax Institute, an interfaith organization, to implement OUTlook, a leadership development program for LGBTQ youth ages



Hurley Haywood, Caitlin Doherty and Dr. Joe Barton, chairman of the Community Foundation LGBTQ Community Fund Advisory Board. Photo courtesy of laird/blac palm, inc.

14-19; \$20,000 to the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida to support the launch of the LGBTQIA+ Emerging Leaders Program to invest in and develop the next generation of nonprofit leaders; and \$4,000 to PFLAG for administrative support and community outreach as a bridge grant.

The LGBTQ Community Fund for Northeast Florida, housed at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, has awarded \$725,000 since it began making grants in 2014—including substantial grants to organizations representing LGBTQ Youth, LGBTQ elders and LGBTQ on-campus services—which were areas identified by research as significant opportunities for assistance. The Fund has also invested \$168,000 in local research and convenings to improve the lives of those in the LGBTQ community.



Vice President and Managing Broker Lorri Reynolds

Realtor named NEFAR Humanitarian of the Year

Lorri Reynolds, vice president/managing broker/state instructor at Watson Realty Corp's Avondale Office, was named the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors® (NEFAR) Humanitarian of the Year during NEFAR's 2020 Install and Awards Gala.

Reynolds is involved in multiple organizations that aim to reduce suffering and pain. She volunteers with Pet Partners of North Florida, facilitating pet and human interactions in environments such as hospitals, schools and nursing homes, according to NEFAR documents. She and her kitty, Sooshi, became the first cat pet therapy team in Northeast Florida and were recognized nationally as a pet therapy team in 2019. She is also a Pet Partners North Florida board member and instructor for handlers, teaching them how to form a team with their pet. She also serves as a "Read with Me" volunteer.

Reynolds acts as an Emotional Support Human, accompanying people who need support when they put their pet down, or who feel it's too painful to stay with the pet during the process.

Along with her pet-centered work, Reynolds is involved with the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI), serving as a family-to-family class coordinator since 2013, a Jax Storyteller since 2018, and a Jax Member Advocate since 2018. She also opens her real estate office for NAMI meetings and events.

Reynolds continues to serve a host of other community organizations including Community Hospice and Palliative Care, the Therapy Animal Coalition, K-LOVE Christian Radio Station and others.

Baptist AgeWell receives \$300,000 grant from Florida Blue Foundation

More seniors with complex medical needs in Northeast Florida will now have access to Baptist AgeWell's House Calls program, thanks to a \$300,000 three-year grant from Florida Blue Foundation.

House Calls brings the AgeWell care model directly to a patient's home, expanding access to quality health care for seniors with complex medical needs that make office visits difficult. The House Calls program, which began in October 2015, provides routine primary care services that are typically provided in a doctor's office, such as taking vital signs, listening to the heart and lungs, and following up to make sure all medications are being taken. Home visits are made by nurse practitioners and geriatricians who oversee the care.

House Calls is part of Baptist AgeWell, an enriched type of primary care in Northeast Florida for people ages 65+ who want to be proactive with their health to live more independent and productive lives. Board-certified doctors, along with nurse practitioners, clinical pharmacists, rehab therapists, social workers and psychologists have a unique, comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to managing health.

"We are grateful to Florida Blue Foundation for providing the grant that will expand our social services team for the House Calls Program," said Earl Evens, executive director of Baptist Health's

AgeWell Institute. "Being able to replicate our model of care in the homes of patients who are not able to make it to the office is invaluable to older adults in the Jacksonville community."

The Community Health Needs Assessment in Northeast Florida from May 2019 highlighted the significant need for expanded access to health care, particularly for seniors. The grant for the House Calls program will greatly enhance care for this growing demographic, responding to a critical community need. During the next three years, AgeWell expects to make nearly 6,400 home visits and provide care to more than 545 patients who otherwise may not receive much-needed primary care services.

"The Baptist AgeWell House Calls program aligns with the mission of the Florida Blue Foundation to help people and communities achieve better health," said Florida Blue Foundation Vice President Susan Towler, a San Marco resident. "The Foundation strategically allocates grants toward community-based solutions through its focus areas and programs that focus on health solutions in the health care system, multicultural and growing populations, and critical issues of affordability, access and quality. The House Calls program is vitally important for many seniors in the Jacksonville community."

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Cummer CEO, director to leave museum

LEVINE SELECTED AS NEXT DIRECTOR OF THE TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART



Adam Levine, Ph.D.

Adam Levine, Ph. D., George and Kathleen Gibbs Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, has resigned his job at the museum to return to the Toledo Museum of Art (TMA) in Toledo, Ohio, it was announced Jan. 30. Levine will fill the role of the Edward Drummond and Florence Scott Libbey Director of TMA. He will begin his new post in May of 2020. Founded in 1901, TMA has more than 25,000 objects in its collection.

Levine began his work with the Cummer Museum in October 2018 and fully assumed the role as Director and CEO in January 2019. Prior to relocating to Jacksonville to accept the position with the Cummer Museum, he held a variety of senior positions at TMA since 2013, most recently as deputy director and curator of Ancient art.

“I would be remiss if I didn’t admit that we are disappointed to lose Adam, but the passion, excitement and growth at the Cummer of late is a result of the community’s desire for accessible, high-quality cultural experiences and our institution’s ability to respond to that demand. This commitment

to Jacksonville will not diminish,” said Pam D. Paul, chair of the Cummer Museum’s Board of Trustees.

“The Cummer is strongly positioned and committed to sustaining excellence throughout our galleries, gardens, exhibitions and programming, and we will continue to honor our long history of engaging and inspiring our community. We have an incredible staff and highly engaged and committed board along with strong community support. Just as we did before, our board will work tirelessly to recruit the best and brightest new director and CEO,” she continued. “We are grateful to Adam for his visionary leadership in creating new experiences focused on quality, access and fun for all ages and interests to enjoy. We wish him all the best in Toledo.”

During Levine’s short tenure, the Cummer Museum, increased attendance and membership year-over-year by 20%, expanded educational offerings, developed an ambitious strategic plan, reconstructed its hurricane-damaged gardens and initiated new programs that increased accessibility to the museum for a range of audiences. Levine also oversaw several new acquisitions and loans that enhanced the scope of the museum’s holdings, including examples of contemporary Native American basketry, historic African sculpture, ancient Roman material culture and abstract expressionist painting.

“It has been a privilege to lead the Cummer Museum and to partner with its inspiring board, donors, staff and volunteers on a variety of dynamic initiatives that moved the institution forward. I have loved my time in this community and am grateful for the warmth with which I was received and for the embrace of the Cummer Museum’s vision,” said Levine.

Levine’s last day at the Cummer Museum will be April 24. “Our board is going to develop a cohesive transition plan and ensure that artistic and operational excellence continues to be paramount as we move forward. It is anticipated that Adam will be a part of this transition period for the next 90 days,” said Paul.

Junior Achievement wins 2020 True Inspiration Awards

Junior Achievement (JA) of North Florida is a winner in the Chick-fil-A Foundation’s 2020 True Inspiration Awards. The nonprofit organization was named a regional finalist in September and asked the community to help them win a \$20,000 grant from the foundation by voting on Chick-fil-A’s mobile app. The votes have been counted and JA of North Florida was named as one of the 22 recipients of this year’s award.

JA of North Florida was one of five organizations that were in the running for the award in the Southeast region. The program the grant will support is part of the JA Work and Career Readiness Pathway which is designed to help students acquire the skills and mindset needed to be financially capable and ready for the workforce. It will benefit students from low to moderate-income, Title 1 schools and those associated with partnering nonprofit organizations.

“We are so thankful for the community who took the time to vote for us and we are also thankful to the Chick-fil-A Foundation for this wonderful opportunity,” said Tiffany Mackey Guthrie, director of development for JA of North Florida. “The money we have received from the foundation will be used to teach our JA My Way program to hundreds of students from ages 12 to 18 to help prepare them for the workforce.”

The True Inspiration Awards were established in 2015 to help nonprofit organizations that serve children and youth in the fields of education, youth homelessness and poverty, or economic empowerment. They honor Chick-fil-A Founder S. Truett Cathy, who was dedicated to inspiring the unlimited potential in children. Each year, the Chick-fil-A Foundation chooses 22 community organizations to honor and celebrate with the True Inspiration Awards. JA of North Florida will be honored along with the other recipients at the Chick-fil-A Foundation’s annual event in May.

CVS Health gives Baptist grant to help establish mental health acute-care clinic

Wolfson Children’s Hospital and Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville received a \$25,000 grant Feb. 18 from CVS Health to help establish a Baptist Behavioral Health acute-care clinic for patients at risk of experiencing a mental health crisis.

The grant is part of CVS’s initiative to invest in health care throughout Florida.

The purpose of the grant is to help Baptist Health better meet the needs of patients for same-day acute mental health care. The new Baptist Behavioral Health acute-care clinic will create a bridge between inpatient and outpatient care, providing adults and children who are at risk of a mental health crisis with time-sensitive intervention or counseling by a mental health professional in an office setting.

The expanded clinic will be funded, in part, by the \$25,000 grant. As part of Baptist’s commitment to increase access to mental health care, a portion of the grant will be used for



Catherine Graham, vice president of business innovation and development for Baptist Health; Michael D. Aubin, FACHE, president of Wolfson Children’s Hospital; Terrie Andrews, Ph.D., system administrator for Baptist Behavioral Health; Tom Nasby, head of network management for CVS Health; Faith S. Weiner, senior director of philanthropy with CVS Health; Michael A. Mayo, FACHE, president of Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville; Tammy Daniel, DNP, MA, RN, senior vice president and chief nursing officer of Baptist Health; and Cynthia Reynolds, senior vice president and chief philanthropy officer for the Baptist Health Foundation

telehealth technology, an additional tool to connect patients to professional counseling, psychological services, and psychiatric services for adults and children throughout the community.

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Bunker receives Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award

John Bunker, visual artist and respected veteran of the Jacksonville museum community, received the 2020 Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award Jan. 4. Beyond creating an extensive and varied body of work over his 50-year career as a professional artist, Bunker also helped shape Jacksonville's cultural community during his impressive museum career, including positions as associate director and interim director of the Jacksonville Art Museum and director of the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens.



Martha Frye Baker, chair of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida's Board of Trustees; John Bunker; Sally Baker Lee. Photo credit: laird/blac palm, inc.

The award, which includes a \$10,000 unrestricted grant, recognizes an artist whose work brings distinction to Northeast Florida and is named for the late Ann McDonald Baker, whose leadership helped create and nurture such vital cultural gems as The Community Foundation's Art Ventures Fund, the Arts Assembly (now the Cultural Council), Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, and Greenscape, among others. The award was presented to Bunker by members of the Baker Family at a private reception in January.

"John has left an indelible mark on our cultural community, both through his art and in his leadership positions at the

Cummer and the Jacksonville Art Museum," noted Sally Baker Lee, Ann McDonald Baker's daughter. "My mother's passion to make our community more beautiful and more caring is exemplified by John's devotion to his craft and his community, and our family is delighted to recognize John for his contributions."

Bunker's artwork is included in numerous museums, as well as corporate, public and private collections in the United States and abroad. Select corporate collectors include: AT&T Universal Card, Mayo Clinic, First

Coast Oncology Centers, Nordstrom, First Union Bank, Bank of America, North Florida College, Vistakon, The Florida Senate, Riverside House of Junior League, Orlando Jetport, Timuquana Country Club, Stein Mart, MD Anderson Cancer Center, University of North Florida, MOCA Jacksonville and the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens.

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville honored Bunker with the Individual Arts Award in 2007 and named him in their roster of "Boundless: 40 Years, 40 Icons" in 2016. As one art critic expressed, "The subjects of his paintings are simmering with energy, saturated with fragments of color, and wonderfully alive."

As envisioned by the Baker family, Bunker is a significant contributor to Northeast Florida's arts community. Bunker has served as president of the Riverside Fine Arts Association Concert Board, a member of JaxPride, chairman of the Koger Gallery of Art and Gardens Advisory Committee, curator of the Jacksonville International Airport Arts Commission, member of Art in Public Places committee, board member of Patrons of the HeArts, and vestry member of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd.



Congressman visits school for the deaf

Congressman John Rutherford recently visited with Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech Co-Director Cynthia Robinson and students at the school. Rutherford is the current co-chair of the Congressional Deaf Caucus, and he was interested in touring Clarke Schools during his recent visit to Jacksonville Feb. 3. Founded in 1996, Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech teaches children who are deaf or hard of hearing to listen and talk. The children who attend Clarke use advanced technologies such as cochlear implants and hearing aids to maximize their access to sound.

VyStar pledges \$2.5 million toward MOSH capital campaign

VyStar Credit Union's has pledged \$2.5 million donation to the Museum of Science and History on the Southbank to support the MOSH 2.0 capital campaign.

The Jacksonville-headquartered credit union will be recognized as the title sponsor for the VyStar Credit Union Cultural Ecosystem, an area within the museum that will explore Jacksonville's roots and the many facets of its identity. As a blend of history and culture, the visitor will experience within the Cultural Ecosystem a celebration of the city's rich diversity through storytelling, music, art and dance.

"MOSH 2.0 will transform Downtown Jacksonville while advancing our mission of inspiring the joy of lifelong learning for the region's residents and visitors," said Maria Hane, MOSH president. "We are inspired to welcome VyStar Credit Union as a partner in creating a new center for science, culture and innovation and a reimagined Downtown experience."

In addition to supporting the Museum's expansion plans, VyStar Credit Union will sponsor free admission for all

military personnel and their families on Saturday, April 18 —representing an extension of the credit union's longstanding commitment to recognizing and honoring the service of Northeast Florida's military community.

The partnership also includes having Brian Wolfburg, president and CEO of VyStar Credit Union, join the museum's board of trustees. His three-year term will begin on June 1.

"We are honored to expand our partnership with MOSH to empower and inspire our leaders of tomorrow through education and financial literacy, while also supporting and respecting our military," said Wolfburg. "VyStar is proud to support MOSH's bold vision for the future —and I am personally looking forward to collaborating with the board of trustees to bring that vision to life."

To date, VyStar Credit Union has provided more than \$115,000 in support of MOSH. VyStar is the title sponsor of MOSH's core exhibit, Atlantic Tails: Coastal Creatures of Northeast Florida. VyStar Credit Union members and employees receive special benefits at the Museum, such as



Rendering of the entrance to MOSH 2.0

\$5 admission with a VyStar debit or credit card or employee identification; \$10 off annual membership fees; and discounted admission for after-hours events, including MOSH After Dark and shows in the Bryan-Gooding Planetarium.



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North Florida Land Trust adds two to board

North Florida Land Trust (NFLT) has named Melissa Long and Ryan Switzer to its board of directors. Long and Switzer were both recommended to the board by a current member and elected unanimously at the Jan. 21 board of directors meeting. Long and Switzer will both serve a three-year term.

“We look forward to having Melissa and Ryan on our team as we continue our mission to protect the natural resources, historic places and working lands in north Florida,” said Jim McCarthy, president of NFLT. “Melissa’s passion for improving water quality and Ryan’s background in commercial land acquisitions will bring new perspectives to our board and will help guide our decisions as we continue conserving environmentally-sensitive lands.”

Long serves as chief of the environmental quality division with the City of Jacksonville where she focuses on surface and groundwater, along with air, tanks, hazardous waste and petroleum cleanup. She previously worked for the Department of Environmental Protection’s Northeast District where she was a water facilities



Melissa Long



Ryan Switzer

administrator and worked with industrial and domestic wastewater facilities, drinking water, water quality issues and state lands and wetlands. Long earned her Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Florida State University.

Switzer is a licensed sales associate with Cantrell & Morgan where he focuses on commercial retail properties throughout the Southeast. He works on both land acquisitions and shopping center acquisitions as well as representing both tenants and landlords. Switzer is also the co-founder and CEO of Beau Outfitters, a clothing, gift and accessories store located in San Marco. Switzer is a graduate of Auburn University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Economics.

Both Long and Switzer’s positions on the board are new and grow the nonprofit land conservation organization’s board to 13 members. Long and Switzer will serve as members at large along with seven others.

CenterState merges with South State Bank

Two banks, one based in Florida and the other based out of South Carolina, are merging in order to pool \$34 billion in assets and reach 18 high-growth markets in six states throughout the Southeast, according to a news release.

Center State bank is based in Winter Park, Fla., while South State Bank is headquartered in Columbia, S.C. Under the terms of the merger agreement, which was unanimously approved by the Boards of Directors of both companies, CenterState shareholders will receive 0.3001 shares of South State common stock for each share of CenterState common stock they own. CenterState shareholders will own approximately 53% and South State shareholders will own approximately 47% of the combined company.

The combined company will operate under the South State Bank name and will trade under the South State ticker symbol SSB on the Nasdaq stock market. The company will be headquartered in Winter Haven, Florida and will maintain a significant presence in both Columbia, S.C. and Charleston, S.C.; Charlotte, N.C.; and Atlanta, Ga.

However, there is a fly in the ointment. A law firm announced at the end of January that it would be investigating whether the merger was fair to shareholders.

Halper Sadeh LLP may seek increased consideration for shareholders, additional disclosures, and information concerning the proposed transaction, or other relief and benefits, according to a separate news release posted by Globe Newswire.

Wolfson Children’s Challenge raises money for new MIBG therapy room

Thousands of runners took to the streets of Jacksonville Jan. 25 for the 11th annual Wolfson Children’s Challenge, a day of races and family-friendly events to raise more than \$250,000 for Wolfson Children’s Hospital. The final amount raised will be matched 125% by Baptist Health.

The event included a 55-kilometer ultra-marathon and a 30-kilometer individual run while teams could participate in the 55-kilometer ultra-relay. For children and beginning runners, there was the one-mile fun run.

During the event, 55 children of all ages who represent the wide range of conditions that are treated at Wolfson Children’s Hospital are honored as the “Wolfson 55.” Each family shares their inspiring story.

The inspiration for the Wolfson Children’s Challenge came from Paul Wilson, whose newborn son, Luke, underwent surgery just hours after his birth. Wilson endeavored to raise \$5,000 by running 55 miles, the age of the hospital when his son was a patient. Since then his mission has far surpassed his initial goal, with the fundraising event tallying \$211,000 in 2019 alone.

This year, proceeds from the event are to be used to convert an existing patient room on the hospital’s oncology floor into a MIBG therapy room. The new room, the first of its kind in Florida, will give the hospital the ability to offer the newest upfront treatment for children with



Spiderman and Captain America pose with a child during the Wolfson Children’s Challenge.

neuroblastoma, the most common solid tumor of childhood cancer. MIBG therapy is a radioactive treatment that must be administered to pediatric patients in a special room designed to protect staff, patients and families in surrounding rooms from radiation. During the treatment, patients must be kept isolated in the specialized room for three to five days to prevent radiation exposure to other patients and staff. The new MIBG room already has a separate, adjoining living space to accommodate parents and families with voice and video communication equipment installed in the rooms allowing patients and their families to remain connected.



A therapy dog grins as he greets a child during the Wolfson Children’s Challenge fundraiser.



Wolfie, Wolfson Children’s Hospital’s mascot, joins a young family during the Wolfson Children’s Challenge.

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Nonprofit seeks to solve “Food Desert” in historic Springfield

Sanctuary on 8th Street, a nonprofit that has long responded to the changing needs of Springfield, has its eye on tackling food insecurity, a daunting problem plaguing the boundaries of its historic neighborhood, which has long been known as one of Jacksonville’s food deserts.

Known as a place of “peace and love”, Sanctuary on 8th Street’s main focus is to be a place inner city children and families in need are served through education, social services, recreation and the arts. But on Feb. 4, Sanctuary Executive Director Rick Cartlidge and the nonprofits board of directors met with a group of more than 30 people met over dinner to begin a dialogue and find solutions for solving food insecurity in the neighborhood.

The nonprofit decided to take a hard look at what is a serious neighborhood problem after Sanctuary board member Phyllis Tousey read the book “Food Town USA” by Mark Winne. In the book, the author listed Jacksonville as one of “seven unlikely cities that are changing the way we eat” and declared Springfield a food desert.

Board member Cam Melangton, general manager for The Marina at Ortega Landing, spent time prior to the event driving around the neighborhood. “I couldn’t believe there are no grocery stores here, none!” he said. Longtime Springfield resident Clarence Fears and grandfather to a Sanctuary on 8th student, affirmed Melangton’s disbelief. “I’ve heard it’s easier to find a grape soda than a grapefruit here.”

During the dinner, four groups of about eight adults sat around child-size picnic tables inside the Sanctuary and discussed the differences between food security – accessibility and affordability – vs. food quality and how both are lacking in a food desert.

Rev. Susan Rogers, pastor at The Well at Springfield and a table leader, said she accepted the invitation to the community supper because she often wondered “Why is it easy for me to drive outside the neighborhood and get food, but not for my neighbors?”

Another table leader, Feeding Northeast Florida President and CEO Susan King said she is passionate about hunger as a solvable problem in our society. “No one should be hungry,” she emphasized.

Nathan Ballentine, who is known as the “Man in Overalls,” an itinerant urban farmer, entrepreneur, educator and community organizer, is a Springfield resident with a strong agricultural heritage. “My mother was a migrant farm worker when she was growing up, but she never went hungry because of a garden farm,” he said. Ballentine, who also served as a table leader, started his food garden business in 2009 during the recession in part because “lack of good food can result in dire health conditions.”

Leader of the fourth table, Cartlidge agreed. “I see how hunger affects our kids every day...affects their moods, their health.” Thanks to the Junior League’s Kids in the Kitchen program, Cartlidge



Seated: Andrea Rizzi, Emily Waters, Patty Barksdale, Stephanie Schuster, Nathan Ballentine, Susan Rogers, Cathy DuPont, Catherine Simms, Laura Renstrom; standing: Eric Pike, Erika Morrison, David Barksdale, Patrick Rhodin, Jackie Hadley, Clarence Fears, Travis Williams, Michelle Corse, Kate Hallock, Maureen Mercho, Pete Gunnlaugsson, Cam Melangton, Ronnie Mills, Michelle Hollie, Charles Moreland, Susan King, Andrea Grappie, Rick Cartlidge, Phyllis Tousey, Abby Solano, Marcia Ellison

said the Sanctuary on 8th Street has tried to educate its students about healthy eating, and he would like to see the program expanded for their families.

Although at the end of the evening there was no consensus about addressing the Springfield food desert, some participants came away from the dialogue with a few ideas that are worth exploring. “I’d like to see one of these vacant storefronts open as an indoor farmers’ market,” said Melangton. “It would be great to attract local donors or corporate sponsors to carry the rent, polish the floors and keep the doors open. Farmers, food vendors and locals would be invited to sell their products on the weekend, maybe Friday, Saturday, Sunday.”

Melangton said the first step is to “run the numbers” before seeking sponsors but is excited about the possibility of a hybrid grocery and farmers’ market in Springfield. “Ortega Landing adopted the Sanctuary as its community service project two years ago, and we are committed to doing what we can to help these wonderful kids and their families, and the lack of food in this area is becoming a critical concern,” he said. As such, the Sanctuary is exploring the feasibility of transforming a nearby abandoned neighborhood grocery to support this concept, and they envision the possibility of prepared meals for elderly residents, nutritional cooking classes for families, among other healthy options could be incorporated into the master plan.

Jolly joins Riverside law firm

Chandler Jolly recently joined the Riverside-based law firm of Alexander DeGance Barnett as an associate attorney.

Jolly, a lifelong Avondale resident and Episcopal High School graduate, represents and advises employers and educational institutions in employment and student claims.

She holds a law degree from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where she graduated cum laude.

In her spare time, Chandler enjoys spending time with family and friends. She also likes reading, watching Gator football games, and traveling.



Chandler Jolly

Jax Symphony to perform in Washington D. C.

The Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra was one of only four symphonies chosen nationally to perform before a federal legislative and executive delegation at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. The symphony will be the first to perform there on Tuesday, Mar. 24, with a program that will explore the influence jazz artists and composers have on traditional classical composers, according to a news release. Two Jacksonville-centered pieces will be included in the program: *Bridges*, written by the Symphony’s 2018-2019 Mary Carr Patton and Composer-in-Residence Courtney Bryan as well as *Celebration*, a piece written by Duke Ellington in 1972 in celebration of the City of Jacksonville’s 150th anniversary.

Mayor Lenny Curry’s wife, Molly Curry, will be the honorary chair for the trip. “We are delighted to have the First Lady with us as we represent the City of Jacksonville in front of a national audience,” Music Director Courtney Lewis said. “With its rich history of jazz and symphonic music, Jacksonville takes pride in its contribution to the country’s arts and cultural landscape. I couldn’t be proud of our musicians and the organization for achieving the artistic excellence necessary to reach this goal.”

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St. Johns Country Day names new head of school

St. Johns Country Day School has named Valorie Baker as its eighth Head of School. Baker will join the School community effective July 1.



Valorie Baker

Baker has demonstrated a commitment to gaining the diversity of experience and expertise required to run a school such as St. Johns. She has an extensive track record of championing new ideas, partnerships, and collaborations to extend new opportunities to students and help reach school goals. She is also familiar with the Jacksonville area having previously lived on the First Coast. Her extensive management, administrative, and fiscal experience and her track record of working at some of the finest independent schools in the south, including Webb School, Palmer Trinity, Louisville Collegiate, Episcopal School of Jacksonville, and The Bolles School were instrumental in her selection as the right fit for St. Johns.

"Mrs. Baker's experience, background, and expertise give the Board of Trustees great confidence that she is the right fit for our school," said President of the Board of Trustees Rick Gregson. "Having previously lived on the First Coast, she is very knowledgeable with the environment in which St. Johns families live and work."

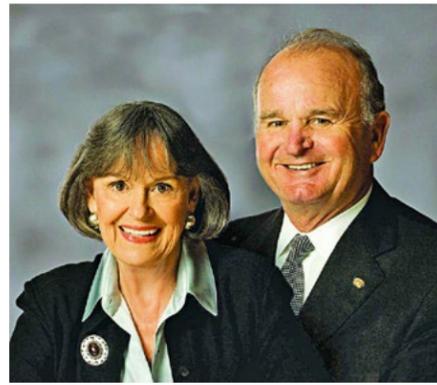
Baker joins St. Johns from the Webb School of Knoxville, Tenn., where, for the past two years she has served as Head of Middle School, directing all aspects of a division of 300 students and 40 faculty and staff. Prior to the Webb School, Baker served at Miami's Palmer Trinity School as Director of Auxiliary Programs, at Louisville Collegiate as Director of Community Relations, and at two First Coast schools—the Episcopal School of Jacksonville as Director of Counseling and Student Services, and The Bolles School as a College Counselor.

Weavers donate \$3 million to Cummer to endow chief curator position

Long-time Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens supporters J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver recently gifted \$3 million to endow the chief curator position for the museum. The newly endowed position will be named after the couple and is to ensure the museum attracts top talent, according to a news release. The position oversees efforts to build, present, and conserve the museum's permanent collection and directs the presentation of exhibitions.

Holly Keris, current chief curator, has made major contributions over the past 17 years and those who come after her will similarly shape the institution's vision and mission and lead its artistic program, according to the release.

"Through our longstanding association with Holly Keris and the Cummer, we have come to appreciate the tremendous value and profound influence of a chief curator," noted Delores Barr Weaver. "We are particularly grateful for Holly's extended efforts as both chief curator and interim director for nearly two years, during a challenging period when the Gardens



Delores and J. Wayne Weaver

were ravaged by Hurricane Irma and the Women's Club building had to be razed because of termites."

She added that the gift was meant to vouchsafe the curator's position as "a leading voice in our cultural community for generations to come."

The Weavers' decades of generosity to and leadership at the Cummer Museum began in 1997 and have included important initiatives such as Weaver First Saturday

Free for All – free admission for all visitors the first Saturday of each month. Their Weaver Family Foundation Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida also has provided long-term support for Art Connections, the Museum's interactive learning center for children and adolescents, as well as Cummer in the Classroom, a comprehensive art education program for Title 1 elementary school children.

"The core of an art museum is its artistic program — it is this content that engages diverse audiences, that provides the stimulus for educational programming, and, at our institution, that connects gardens and galleries," said Pam D. Paul, chair of the Cummer Museum's Board of Trustees. "The work of developing this program belongs first and foremost to the chief curator, and Delores and Wayne's thoughtful gift guarantees quality in this role into the future — ensuring both the Cummer Museum's sustainability, as well as its continued relevance to Jacksonville and Northeast Florida."

Jacksonville Historical Society appoints two to board

The Jacksonville Historical Society announced the election of two new members to its board of directors.

The nonprofit unanimously appointed the Rev. Canon Dr. J. Allison DeFoor and David Jamison, Ph.D., to the board, during its meeting Jan. 27. The group also bid farewell to three members who had reached term limits. Leaving the board were Doug Milne, Esq., Harry Reagan, and Dr. Wayne Wood.

DeFoor is an Episcopal priest who serves as Canon to the Ordinary to the Bishop of the Diocese of Florida, seated in Jacksonville. He served as a priest in four prisons in the Tallahassee area and as an assisting priest at Grace Mission, an inner-city mission in Tallahassee. DeFoor has earned degrees in law, criminology and theology. He has an extensive background in criminal justice, having previously served as a prosecutor, public defender, judge, and as the elected Sheriff of Monroe County. In addition,

DeFoor is a former law professor and the founding chair of the Project on Accountable Justice at Florida State University.

Jamison is an assistant professor of history at Edward Waters College, whose doctorate focused on African Diaspora history. In 2019, Jamison completed a set of videotaped interviews of people who have experienced instances of racial violence. The interviews were included in an exhibit, "Legacy of Lynching," which was on display at the Museum of Science and History.

At the meeting, the board also established the positions of Historian at Large and Historian in Residence. Wood was named Historian at Large in acknowledgment of his record of service to the Jacksonville Historical Society, his authorship of works of local history, and his sustained engagement with preserving historic Jacksonville. Meanwhile, the position of Historian in Residence will be



The Rev. Canon Dr. J. Allison DeFoor



David Jamison, Ph.D.

conferred when appropriate to historians working in the field of Jacksonville history.

JHS also created a new position and hired Kate A. Hallock as its first Marketing and Communications Director.

Other actions taken by the board included the establishing the positions of Historian at Large and Historian in Residence. Wood was named Historian at Large in acknowledgment of his record of service to the Jacksonville Historical Society, his authorship of works of local history, and his sustained engagement with preserving historic Jacksonville.

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Todd Wright named partner at Alexander DeGance Barnett law firm

Todd Wright, who joined Alexander DeGance Barnett in 2016, was recently named as a partner in the Riverside-based law firm.

Prior to joining Alexander DeGance Barnett, Wright worked for a statewide, AV Rated civil defense firm, where he primarily focused in the areas of insurance coverage and bad faith/extra-contractual liability litigation. Wright also served as a Judicial Staff Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida where he assisted judges in a wide variety of matters including complex civil litigation, class action litigation, commercial litigation and capital criminal litigation.

Wright's practice focuses primarily on the representation of employers and



Todd Wright, Esq.

educational institutions in employment, labor and business matters, but he also has experience in areas that span all facets of employment and business law.

Wright is a barrister in the Chester Bedell Inn of Court and serves as a board member of The First Tee. He holds a law degree from Florida Coastal School of Law and a bachelor's degree from James Madison University.

Committee mulls judge nominee for 4th circuit

The Fourth Circuit Judicial Nominating Committee interviewed 12 applicants on Feb. 10, for a vacancy created by Judge Gregg McCaulie's retirement, according to the Florida Bar. The interviews took place at the Duval County Courthouse on Adams Street.

Those interviewed were: Jeb Branham, attorney at Jeb. T. Branham PA in Jacksonville Beach; Fourth Circuit Assistant Public Defender Melina E. Buncome; Janet A. Carver of Carver & Adams Law in Fernandina Beach; F. Susannah Collins, with Robinson Collins PL in Jacksonville; Ronald J. Davis II of Ronald J. Davis PA of the San Jose

area; Gilbert Lee Feltel Jr., chief legal counsel for the Jacksonville Port Authority; James E. Kallaher of Kallaher, DeLuca & Naughton in Orange Park; Duval County Magistrate Robin E. Lanigan; Stacey L. Myers of Orange Park; Rhonda Denise Peoples-Waters of Rhonda Peoples-Waters in Jacksonville; William Joel Powell of Edwards & Ragatz PA in Jacksonville; and Julie K. Taylor, 4th Judicial Circuit court counsel.

If the committee decides to make a recommendation, the candidate's application and information is to be forwarded to Gov. Ron DeSantis' office for consideration for the appointment.

Memorial Park Association names board



Seated: David "Dink" Foerster, Barbara "Bobby" Arnold, Pattie Houlihan, Robinson "Rob" Frazier. Middle: Kelly Varn, Michele Luthin, Agnes Danciger, Susan Ober, Mary Jarrett and Kate Hallock. Back: Tim Burleigh, Laurie Jarvis, Tim Tyler, Matthew Cochran, Percy Rosenbloom, Stanton Hudmon, Eric Lycke and Michael Blackstone. Not pictured: Patrick Emmet, Emily Lisska, Elizabeth "Bitty" McRae, Joannie Newton, Mendy Thompson and Warner Webb. Photo by Mark Krancer for Memorial Park Association

At its meeting Jan. 8, the Memorial Park Association (MPA) board of directors re-elected six members to serve another term.

Continuing to serve on the board will be Tim Burleigh, president; Mary Jarrett, executive vice president and chair of board affairs; Matthew Cochran, treasurer; Laurie Jarvis, secretary; Michele Luthin, vice president at-large and chair of the development committee; and Kelly Varn, vice president at-large and chair of special events.

During the nonprofit's first meeting of the new year, the board also approved the addition of four new directors and bid farewell to three directors.

The new directors, who will serve a three-year term, include Barbara "Bobby" Arnold, who returned to the board after a one-year

hiatus following three previous terms; Patrick Emmet, chair of the finance committee; Kate Hallock, who will chair the communications and marketing committee; and Eric Lycke, chair of the construction committee.

"Memorial Park is a such a distinctive Jacksonville park," said Burleigh. "It bodes well for the future of the association and the well-being of the park to have such dynamic, committed members in this all-volunteer organization."

Departing board members include two who have termed out after serving three three-year terms – Pattie Houlihan, who had also served as MPA president, and Susan Ober – as well as Michael Blackstone, who served one term and was chair of the landscape and grounds committee.

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Scooping ice cream at Murray Hill library

The children at the Bill Brinton Murray Hill Library enjoyed a special program on Feb. 6 entitled "Scooped" in honor of Black History Month. Led by Children's Librarian Joe Gaston, the children learned about Alfred Cralle, the inventor of the ice cream scoop, and worked in teams to make their own homemade ice cream. The Friends of the Murray Hill Library provided the supplies for making the ice cream and assisted with the messy but fun project!

The Friends of the Murray Hill Library will celebrate their 10th anniversary this year by holding their silent auction and annual meeting on Tuesday, March 31, at Maple Street Biscuit Company in Murray



Joe Gaston discusses the advent of the ice cream scoop during a special program at the Bill Brinton Murray Hill Library Feb. 6.

Hill. The social hour and silent auction will begin at 6 p.m. and meeting will follow at 7 pm. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome to attend!

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can offer. The programming and partnership between the Jaguars and the City of Jacksonville delivers a proximity to the performers not offered in many places across the country and leverages the power of the NFL franchise to bring top-billing artists to the stage.

This year's upcoming season is no exception and ticket sales are in full swing, premium seating through Daily's Place BLUE, a prime-time, high-end experience is poised to deliver for your clients, family and friends. Rod Stewart, The Black Keys, Kane Brown, Alicia Keys, The Doobie Brothers 50th Anniversary Tour, The Lumineers, Matchbox Twenty, and Foreigner are some of the top-notch performers that will grace the stage this season.

Enjoying shows in style, entertaining via premium seating

The management team responsible for Daily's Place bookings and experiences, Bold Events, has been hard at work to deliver performers that inspire, engage and blow away audiences. Since day one, listening to feedback and taking suggestions from loyal attendees has proven to be a formula for

success. "We've always put an emphasis on the personalized services, making sure that a seamless experience can be had for all attendees. We strive for client satisfaction at every turn," said Chris Gargani, vice president of sales and service. "Our goal is to deliver a world-class experience for not just the artists, but also the fans," he shared.

Daily's Place BLUE ticketing programs are the highlight of the venue, with 5-tiers of programming, the experience can be tailored to your liking and budget. Company packages can be arranged for business to business entertaining, or family enjoyment, and individual premium seat licenses can also be purchased so members can have the first right of refusal, which includes VIP parking and VIP lounge access.

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For Daily's Place BLUE members, Bold Events is happy to provide a tour, discuss amenities and make sure your preferred seat is available. "We can cater to anyone, from the discerning VIP guest to the passionate music lover, and everyone one in between, our goal is to exceed expectations both before and after the performers take the stage," said David Altman, director of premium sales and entertainment. No matter where a guest sits, the entertainers, the lights, the sound and the memories will last a lifetime.

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New event and Christian ministry venue opens up in Avondale Shoppes

Residents wondering what’s going on behind Le Macaron, out of sight of St. Johns Avenue in the Shoppes of Avondale, got their answer in February when Annie Pajcic opened her new special event venue that will also house the headquarters for her non-profit Christian ministry, Thou Art Exalted.

TAE Talbot is located at 1816 Talbot Avenue in the same building formerly occupied by Pajcic’s late father. Barnwell Roy “Barney” Daley, Jr. ran his businesses from the building for years, and, before he passed away in 2017, Pajcic said she told him she would buy and renovate it. Her mother, Anis Ira Daley, who passed away in December 2019, lived long enough to see Pajcic bring her vision to fruition but passed on just two months shy of seeing it open.



Annie Pajcic officially opened TAE on Talbot Feb. 29, 2019.

Inside the airy, beautifully furnished great room are couches, multiple TVs, lounging areas, farm tables, a kitchen and original art, while the ministry office is

tucked away behind the meeting area but still in view through a huge, reclaimed gothic-style window.

There’s also outside space for celebrations and gatherings. While the interior feels fresh, bright and modern, Pajcic still captured decades of family history with small touches, including the pecky cypress paneling in the TAE office, now back on the same wall it occupied when Pajcic’s father ran the place. That’s one of many ways Pajcic keeps the memory of her parents near and dear.

“They are here,” Pajcic explained Feb. 13, a few hours before she welcomed friends and family to TAE on Talbot for a preview. “This is a dream come true, and I can’t wait to see what God does with this place.”

The official grand opening was held a couple of weeks later, on Feb. 29.



Melody Hainline with the Rev. Tom Murray, rector of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church

Melody Hainline receives St. Mark’s Cross award

For more than 30 years, Melody Hainline has been a member of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Ortega, volunteering countless hours in various roles as she raised her three children, now adults. She has been a Sunday school coordinator, Vacation Bible school teacher and planner and youth service project driver as well as donating her time in many other capacities.

In February, St. Marks acknowledged that long history of service with the St. Mark’s Cross award, which it bestows on those who demonstrate dedication and exemplary service to the church.

“We are very thankful for Melody’s commitment to our St. Mark’s community,” said the Rev. Tom Murray, church rector. “She has a heart for service and works tirelessly behind the scenes.”

St. Mark’s Director of Music and Liturgy James Holyer echoed the appreciation.

“It has been a genuine privilege to work closely with Melody for over a decade,” Holyer said. “Our worship services would not run as smoothly without her, as she constantly goes above and beyond to organize, motivate, lead and serve.”

Church of the Good Shepherd celebrates anniversaries, gift

Well-known Ortega philanthropist Betsy Lovett gave the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd a substantial gift for repairs and renovations in mid-January. Lovett, who is a member of the church vestry, gave the gift in honor of the church’s 100th anniversary of finishing and using its parish hall.

While church officials declined to say how much Lovett donated or what the money will be used for, they also said they are planning to release more information later this year as plans are formalized.

The gift was another high point in a milestone year for the church.

The parish also marks several other anniversaries in 2020, including 150 years since its founding, and a century since its swimming pool became available to the community.



Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd vestry members Dawn Russell, Paul Arrington, Fran Wulbern, Susannah Sands, Joe Porter, Denise Gilbreath, Betsy Lovett, Raymond Mason, Matt Wolfe with the Rev. Dr. Nancee Martin during the monthly all-parish potluck when Lovett presented a financial gift honoring the 100th anniversary of the hall.

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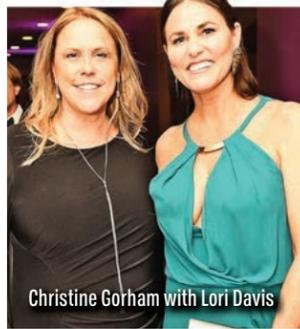
Chris Crisp with Patty and John Otterson



Fitch and Rosa Maria King with Ellie and Ty King



Sarah Boggs with Lisi Rocces and Joycelyn Koehler



Christine Gorham with Lori Davis



Greg and Joy Tison with Mary and Jeff Edwards

NFL MVP Jerry Rice closes out Florida Forum

Crowds gathered to hear Hall-of-Fame wide receiver and three-time Super Bowl champion Jerry Rice relay tales from his storied career Feb. 25, as the final speaker in this year's Florida Forum speaker series, sponsored by the Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital. Funds raised through the forum go to help build and equip an improved neonatal intensive care unit at Wolfson. Winner of three Super Bowls during his 15-year career with the San Francisco 49ers, Rice also played three seasons with the Oakland Raiders and a season with the Seattle Seahawks before retiring in 2005. He was elected into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in January 2010.

Ball patrons insure rosy future for mobile ministry

Things will be coming up roses for Ascension St. Vincent's Mobile Health Outreach Ministry thanks to those who attended the St. Vincent Foundation's annual Red Rose Ball Feb. 21. Guests sparkled in glittering gowns and elegant black-tie attire during the River Club event, which featured a progressive dinner, live music and dancing.

For nearly four decades, the gala has supported different programs at the medical complex. This year's recipient, the mobile ministry, provides preventative and acute medical care to low-income, uninsured, and underinsured individuals and families throughout Northeast Florida, through a fully staffed, doctors' offices-on-wheels to neighborhoods and areas where services are most needed.

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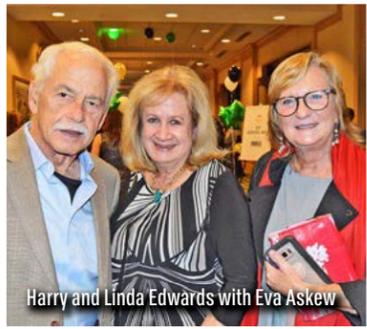
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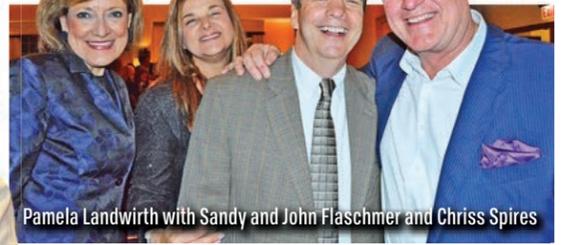
Harry and Linda Edwards with Eva Askew



Glenn and Pamela Davis with Brad and Dana Krizner



HEAL Founders Bobby and Leslie Weed



Pamela Landwirth with Sandy and John Flaschmer and Chriss Spires



Bobby Martin, Leslie Roberts with Theresa Hazel and Anne Nimnicht



Judge Eleni Derke with Athena Mann and Anastasia Mankin



Kelly McLoughlin with Jodi Voy, Leslie Weed and Melanie Vogelponh



Martha Baker with Ryan Schwartz and Sue Punte



Monica Pajcic with Jen McGarity and Cindy King



Aberna Horton with Communities in Schools CEO Leon Baxton and DeJuan Green



Anna Heise with Tracy Arthur and Katie O'Brien



Danyal Sanchez with Valeriya Fedorova



Michelle Dunham with Amy Groshell, Lena Winslow and Lynn Yeager

CIS celebrates 30 years with Toast to the Tassel gala

Over 30 years Communities in Schools has worked with Duval County Public Schools in assisting 110,000 students to reach their graduation goals. To celebrate, the nonprofit hosted its Toast to the Tassel gala at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Jan. 31. The evening included cocktails, a silent auction, and dinner, as well as the unveiling of new student-focused videos and an interactive gallery experience. "Tonight is exciting because we are able to celebrate 30 years of service in Duval County Public Schools," said CEO Leon Baxton, who has served the Communities in Schools agency for 28 years.

Trike riders tug heart strings at HEAL gala

In 10 minutes, HEAL pulled in \$122,000 as a result of its "Bid from the Heart" live auction segment during the nonprofit's annual Valley of Dreams gala Feb. 20 at the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club. Triggering the emotional impact were six to eight nonverbal autistic children, who rode among the crowd on trikes that were the focus of HEAL's fundraising effort this year. So far HEAL has provided 100 tricycles to public schools in Duval County and has plans to present two trikes to each school in Northeast Florida. "It was so wonderful for people to see how these kids can ride a bike when they normally wouldn't be able to balance on two wheels," said HEAL Founder Leslie Weed.



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THERE'S A CLEANUP SITE NEAR YOU!

Arlington/Beaches | 8 a.m. -11 a.m.

- **16th Avenue South at the Ocean** (8 a.m. – 10 a.m.)
- **All Wet Sports/Beach Boulevard Boat Ramp**
8508 Beach Blvd.
- **Leonard Abess Park**
12743 Leonard Abess Blvd.
- **Arlington Lions Club Park**
4221-2 Richard Denby Gatlin Rd.
- **Atlantic Boulevard at the Ocean**
- **Ed Austin Regional Park**
11751 McCormick Rd.
- **Beach Boulevard at the Ocean**
- **Blue Cypress Park**
4012 University Blvd. No.
- **Bruce Park**
6549 Arlington Rd.
- **Castaway Island Preserve**
2921 San Pablo Rd. So.
- **Exchange Island** (Canoe/Kayak required)
Meet at Arlington Road Boat Ramp, 5137 Arlington Rd.
- **Ft. Caroline National Memorial** (9 a.m. – 11 a.m.)
12713 Fort Caroline Rd.
- **Glynlea Park, Meet at Ball field**
6801 Altama Road
- **Mike McCue Park and Boat Ramp** (9 a.m. – 11 a.m.)
2510 2nd Ave. N
- **Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park**
500 Wonderwood Rd.
**Exception: Volunteers must arrive before 9:30 a.m. to participate.*
- **Huffman Boulevard Park**
2775 Huffman Blvd.
- **Mike McCue Park and Boat Ramp**
2510 2nd Ave. No., Jacksonville Beach
- **Reddie Point Preserve**
4499 Yachtsman Way
- **Lonnie Wurn Boat Ramp/Ft. Caroline Club Park**
4131 Ferber Rd.

Naval Station Mayport, Jetties Pavilion # 3 | 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Exception: Volunteers must have base access or arrange for base access

Urban/Riverside Avondale/San Marco/ Murray Hill/Springfield | 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

- **Azalea Creek/Boone Park** (8 a.m. – 11 a.m.)
3700 Park St.

- **Five Points**
1028 Park St. (Meet in front of Sun-Ray Cinema)
- **Hollybrook Park**
319 Cherokee St.
- **Historic Murray Hill**
918 Edgewood Ave. S (Murray Hill Public Library)
- **Klutho Park** (9:45 a.m.– 12 p.m.)
Meet in parking lot across from the VA,
1536 N. Jefferson St.
- **Memorial Park**
1620 Riverside Ave.
- **Northbank Riverwalk at Sydney J. Gefen Park**
505 Alfred DuPont Pl.

Southeast | 8 am. - 11 a.m.

- **Beach & Peach Urban Park**
10013 Anders Blvd.
- **Burnett Park**
3740 Burnett Park Rd.
- **John Lowe Boat Ramp at Goodbys Lake**
9020 San Jose Blvd.
- **Mandarin Park**
14780 Mandarin Rd. (Mandarin Boat Ramp)
- **Pine Forest/Henry T. Jones Park**
3856 Grant Rd.
- **River Oaks Park/Craig Creek**
1000 River Oaks Rd.
- **Walter Jones Historical Park & County Dock Boat Ramp,**
11964 Mandarin Rd.

Southwest | 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

- **Low Brantley Park & McGirts Creek**
8435 118th
- **Ringhaver park**
5198 11th St.

Northwest | 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

- **Riverview Park**
9620 W. Water St.
- **Lonnie C. Miller Regional Park**
7689 Price Ln.

Northeast | 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

- **Big/Little Talbot Island State Park**

North | 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

- **North Shore Park** (9 a.m. – 11 a.m.)
7901 Pearl St.
- **Oceanway Park**
12215 Sago Ave.

Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Commission 2020 Calendar of Annual Projects & Events

Keep Jacksonville Beautiful 37th Anniversary Event

February 28, 2020 6 p.m. -7:30 p.m.
Haskell Co. 111 Riverside Ave.
Jacksonville, FL 3220

St. Johns River Celebration Cleanup

March 21, 2020 8 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Various sites around Duval County

Earth Day Downtown Cleanup

April 18, 2020 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Hyatt Regency Jacksonville
225 E. Coastline Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32202

July 5th Beaches Cleanup

7 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Atlantic Beach at the ocean
Beach Boulevard at the ocean

International Coastal Cleanup

September 19, 2020 9 a.m. - 11a.m.
Various sites around Duval County

Right Whale Litter Cleanup

November 7, 2020 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.
Seawalk Pavilion 1st St. North
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

America Recycles Day

November 13, 2020

Two Locations:

Prime Osborn Convention Center, 12 pm. – 5 p.m.
1000 Water St., Jacksonville, FL 32202

Bank of America*, 10 am. – 5 p.m.
301 3rd St., Neptune Beach, FL 32266

This list is subject to change **No pre-registration. Must be at least 18 years of age or accompanied by an adult * Dates and location of events are subject to change.*

FOR INFORMATION CALL (904) 255-8276 OR VISIT COJ.NET





KT Boling and Ben Johnson with Marco Parra, Kerry Boatwright and Billy Wells

JaxChamber commemorates 135 years

The JaxChamber celebrated its 135th annual “meeting” with an event that resembled an anniversary party.

The landmark occasion took place at the Glass Factory in the Rail Yard District and included cigar rolling, a ball cage, casino games, dancing and food from 3 G’s Grilled and Soul Food, Anthony’s Gourmet Catering, Bono’s and Pastiche Catering, Catered Cocktails, Condaxis Coffee and Tea, Cooper’s Hawk Winery and Restaurant, Exotico Coffee Company, House of Leaf and Bean, Ida Claire, Jacksonville Farmers’ Market, Monroe’s Smokehouse Bar-B-Q and Catering, Prati Italia and Town Hall, Ruth’s Chris Steak House and Seasons 52.

The Chris Thomas Band provided live entertainment.



Nat and Jannet Ford



Albert Chester with Daniel Davis and Obi Umunna



Nemiah Rutledge with Dr. Jennifer Blalock and Ray Meyers



Katherine Hardwick and Jim Webb with Laura Phillips Edgcombe and Bryant Hardwick



Gus Hurlber and Alanna Luksha



Nina Perkins with Brad Fakehouse and Brooke Pierce



Mike Zaffaroni with Lisamarie Winslow and Christie Hall

Friday Musicale celebrates 130 years with Mardi Gras good time

Mardi Gras beads, funny hats, and colorful masks were the attire of choice for nearly 200 guests during Friday Musicale’s annual fundraiser Feb. 8 in Riverside.

The event was reminiscent of a grand picnic as guests selected dinner from two food trucks and then bounced between two venues – Friday Musicale’s main auditorium and L’Engle Hall next door – for their musical pleasure. Featured entertainment for the evening was J.B. Scott’s Swingin’ All Stars band and Junco Royale. The evening also included dancing, dessert, and a silent auction. Money raised from the event benefited Friday Musicale’s free-to-the-public concert season, which is celebrating its 130th year, as well as scholarships to aspiring young musicians and community outreach to local schools.



Julie Green-Smith with Brittany Cato



Zowie Eastman with Amara, Liam and Troy Eastman



John and Angelica Patterson



Regina Torres, Lindsay Liske with Amara Eastman and Lynn Liske and Loreal Liske



Dr. Eric Becher with Janet Withers

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HISTORICAL INSTITUTE LECTURE SERIES

March 3, April 7, May 5

"LIGHT AND COLOR" HISTORIC CHURCHES TOUR

March 21

46TH ANNUAL HOME TOUR

April 25-26

SPRING GARDEN TOUR

May 9

For more information on all anniversary events, visit riversideavondale.org/anniversary

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Extravaganza showcases student's artistic talents

It was a evening of celebration as major donors, former and current Jacksonville City Council members, Duval County Public School leaders, local school board members and parents joined local arts connoisseurs at Douglas Anderson School for the Arts 34th Annual Extravaganza, Feb. 7 at the Times Union Center for the Performing Arts.

The event offered DA's elite class of art students the opportunity to showcase their talents. Dance, vocal, creative writing, orchestra (guitar, chamber, wind instruments) cinematic arts, musical theatre, and jazz students displayed their best stuff as they performed before the packed house.

Gilchrist Berg and Sen. Audrey Gibson served as honorary chairs joining Event Chair Gary McCalla, who has enjoyed the role as the event's top patron for the past 15 consecutive years.



City Councilwoman Ju' Coby Pittman with Douglas Anderson Foundation Executive Director Jackie Cornelius.



Eduardo Washington with Kevin Washington, Dr. Iris Eisenberg and Larry Laskin



Extravaganza Honorary Chairs Gilchrist Berg and Sen. Audrey Gibson and Event Chair Gary McCalla



Brian Johnson, Dan Pingel and Josh Henry



Superintendent of Duval County Public Schools Diana Greene, Ph.D. and James Greene



Marielle and Daniel Pingel with Anna Henry, Ric Goodman and John Hurtubise



Pat Laurence with Dr. Ed Pratt-Dannals, former Duval County School Superintendent



Lesley Wolfson with Barbara Drake, Sharon Rosenblum, Carol Belcher and Tamer Britton

LET'S TALK ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE



A Call to Action: Climate Change, Jacksonville and You
 Adam Rosenblatt, Asst. Prof. UNF Biology and a Visiting Fellow at the London School of Economics
Wednesday, March 11 @ 6:30 p.m.
 Taliaferro Hall



Resiliency: A Listening Session
 Councilman Matt Carlucci
Wednesday, April 1 @ 6:30 p.m.
 Taliaferro Hall



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3rd Annual Patrick's 3v3 Basketball Tournament
 April 4th, 2020 @ The Bolles School

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Designs, philanthropy on stage at Heart of the Runway

Fashion mavens, kid-loving community members and North Florida School of Special Education parents, students and staff gathered the day before Valentine's Day for a special fashion show full of love for beautiful clothes and beautiful children.

Heart of the Runway attracted scores of patrons who dined on elegant fare in the Mediterranean-style courtyard of Linda Cunningham Designer Boutique in San Marco, while the school's students and their adult partners modeled singular designs, all in an event aimed at raising money for the school.

Community members donated makeup and hair design services to get the models ready for the show and the kids got to take a break and spend some time hanging out with each other, too. Jacksonville Jaguars kicker Josh Lambo also attend the event.

"He's such a great friend and supporter of the school," said Jessica Waugaman, school director of advancement. "He doesn't do it for publicity, he comes out and hangs out with the kids."

Heather Crawford of First Coast News emceed the show and reverse-inclusion



Renee Parenteau mugs with Rebecca McCary, 8, one of the young Heart of the Runway models.

club, Bolles Buddies, also attended to support the children. Reverse inclusion is a technique in which typical students and adults visit the school and immerse themselves in special education classrooms. Reverse inclusion also helps the students and participants, allowing both to establish friendships that extend outside the classroom.

"This exposes others to the magic that takes place in the schools," explained Kit Thomas, director of annual and capital campaigns for the school.

Beth Mueller, head of the North Florida School Parent Service Organization, was there with her son Nick, 19, who helped at the event.

"He was here last year, and he loves it," she said. "He loves to talk to the buddies."



Rebecca McCary, 8, Pam Harvey with Presley Harvey, 7, Kate Hastings and Meghan Shaffer.

Super Bolles party celebrates donors

The Bolles School hosted its 39th Annual Super Bolles "party of champions" Jan. 30. The festivities were held to celebrate and thank the school's Agnes Cain Painter and Glynlea and Heritage Society donors. The event was held in Bolles Hall and included tailgate fare and live music with half-time remarks from President and Head of School Tyler Hodges.



Courtland and Jordan Eyrick with Kelly Varn



The Hon. Marcia Morales with Dottie Risley



Bolles Interim Advancement Chief Carol Nimitz with Dan Rice



Tracy and Russell Libby with Susie Moore



Amy and Rick Morales with Dr. Mark Emas, Dr. Peter McGraw, Julio and The Hon. Tatiana Salvador, Dr. Elizabeth McGraw and Holly Emas

TWO FRESH EVENTS IN ONE WEEKEND



9 a.m.-1 p.m. April 4

Tweed Ride | Linus Bike Contest
Blessing of the Bikes | Plant Sale

8:30-10 a.m. April 5

Palm Sunday Service | Blessing of the Bikes
Jacksonville Symphony | District Choirs

cathedraldistrict-jax.org



9 a.m.-3 p.m. April 4

Plant Sale | Greenscape Tree Giveaway
Kids Zone | Educational Programs
Green Market | Food Trucks

Preview Party 5-8 p.m. April 3

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gardenclubjax.org

City Rescue Mission salutes honorees, difference makers

The City Rescue Mission held its 5th annual Difference Makers banquet to honor those that contribute to hope, healing and change for Jacksonville's homeless. By way of considerate donors, faith-based actions of staff, volunteers and leadership, countless lives have been changed and transformed.

The event, held at the Lexington Hotel and Conference Center, Feb. 18, recognized Jeannie Blaylock Lyle, Ray and Richard Martin, as well as Jerri Lynn and Maurice Tedrick for their contributions and consideration of the mission. The evening also recognized New York Times bestselling author, Charles Martin, who dives deep into his faith while writing compelling stories



Charles and Christy Martin

that resonate with readers from all walks of life. Martin is a local Jacksonville native and was on-hand locally to sign books and inspire others to pursue their dreams.

The City Rescue Mission's goal, through various programs is to transform lives of the homeless and needy, serving them through the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. More can be found about CRM and the opportunities to serve as the organization celebrates 75 years can be found by visiting www.crmjax.org.



Melanie and Bennett Brown



Tish and Jeff Sims



Lee and Clara Mulder with Sue Turner, Carolyn Toole and Karen McCarthy

Hope Lodge to provide home away from home for cancer patients



Donors and others instrumental in bring Hope Lodge Jacksonville to fruition line up to cut the ribbon during a special ceremony Feb. 4 on the Mayo Clinic campus.

Cancer patients now have a free place they can call home when they come to Jacksonville for treatment with the opening of the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation Hope Lodge on the Mayo Clinic campus. The American Cancer Society celebrated the launch of what is its 34th residence within the United States for cancer patients, their families and caregivers with a celebratory ribbon-cutting Feb. 4.

Gathered at the ceremony were guests, philanthropists and others interested in the mission of the new residential facility, which will allow patients to stay for as long as their treatment lasts.

Speaking at the event were Gary Reedy, CEO of the American Cancer Society, Pat Geraghty, president and CEO of Florida Blue and a member of the American Cancer Society board of directors, Charlie Tomm, chair of the Hope Lodge Capital Campaign, Dr. Kent Thielen, CEO of Mayo Clinic, Florida, and the lodge's main benefactor,

Richard M. Schulze, who has helped to build five Hope Lodges around the country. Also speaking was Erin Tusa, a Hope Lodge guest.

Also in attendance were some members of the lodge's capital campaign committee that included Carter and Cheryl Bryan, Sheila Collier, George Egan, Syd Gervin, Dick and Marcia Morales, Gil Pomar III, Susan and Jay Williams and Carol Tucker.

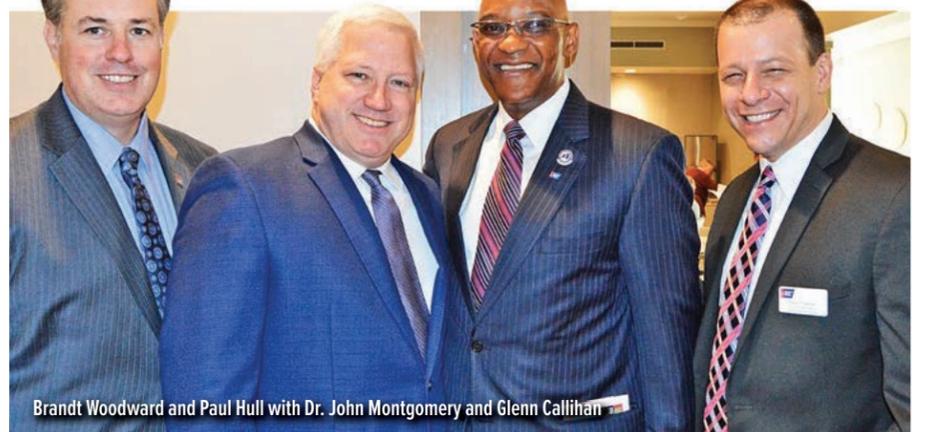
"This is a very special place in the heart of our family," said Schulze, noting that he lost his wife and the mother of his children 18 years ago to mesothelioma. "There were many trips we had to take, and there were many challenges that surrounded all the treatments that she had to go through. We had an opportunity in that process to really see what people go through when they're enduring treatment. It just became obvious to us that if we could add some value to the lives of those that are going through that process, it would mean so much to our family and in remembrance to my late wife."



Carol Tucker and Anne Nimnicht



Dr. Kent Thielen with Florida Blue President and CEO Patrick Geraghty



Brandt Woodward and Paul Hull with Dr. John Montgomery and Glenn Callihan



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Law firms square off in spicy chili contest

In a quest to see who could offer the tastiest and/or spiciest chili, with some offerings certain to set off five alarms, representatives of the Young Lawyers Section of the Jacksonville Bar squared off to see which law firm might be judged the winner during the 12th Annual Charity Chili Cookoff at Riverside Arts Market Feb. 15.

During the event, which exclusively benefited Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech, members of the public roamed about tasting various versions of the Tex-Mex cuisine from 45 different law firms while 12 or more judges sampled each one's specialty and would later proclaim a winner. To keep things fair and legal, the judges, who wore Mardi Gras beads with a chili charm around their necks, actually hold court as judges in Duval, Clay and St. Johns County. Included among the jurists were Judge John Guy, Judge Steven Whittington, Judge Adrian Soud, Judge Anthony Salem and Judge Collins Cooper.



Judge John Guy and Layla Guy with Judge Steven Whittington

Several representatives from Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech were also on hand including Clarke Co-Director Cynthia Robinson, Melanie Jensen, Judy Wingate, Aisha Doggette, Stacie Wilkinson and Kevin Copeland. Jensen said she was thrilled that the young lawyers' group had selected her school as the beneficiary since she had learned last year's event raised nearly \$18,000.

The goal of the event was to raise approximately \$20,000 from corporate sponsorships, donations and the law firms, said event organizer Kayla Haines of Smith, Hulsey & Busey. Members of the public sampled all the chilis for free.



Melanie Jensen with Kayla Haines, Stacie Wilkinson and Kevin Copeland



Logan McEwen, Mike Manning with Austin Sherman and Paul Cuffe of Marks Gray Lawyers for Enterprise



Matt Borello, Katie Rudderman, Tara Forrest, Brian Kelley, Austin Dragoo, Matt Tonuzi, Jason Rudderman and Tim Hedrick of Rogers Towers, P.A.



Carter McMillan and Carley Self of Driver, McAfee, Hawthorne & Diebenow



David Thompson, Steve Watrel with Dana Jacobs, Janeen Kirch, Chef Stefano Portigliatti and Delores and Brett Cole of Coker Law



Good times roll at Jacksonville Children's Chorus gala

Scores of guests were dazzled throughout the night at the Jacksonville Children's Chorus (JCC) 25th anniversary Mardi Gras party at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Feb. 15. The event drew partygoers from throughout Northeast Florida, who enjoyed delectable Mexican-style hors d'oeuvres, bid on a long list of services and prizes in a silent auction and were entertained by the chorus, chorus alumni and entertainment and aerial arts from Bittersweet Studios, among others.

JCC alumni, now adults, warmed up the crowd with the first performance, followed later by the chorus itself. A tarot card reader kept guests entertained, as did Bittersweet stilt walker Kayla Thornton. Dinner was served and Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Assistant Chief Lakesha Burton headed up a live auction, with proceeds from the event and the live and silent auctions going to fund the program.



Darren Dailey, president and artistic director of Jacksonville Children's Chorus, before the chorus and adult chorus alumni performed at the organization's 25th anniversary and fundraiser.

"The importance of this fundraiser is that we are raising money for scholarships and ongoing programming," explained JCC President and Artistic Director Darren Dailey. "This event is becoming increasingly important to the funding of the children's chorus."

Every year, hundreds of local children participate in the chorus, which was founded in 1995.

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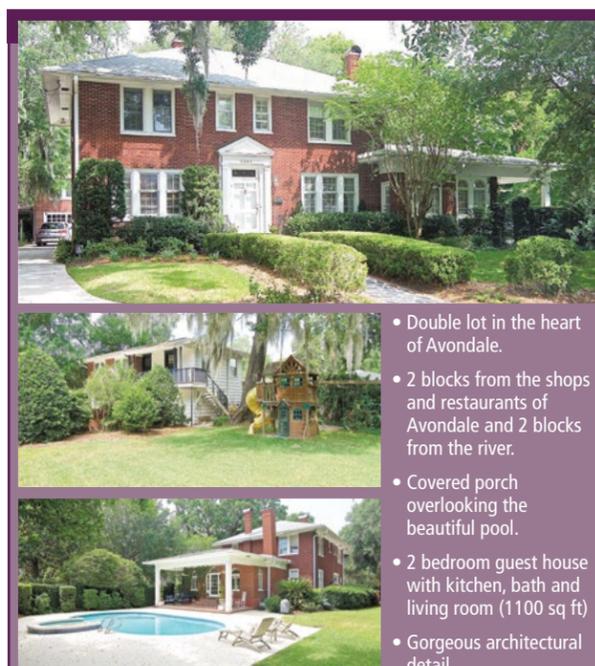
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Limousine scavengers raise money for women in need

Nearly 60 guests became much better acquainted with Jacksonville landmarks downtown and in San Marco as they competed in a photo scavenger hunt fundraiser Feb. 23 for Helping WIN, a nonprofit that supplies emergency funds to women in need.

Based out of the Grape and Grain Exchange in San Marco, seven teams comprised of eight to 10 players were ferried around in limousines donated by Barrs Transportation while seeking to interpret clues in an elaborate scavenger hunt concocted by Alan Howard and his wife, Helping WIN Executive Director Gwen Gallagher-Howard to raise money for Gallagher-Howard's nonprofit. Each team visited as many as 30 landmarks, earning points throughout the process, to subsequently raise \$10,000 for the two-year-old nonprofit that supplies emergency cash assistance with dignity to women in need.



Dan Stocker, Kelly Kristoff, Ryan Schwartz, Kim Kristoff and Mary Calcote

Since its inception, Helping WIN has funded 61 grants by assisting nine partner agencies, with 80% of its grants focused toward housing assistance.

Winning the event was the team Ain't Too Proud To Buy Clues led by former San Marco resident Ryan Schwartz. Schwartz's team included Kim Kristoff of Riverside, Kelly Kristoff of San Marco, Mary Calcote of Avondale and Dan Stocker of San Marco. "It was so much fun," said Kim Kristoff after the event.

The after party included drinks in the Grape and Grain's back room and refreshments catered by Biscotti's and a raffle.



Laura VanZee, Grace Stewart, Alan Howard and Gwen Gallagher-Howard, Linda Vorwerk and Beth Mixson



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Community Development Award winners recognized by LISC



Gina Donahoo with Nicole Bryan, Bryan Cotton, May Bryan and John Donahoo

PEOPLE AND PROJECTS IMPROVING JACKSONVILLE'S URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS

At its recent 20th Anniversary celebration, LISC or Local Initiatives Support Corporation Jacksonville announced five Community Development Award winners during its most recent event at TIAA Bank Field's East Club, Feb. 20.

The awards, which recognize those that align best with the mission to partner with public, private and non-profit groups to transform distressed neighborhoods into good places to live, work, conduct business and raise children. The event also honored the 20-year leadership of J.F. Bryan, IV, who was instrumental in the organization's founding and has served as the organization's Advisory Board Chair since its inception in 1999.

Awards given during the evening's program were: Igniter Award: Hope McMath, Yellow House Gallery of Art; Building Block Award: Vestcor Companies; Power of Community Award (Collective Impact): Arlington 20|20; Champion of Main Street Award: VyStar Credit Union; and the EPIC Award: Barnett Tower, LLC.

"The award winners are beacons of positive change in Jacksonville and collectively represent millions of dollars in economic impact," said Janet Owens, executive director of LISC Jacksonville. "Furthermore, it is important to note that LISC Jacksonville—as well as



Mari Kuraishi with Kerry Slattery

our partnerships with all of the past and present winners and nominees—would never have been possible if it were not for J.F. Bryan and his tenacity and commitment to bringing LISC to Jacksonville 20 years ago. We owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude."

Bryan, a Jacksonville native, spearheaded the \$1.25 million fundraising initiative that enabled LISC Jacksonville to open its doors. Under his leadership during the past 20 years, LISC Jacksonville has partnered with public, private and nonprofit organizations to invest nearly \$500 million in Jacksonville's urban core neighborhoods. These investments have resulted in building or preserving 2,105 affordable housing units and developing more than 1.7 million square feet of retail and community space, helping create more than 3,000 new jobs while reducing crime by 40-50% in Jacksonville's urban neighborhoods.

For more information about LISC Jacksonville and details about the awards, visit www.lisc.org/jacksonville.



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Local businesses raise funds to assist human trafficking victims

Four Jacksonville-based companies and one nonprofit came together to raise funds to help change lives of human-trafficking victims with a special event at Tabula Rasa Brewing Company Jan. 30.

Banning together to do good were Rethreaded, FreshJax, Tabula Rasa, Craft Cuisine and Amelia Toffee. Guests were treated to a bowl of specialty crafted chili, which included FreshJax Sunrise Coffee Rub, a sample of the new Rethreaded Irish Beer Toffee, and a pint Rethreaded coffee-infused beer by Tabula Rasa called Scarlet Joe, which is made to include

ingredients handcrafted by survivors of human trafficking.

Attendees were the first to try the newest Rethreaded collaboration, Sunrise Cowgirl's Coffee Rub, a coffee-infused chili rub spice made by FreshJax that includes ingredients made by Rethreaded. All food items were handcrafted to include ingredients made by human trafficking survivors.

The purpose of the event was to raise money and awareness for Rethreaded and its mission, to "renew hope and reignite dreams for survivors of human trafficking through business."



Randy, Ryan and Jackie Peterson, owners of Tabula Rasa Brewing



Danielle Fisher, Scott Lanigan with Gina Marie and Mike Kane



Kristin Keen, founder and CEO of Rethreaded with Anita Comisky, founder Amelia Toffee



Janie Sanders, and Stephanie Patton of Rethreaded



Mindy Logan and Florence Haridan



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THE WAY WE WERE: WAYNE W. WOOD

BY JENNIFER EDWARDS
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Many years before Wayne W. Wood, 74, became a noted historian, author, and the founder of Riverside Avondale Preservation, he was just a kid from Belle Glade in South Florida visiting grandparents Guy D. and Elma T. Wood during the summers in Riverside. That was decades before he would run a successful optometry business in Riverside and then go on to transform the area with an artistic mix of intelligence, passion, creativity, and rabble rousing.



Guy D. Wood and Elma T. Wood at their boardinghouse in Riverside, fondly called "The Woodshed."

You could say it started with his grandparents' expansive home at 1035 Riverside Avenue, one of 50 stunning historic mansions and period homes collectively called "The Row." The three-story manse on the corner with Bishop Gate Lane was set among beautiful scenery on a lot that backed up to the river where crabs, shrimp and all kinds of fish could be sought and caught at a moment's notice, and children could walk to City parks and entertainment nearby. Located between Memorial Park and what today is the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, the home had been initially built

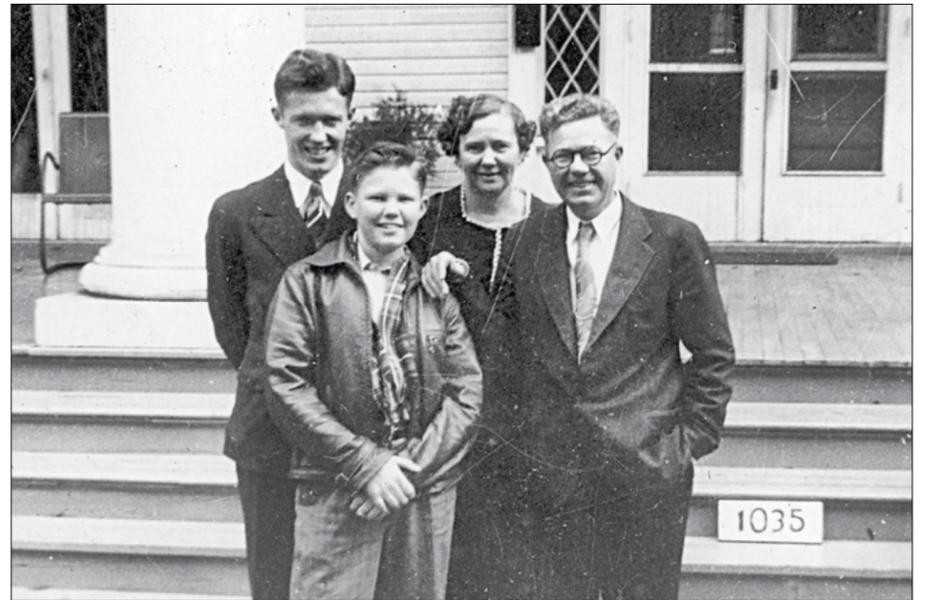
as the residence of an important Episcopal Church bishop.

By the 1950s, the bishop was gone, and the home had gone through several owners before Wood's grandparents bought it. As a youngster visiting with his older brother Darry, and later, his younger sister Rosanne, Wood was deeply impressed with his grandparents' apparent wealth, although he knows differently now.

"They had this big three-story house, and the white columns on the front were so big that my brother and I couldn't reach around and touch each other. We thought they were so rich because they had 65 people for dinner!" he remembered, smiling. It turned out, they weren't wealthy; they operated a boarding house and often barely made the mortgage. However, the boarding house would house generations of people and entertain him and his brother for years.

"When I got to visit, I got to stay in this great big old house, and often I would get to stay up on the third floor, and it was kind of mysterious up there. It was great in the summertime because they had vacation Bible school over at Riverside Methodist Church, where my grandparents were staunch members. Down the other way was a children's museum, where (Jacksonville's Museum of Science and History) got its start. My brother and I would always go over there, and they had a stuffed buffalo in the lobby, crazy stuff."

What would later be called "the Woodshed" would go on to shelter hundreds of people, including young people who liked to fish with Wood at the bulkhead at the end of the lot or shine lights to spot running shrimp and enfold them in cast nets. The lot extended all the way to the river.



From left: Dr. William H. "Bill" Wood, Wayne W. Wood, and Wayne's grandparents, Elma T. Wood and Guy D. Wood in front of the boarding house at 1035 Riverside Avenue.



Wayne W. Wood and Darry Wood with their parents, Guy D. Wood Jr. and Rose W. "Bee" Wood.

\$135,000 in today's dollars according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. At that time, they could barely afford the mortgage, and the large house required a tremendous amount of upkeep, including salaried housekeepers. To this day, Wood can't recall them painting it once in 40 years. A house like that required its owners to be wealthy and wealthy people lived elsewhere by that time, he explained.

"It was called the Woodshed. It was beloved," he recalled. "It became famous because thousands of people lived there when they were growing up, getting out of school, when they were in the military or had a job, and so all these young people lived there and they went on and got married," he explained. "My grandmother counted over 100 people who lived there that she helped get married. She was a matchmaker. When I came to Jacksonville and started my optometry practice (with his uncle Dr. William H. "Bill" Wood) in 1971, it seemed like every other day a new patient would come in and say, 'I lived with your grandparents in the Woodshed.'"

Wood described his grandparents as wonderful people.

"They both grew up in Georgia. My grandfather grew up in Valdosta and my grandmother grew up in Dixon," he reminisced. "They were just good, old, salt-of-the-earth people, they grew up in good Southern families." His grandparents had two sons, Wood's father, Guy D. Wood Jr., and his uncle, Bill, who was just 10 years older than Wayne, and an optometrist who inspired Wayne to follow in his footsteps.

"Bill started a practice in 1950, and then I graduated from optometry school in 1971,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

At the time Wood was visiting, the mansion was past its prime, he realizes now, but to his younger self, it was impressive, and the neighborhood where it was located, wondrous. And, his summers there would spark the reverence for history and historic homes that led him to found Riverside Avondale Preservation, an organization that has saved or preserved hundreds of structures and helped shape the integrity of what is now a defined historic district.

In the Weed's

The Episcopal Diocese of Florida built Wood's grandparent's home for its third bishop, the Rt. Rev. Edwin Garner Weed, in the early 1900s. Wood said it was built around 1910. After Weed, it went through several owners by the time the Woods bought it in the early 1930s in the Depression. Wood's grandparents bought it for \$9,000 with a mortgage, which equals about



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"The Woodshed," a boarding house run by Elma T. and Guy D. Wood for 40 years in Riverside, before the home's demolition.

and it was only natural that I came to Jacksonville and took over the practice with my Uncle Bill. My father was in the produce business in South Florida, and he forbade me from going into that business, nor did I want to. Everybody liked my Uncle Bill. He was a teenager and he grew up in that boarding house surrounded by dozens and dozens of young women staying in that house.

"He must have had a terrible time," he joked, laughing.

From "The Row" to RAP

Wood graduated from Emory University in 1967 with a degree in English but soon realized he needed to learn something else. "I wanted to be a writer and an artist but in my senior year I realized I wasn't very good at either of those things and I would always be working for someone else." He attended Houston College of Optometry and graduated in 1971, thinking, "I'll never be rich, and I'll never be poor, but I'll at least be able to be a writer and an artist and not be very good."

He joined his Uncle Bill's practice, which operated on the fifth floor of the Exchange Building, 218 W. Adams Street. The two would go on to work well together, except for what Wood called "one problem."

"He liked to hunt, and I was a tree-hugging environmentalist. He knew that if he had me come (join him) there would be someone to cover the entirety of hunting season. We grew the practice and I retired 10 years ago." That was after they moved their office to 1500 Riverside Avenue, at the corner of Riverside and Lomax, to a building that was later torn down.

During the early years of his practice, Wood noticed a disturbing trend: All of those striking, historic homes, the 50 called "the Row" and built after the Great Fire of 1901, were being torn down at a tremendous pace in the 1970s, the victims of both neglect and the encroachment of what was then St. Vincent's Hospital, which was expanding quickly in the area. There was no one to pay the enormous cost of upkeep for the homes, and the hospital had plenty of money to buy and demolish them.

The Woodshed was not spared. "(My grandparents), they were just like adoptive parents for hundreds and hundreds of people. Eventually, when they got too old

to run the boarding house, they moved to a little bungalow out in Ortega," he said. "My uncle, who was handling their business at the time, arranged for a restaurant to come (to the Woodshed), La Maison, which means the Mansion. It was a wonderful restaurant, a fancy, French gourmet restaurant. It had fancy wallpaper. The restaurant didn't make it. The food was wonderful, and the people loved it. But because they were close to the church three blocks away, they could not get a liquor license. Then they turned it into a cooking school, and they had a fire in there." They tore it down and built a small insurance building, which is still there today.

"The fire was the last nail in the coffin," he continued. "A big house like that, you need a lot of helpers: cooks and maids and yard people. There was an old African American couple behind there, that did the cooking and cleaning. By the time it got torn down, it was seven years before RAP got started. If (RAP) had been there, it would have gotten saved. It was in the wrong part of the cycle. There are only two houses out of the 50 that are still left, on the corner of Riverside and Lancaster. One is a bed and breakfast, the Riverdale Inn, and the other is a doctor's office."

It was all this destruction of history, including the Woodshed, that led Wood and three other like-minded individuals to found Riverside Avondale Preservation. Wood has been at the forefront of neighborhood preservation efforts ever since, writing 13 books about Jacksonville and its history. He is the founder and is a board member of Friends of Hemming Park, where his wife Lana Shuttleworth Wood, an acclaimed traffic-cone artist, lent her 8-foot-tall, arresting piece: "Origins: The Giant Chicken," just in time for One Spark. He also cofounded the Riverside Arts Market, which takes place under the Fuller-Warren bridge and now attracts more than 4,000 visitors each Saturday, according to the RAP homepage.



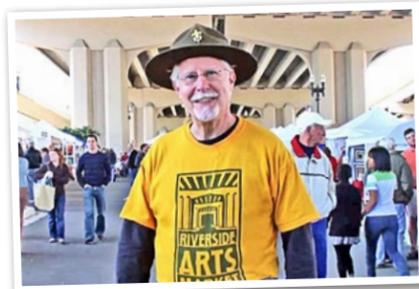
Lana Shuttleworth Wood and Wayne W. Wood near Lana's chicken sculpture, made from traffic cones.

Wood said it was only natural for him to come back to Riverside after graduating from optometry school, even though his grandparents' house was gone. There is a silver lining, however; he and Lana live in a home built right around the same time. Built in 1913, it became a hospital in the 1940s, when staff there built what Wood called "an abominable addition" that the Jacksonville Symphony tore down when it bought the home in 1976. Wood has lived there many years and decorating it lovingly with an assemblage of all kinds of art, including a 66-inch-by-60-inch oil-on-canvas wedding portrait of him and Lana by local artist Jeff Whipple.

Wood said that he loved growing up in Belle Glade in Palm Beach County but did not want to go back there. Multiple sources report that the town has continued to experience decline, poverty, and high criminal conviction rates. Wood said its vitality is gone.

"To this day, it is not some place I am especially fond of. It was a wonderful place to grow up, but it has died and is not a place many people would want to go to," he related.

Fortunately, Riverside-Avondale has so far been spared the same fate, thanks in large part to Wood with his community activism and leadership of RAP. Now, in the 21st century, the area has gotten the kind of nods the area got near the beginning of the 20th century.



Wood co-founded the Riverside Arts Market and marked its inception with an ever-changing array of headwear.



Lana Shuttleworth Wood and Wayne Wood in front of their historic home, built in 1913.

In fact, in 2010, The American Planning Association recognized the neighborhood. "(Nearly four decades after urban blight) Riverside Avondale is more than just a neighborhood; it's a destination for thousands who attend its weekly arts market, stroll along the riverbank, shop and dine in one of its quaint commercial corridors, relax in its parks, or attend worship services at one of its historic churches," it wrote on its website.

"Nobody can remember how horrible it was," Wood said. "This was a neighborhood that was truly dying."

Today, Wood takes note – with satisfaction – of the progress that Riverside and Avondale have made. "The great parks we have, just the design of the neighborhood. You have little Mom and Pop shopping centers ... you can talk to the person who owns the shop. You have schools and museums ... it's a rich neighborhood," he said.

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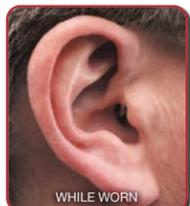
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Book on Red Coat history brings TPC alive

By Susan D. Brandenburg
Resident Community News

THE PLAYERS Championship 2020 at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach – March 10-15 – marks nearly six decades since the creation of the tournament by a small group of avid golfers who met regularly at San Jose Country Club back in the 1960’s.

THE PLAYERS 2020 also marks the launch of a big, beautiful book that pays tribute to that small group of pioneers and their predecessors whose tournament has resulted in over \$100 million donated to local charities.

The book, entitled “The Honorable Company of Past Chairmen, The Volunteer Spirit of Our Community,” chronicles the evolution of a local golf tournament with a \$50,000 purse – the Greater Jacksonville Open (GJO) in 1965 – to a major globally recognized PGA Tournament, THE PLAYERS 2020, with a \$15 million dollar purse!

The written history of the tournament’s volunteer chairmen, who are called the Redcoats, begins with an eloquent introduction by longtime Jacksonville sportscaster Sam Kouvaris. Noting how “golf brings people together,” and how, through the tournament, “a sleepy stretch of beach called Ponte Vedra, framed by Butler Boulevard to the north and Sawgrass Country Club to the south, was transformed into a vibrant, growing community,” Kouvaris calls the book “a love story.”

A love story, indeed, there is a common thread that weaves itself through the story of every Redcoat ... a spirit of generosity and caring that transcends the game of golf. Each member of the Honorable Company of Past Chairmen, including THE PLAYERS 2020 Chairman, Andy Carroll, is a community leader in his or her own right. Each Redcoat, past and present, has impacted thousands

of others through charitable donations engendered by the tournament, and all of the Chairmen have volunteered tirelessly for something bigger than themselves.

Among the many fascinating stories in the book is that of San Marco resident John Tucker, the first Redcoat and chairman of the 1965 GJO, whose main claim to fame in the 1960’s was that he worked for Southern Bell and could make all the long-distance phone calls he wanted. In those days, long distance was used primarily for emergencies. At no cost, Tucker could call big-name golfers across the nation and invite them to Jacksonville. He eventually became friends with several pros.

Tucker and Jack Niklaus used to go on father-son hunting and fishing trips with the late John Montgomery (1967 GJO Chairman). “The deal was that the first day of either hunting or fishing, you couldn’t take your own son; you had to take one of the other boys,” recalls Tucker. When Nicklaus played the TPC at Sawgrass in 1978, he had thousands of people following him when he stopped to speak to Tucker’s 14-year old son, Clay. “I’ve got some pictures for you from our duck hunt,” he told Clay. Remembering, Tucker smiles. “The whole world stopped while Jack dug in his bag and found the pictures to give to Clay. Then he walked on and won the tournament. That’s the kind of man Jack Nicklaus is.”

Another great Nicklaus story came from Kevin Gay, whose Dad, the late J. Thomas “Tommy” Gay, chaired the first Tournament Players Championship (TPC) at Sawgrass Country Club in 1977. An average golfer, Tommy Gay nervously walked up to the practice range between Johnny Miller and Jack Nicklaus, took a practice swing and hit the bucket of balls by mistake. “All the balls rolled out through Nicklaus’s legs and in between his feet,” said Kevin Gay. “Everybody froze. Nicklaus turned around and said, ‘Tommy, I’ve played a lot of golf, but this is the first time I’ve been hit on the practice range.’” Kevin Gay, CEO and founder of Operation New Hope, volunteered at the tournament throughout his boyhood and notes that his Dad never forgot the grace with which Nicklaus handled the practice range situation.

Golf irons abound at THE PLAYERS, but how about ironies? The late Don Davis, who served in the Florida House of Representatives and held many other civic and community positions, was the 1988 Chairman of the Mazda Senior TPC. Ironically, the first golf game Don Davis ever played was in Coronado, California at a high school match between Gene Littler and Billy Casper’s golf team



The Red Coats at a Glen Kernan gathering

and Don’s fledgling team. Many years later, golfing great Billy Casper won the tournament Don Davis was chairing!

Don Davis’s son, Robert Davis, Jr., chaired the 2013 PLAYERS Championship, won by Tiger Woods. “The tournament has been a part of my life since I was a kid. I grew up in it,” recalls Robert. “I remember when we used to make and sell cardboard periscopes with a mirror on the bottom and on the top and sell them to the spectators ... that was before the stadium course was built, giving everyone a great view of what was happening.”

Davis is a legacy Redcoat, as is Kevin Robbins, the 2004 PLAYERS chair, who followed in his father, GJO 1975 Chairman Frederick Robbins’ footsteps. Fuller Tresca, Jr. was the 1983 TPC Chairman and his son, Tim Tresca, chaired the 2007 PLAYERS Championship. Many of the past chairmen have children who have volunteered at the tournament for years and may someday follow their parents’ lead.

Rufus Dowell of San Marco married John and Ewo Tucker’s daughter, Angel, and learned about the art of volunteering from his father-in-law. “Watching John Tucker for many years,” said Rufus. “I’ve seen the way he works with and treats people. Volunteers need to respect you, don’t ask them to do anything you wouldn’t do.” All of the Redcoats, including Dowell, credit the volunteers with making the tournament successful, from the GJO’s volunteer force of 500 to today’s 6,000 plus volunteers at THE PLAYERS.

Anne Nimnicht of Lakewood, widow of the late Billie Nimnicht of the Nimnicht Family of Car Dealerships, was the first Lady Chairman of the TPC. Having volunteered since 1975 purely for the love of the tournament, Anne said it was a big surprise when her brother-in-law, Ed Nimnicht (Chair of the 1978 TPC), asked her to come to the San Jose Country Club and talk to

the Redcoat’s selection committee. As she rose up the ranks of the Vice-Chairmen (Bluecoats) for the next five years, Anne was singled out by newspaper headlines such as “Fore! Woman on Board!” Today, Anne’s son, Lee Nimnicht, is a Bluecoat on Chairman Andy Carroll’s 2020 Leadership Team, working toward a possible legacy chairmanship.

Then, there’s the story of Lester Varn of Ortega (1968 GJO Chairman) and Arnold Palmer (the golfer and the dog), and the story of the late Marc Smith (2003 PLAYERS Chairman) and his famous rendition of Jeremiah was a Bullfrog ... the stories are rich, and as Kouvaris indicated, filled with love.

There is a section in the book that is dedicated to the Professional Golf Association’s (PGA) Commissioners, Deane Beman (1974-1994), Tim Finchem (1995 – 2016) and Jay Monahan (2017 – present) who have helped make the tournament what it is today. Beman played the Greater Jacksonville Open in 1968 as a professional golfer, and in 1977, as PGA Commissioner, brought the TPC to the Sawgrass County Club. Beman wanted a permanent PGA Headquarters and he remembers “Richard Martin [1971 GJO Chairman] and I rented a helicopter and looked west to Green Cove Springs and north to the Georgia border and between here and St. Augustine ... We convinced the Fletcher brothers that if they would sell us enough property – 415 acres – for \$1.00, it would be to everyone’s benefit.” Beman kept the \$1.00 check, and his prediction definitely came true.

Ed Nimnicht, who still holds the distinction of being the youngest Redcoat at age 34, said, “If I was a professional golfer today, I would have a picture of Deane Beman and Arnold Palmer on my mantel. Palmer had the magnetism to get endorsements. He was the one that led all the athletes of today. Beman had the incredible vision.”

The book, by Susan D. Brandenburg and published by Hartley Press of Lakewood (Redcoat Michael Hartley chaired the 1998 PLAYERS Championship), will be available for pre-order at the 2020 PLAYERS Championship. Members of the Honorable Company of Past Chairmen who volunteered their time, talent and treasure to make THE PLAYERS Championship what it is today are hopeful that those who read this book will catch the charitable Redcoat spirit and volunteer in 2021.



The Red Coats in 1980

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North Florida Land Trust observes achievements, 20th anniversary

The North Florida Land Trust (NFLT) welcomed guests to the nonprofit's annual meeting appropriately held at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens in Riverside, as sprawling oaks and expansive gardens were a fitting backdrop for the organization tasked with preserving wild lands and tracts throughout North Florida.

As the leading advocacy group for land preservation and wildlife habitat throughout Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Union and Volusia Counties, the organization continues to protect Florida's great outdoors. The group celebrated major milestones in conservation in 2019, reflected on the past 20 years, while also looking ahead to the next 20 years.



Members of the Cummer Family present were Sandra Smith, Cheryl Cummer and Richey Smith

At the annual meeting, NFLT leaders recognized donors, volunteers and advocates for their dedication and commitment to the mission, which included awards for members of the McQuilkin Society. The award honors major donors to the land conservation organization and pays tribute to NFLT founder, Bill McQuilkin. Inductees were Kathi Chalk, Andrus and Natalie Healy, Bob and Cynthia Kastner, Connie and Ken McDaniel, Chuck and Diane Newman, Sally and Tony Perez, Matthew Rapp, Sandra and Richey Smith, Elizabeth Strawbridge, as well as Ben and Louann Williams. The event took place Feb. 19, 2020.



Pamela Telis with Renate and Joe Hixon and Rebecca Perry



Keith Holt with his wife Ann Holt



Natalie and Andrus Healy



Councilwoman Randy DeFoor and her husband, Rev. Canon Dr. J. Allison DeFoor, with Gayle and Mark Middlebrook

Morford retires from Willowbranch Library



Friends, community members and library staff were on hand to wish Willowbranch Library Manager Margaret Morford a happy retirement.

Friends, neighbors and Jacksonville Public Library officials gathered at the end of January at Willowbranch Library for a celebration both happy and sad: Wishing their beloved library manager Margaret Morford a happy retirement.

Dozens of people and clusters of balloons and decorations filled the library's community room downstairs as Morford viewed a spread laden with hors d'oeuvres and a big yellow and blue cake commemorating the occasion.

Morford served the library system for 15 years and spent the last two helping Willowbranch Library excel. She studied library science and classical Latin at Vanderbilt University and also attended Peabody College. While she was sad to go, she said she is also happy to have the opportunity to have the freedom to add all kinds of experiences to her life with her husband, Donald Morford.

"I'm going to do everything now that I'm retired," Morford said. "I have lists and lists."

Lynne Baldwin, manager, Jacksonville Public Library for the West Region, spoke glowingly of Morford. "Margaret is a really special person. She does a wonderful job," she said.



Lynne Baldwin, manager Jacksonville Public Library West region, and retiring Willowbranch Library manager Margaret Morford

District 14 City Councilwoman Randy DeFoor was there to celebrate, along with Tim Rogers, director of the Jacksonville Public Library. His feelings were mixed, too.

"We are always glad when someone can retire, but we really miss when they are gone," he explained. He said that often library staff would come back to volunteer. But so far, no dice.

Judging from Ms. Morford's Facebook page, it will probably be a while. Three days later, her place of retirement read "Retired and Loving It!"

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In Memoriam

Mary Elizabeth (Bibbie) Riley

May 14, 1936 – January 28, 2020

Anyone who met Mary “Bibbie” Riley, who passed away Jan. 28 at the age of 83, most likely knew about her sweet spirit but perhaps not her competitive nature.

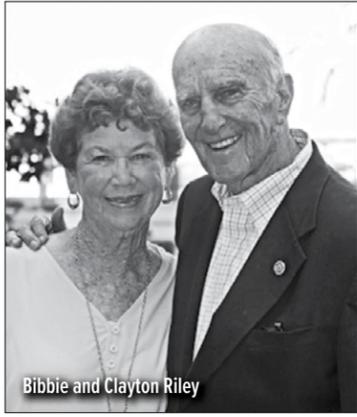
A native of Coral Gables, Fla., Riley graduated from St. Theresa Catholic School, where she excelled in many sports. Continuing her education at the University of Florida, she was a member of Chi Omega and a Sigma Nu sweetheart, and met her first husband, Dorrell Ingram.

After marrying Ingram and moving to Jacksonville, she continued her athletic endeavors. She played tennis on the A-teams at Timuquana and San Jose Country Clubs for many years, then she took up golf. All the while she also volunteered for the American Cancer Society, the Salvation Army, Laurel Garden Club, the American Heart Association, as she simultaneously raised five children and served as an active member of St. Matthew’s Catholic Church.

In 1978, Ingram passed away from cancer leaving her a widow with five children. It’s been said of Bibbie that her biggest attribute was her devotion to the Lord. She attended Mass almost every day and from that she drew strength. Four years later, she was blessed to meet and marry Clayton Riley, a man whose first wife had passed away from cancer. Together, their family became a Brady Bunch mix of her five and his six children!

Jim Riley remarked that after his mother had died, his father started dating and would bring the ladies home to meet him. As the youngest of the Riley brood, Jim was a senior in high school when Clayton brought Bibbie home with him from a tennis date to see if she passed Jim’s “veto” power.

“From the first day, I knew there was something special about Bibbie,” Jim said. “I went off to college, and they got hitched! Bibbie was the glue that brought this big family together. She loved her family. Loved to brag about her kids and grands,” he said noting that it didn’t matter what accomplishment you might mention in a typical conversation with Bibbie, she always had to do a little one-upmanship with a story about one of her children or grandchildren.



Bibbie and Clayton Riley

She was everyone’s biggest fan, said her grandson, Jack McCormack. “Whether she was sitting on the couch talking about sports or cooking great food at Thanksgiving, she always gave love and put everyone before her. She showed us how to be a good person. She always said, ‘if you can’t say something nice don’t say anything at all.’ Her

compassion and love shaped her as a person. She used to come read to my kindergarten class, and she was so proud of me and I was so proud to have her there in my classroom.”

Bibbie and her second husband shared 37 years together. Fortunately, with 11 children and many grandchildren and great grandchildren, they loved big gatherings like their “epic” Super Bowl parties, Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings. However, Bibbie had a quiet, reflective side as well. She loved to work in the yard. She had a calm, quiet spiritual nature, which was evident in her devotion to her church and the many ministries of which she was a part. She was gracious. Welcoming. It was said that there were reflections of God in Bibbie Riley.

During the recent celebration of her life, where lilting voices lifted her up by singing the verse, “on Eagle’s wings so God could hold her in the palm of his hand,” the minister stated that the best way to thank God who gave us life was to live that life fully. “Bibbie Riley said, “Thank you, God, in capital letters,” he emphasized, referring to the exemplary life she had led.

Bibbie is survived by her husband, Clayton; two sons, David Ingram (Terry) and Andy Ingram (Tracy); two daughters, Laurie Stottlemeyer (Joe) and Susan McCormack (Vincent), as well as Clayton’s four sons, Ford Riley (Elizabeth), Scott Riley (Missy), Paul Riley (Kelly), Jim Riley (Dana), and two daughters Martha Love Rotella (Jay) and Jenifer Skinner (Chip). Also surviving are her sisters Louise Bennett and Ann Taylor and brother, Jimmy FitzGibbon (Sharon). Bibbie also leaves behind many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her first husband, Dorrell Ingram and her daughter, Jennifer Ingram, as well as her brothers, Tommy and Mike FitzGibbon and her sister, Jane Lennon.

In Memoriam

Michael Cascone Sr.

July 29, 1920 – Dec. 22, 2019

Michael Cascone Sr., 99, died at his home Dec. 22 after having lived a long life dedicated to serving others. His many accomplishments included founding what would later become VyStar Credit Union. He and his wife, Dorothy, who died in 2018, spent many decades volunteering for organizations in their community, his



son Michael Cascone Jr. recalled.

“We were very blessed to have he and my mother as long as we did,” said Cascone Jr., 76. “My mother died in January of 2018. She was 96. We are certainly sad to lose them but very much grateful to have them as long as we did.”

Cascone Jr. explained that his grandfather was a merchant marine who delved into commercial fishing and water transportation. His father was born in 1920, not too long before the disastrous economic downturn of the U.S. stock market and other economic challenges such as the Dust Bowl, which prompted the difficult era known as the Great Depression.

“Obviously, during the Depression, times were tough, and they did whatever they could to make ends meet. He learned at an early age to look out for others as well, and he always carried that background with him,” he said.

In his youth, Cascone Sr. worked at an A&P on Eighth Street in the Springfield neighborhood and later worked for NAS Jax in a civilian role. He graduated from Andrew Jackson High School in 1937 and started working at NAS Jax in 1941, the same year he married Dorothy Cunningham at Holy Rosary Catholic Church. In 1942, he joined the Army Air Forces where he serves as a tun-turret mechanic, and then returned home in 1945, after the end of World War II. He stayed with NAS Jax more than 30 years, retiring in 1976 as the civilian personnel director, the chief civilian of the station’s many different commands. He and Dorothy had five children, all of whom survive them.

After his return to NAS, Cascone Sr. noticed a need for a credit union after seeing that many NAS Jax employees were being penalized heavily for borrowing money, his son said.

“When he got out of the service, he went back to NAS and the (civilian) industrial relations department and one of the things he noticed over the next couple of years was there were a lot of people having their wages garnished,” Cascone Jr. explained, noting that after he had checked with the military payroll office,

his father discovered military personnel were purchasing civilian clothes at astronomical interest rates that they would never have the ability to pay back. “It appeared to my father that the sellers were charging usury rate, something up to 25%. People were paying off interest, not paying off the principal, they were getting their wages garnished. He went to the bosses and asked around about starting a credit union,” Cascone Jr. said.

A similar effort had begun in the ’40s and failed, so Cascone Sr. had his work cut out for him. However, he finally found enough people to put up \$5 each to form the union, which was a lot of money at that time. Even after the union was sold and become VyStar, Cascone Sr. volunteered on the board for decades, his son said.

Cascone Sr. served the community and many other organizations too numerous to mention, but which included the Jacksonville Urban League and Boy Scouts of America. He is survived by his five children: Marie Wilkinson (Larry), Michael Jr. (Elizabeth), Michele Cugno (Joe), Sharon Ray (Eddy), and John Joseph (Jennifer). Mike had 16 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

“Obviously, during the Depression, times were tough, and they did whatever they could to make ends meet. He learned at an early age to look out for others as well, and he always carried that background with him.”

— Michael Cascone Jr.

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In Memoriam David Asbury Howard, Sr.

Feb. 14, 1920 to Dec. 15, 2019

Though never a shipper or cargo carrier, David Asbury Howard Sr. was one of the most influential people in the maritime industry. From his office in Jacksonville, the writer and publisher informed leaders in shipping and navigation of emerging and complex regulations, earned the trust and respect of industry representatives worldwide, and received many awards, including Shipping Industry Man of the Year.



expectations of all of them, Howard was respected by his neighbors, friends and business associates for his dedication to his family and profession, strong convictions, wit and intelligence.

“He stood firm in what he believed, but he would listen to reason. He liked to be in control of what was happening, which he passed down to us,” Hayes said. “He enjoyed life.”

By the time he died at age 99 on Dec. 15, 2019, Howard had called Jacksonville’s Historic District home for nearly three quarters of a century. After serving with the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II in the North Atlantic, North Africa, Caribbean and Pacific, in 1945 he started working for United Press International in Raleigh, N.C.

Born Feb. 14, 1920, in Nashville, N.C., to educators Fred and Annie Howard, he was raised in nearby Black Creek. He started college at the University of North Carolina as a math major until, as he often claimed, a B grade early on changed his direction. Not willing to accept a B for such a precise science, Howard switched majors and graduated from the university with a journalism degree in 1940.

On Dec. 23, 1946, he married Kitty Jo Hickman from Jacksonville and the newlyweds settled into an apartment in Avondale then started raising a family in a small home in Ortega around the corner from her parents. When their third child, Hayes Howard, was a toddler, the family moved from Baltic Circle to Venetia where their four children grew up. Hayes’ son Edward now lives in that house.

New to Jacksonville, the young reporter worked for *The Florida Times-Union* covering the port and maritime industry and quickly learning the ropes, so to speak. Because of his expert knowledge and accurate reporting, industry leaders asked him to start a port magazine devoted to their trade.

Two years after his mother died in 2000, his father married Nancy Cavanaugh Tucker, who survives him, said Hayes, calling them both extraordinary women.

The first edition of the *Jacksonville Seafarer* came out in 1952. He formed Howard Publications, Inc., in 1954 and launched the *Florida Journal of Commerce*, a maritime and trade publication, in 1959.

Lovingly remembered by his three sons and daughter as a hard worker and near-perfectionist who had extremely high

“As a reporter he understood the value of building relationships and being able to talk to people about their concerns and issues, especially in a specialized business



such as international logistics,” said Hayes, who became his dad’s business partner and now serves as president of ComPair Data, Inc., operator of the BlueWater Reporting ocean shipping research service.

In the early 1970s, with increased global competition and the introduction of containerization, both carriers and shippers looked to Howard to create a national publication to assist them with the complexity of serving international markets. “He knew people on the carrier side managing international cargo and the shipper side, such as DuPont and Corning people,” Hayes said. “They knew his reputation as a reporter, and when they didn’t understand the changes taking place, they turned to him for help. Both shippers and carriers, seeing a need for a publication to help bridge the misunderstandings that were occurring because of the growing complexity, encouraged my father to start *American Shipper*.”

and renamed it *American Shipper*. Howard, who became editor emeritus in 2000, remained involved with the publication until they sold it to FreightWaves, Inc., last year. Also, in 2000, Howard was inducted into the Maritime Hall of Fame for his editorial contributions to the development of the maritime industry.

“It was a good partnership,” said Hayes, who was in charge of sales. “He had the knowledge of the industry and was an incredibly strong editor who had the ability to train young reporters how to go after information and present it.”

Howard led by example and if there was an error in the magazine his employees knew to call the people involved before they saw it. “He believed very strongly in being honest and fair, and if you make a mistake, you own up to it as quickly as possible,” Hayes said.

An avid reader, mostly of science and history, Howard was happiest outdoors—from family trips to the Okefenokee Swamp to cultivating wife Nancy’s rose garden in his later years. He enjoyed yearly trips to the mountains, too. Acknowledging his support of education and the environment, his family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Okefenokee Swamp Park Foundation Education Fund, 5700 OSP Road, Waycross, GA 31503.

In addition to Nancy and Hayes, Howard is survived by sons David and Linn, daughter Kathy Houser, Nancy’s daughters Jane Sigalos and Mary Fouraker, 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. One goal he barely missed was living to be 100 like his siblings. Sister Margaret Nicholson is 103 and sister Francis Norton is 101. His brother, Fred, died last year at 104.

Hayes believes his father will be remembered mostly for his honesty and approach to life. “He was always honest and straight forward with everyone,” he said.

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Animal House

By Julie Kerns Garmendia Resident Community News

PLAYING SANTA TO THE HOMELESS AND THEIR PETS

Cynthia Saben, employee of the Jacksonville Electric Authority and dedicated animal advocate, had an idea in November 2018 that would have a profound impact on her life. She wanted to provide a hot breakfast and an equally warm helping of respect, care and assistance to the homeless and their pets, on Christmas morning. She chose Main Street Park as the breakfast location, where she had seen many homeless people with pets congregate. She posted a message on Facebook, explained her idea and requested volunteers or donations. Saben expected that she and a couple of friends would hand out biscuits, gravy and juice that first Christmas.

“Cynthia is a caring person who always sees the homeless and wants to help them. After Thanksgiving she called me and said, ‘Hey, what are you doing on Christmas morning?’” Michelle Blanco said. “She literally put that first Christmas Breakfast in the Park together in one month.”

Blanco, a San Jose resident, works in contract logistics warehousing and is a volunteer animal rescue transporter with Saben. She also was thrilled to volunteer for an event to help the homeless and their pets. Blanco adopted her lab/pit bull-mix senior dog, Chopper, from a family facing eviction when their landlord abruptly decided to prohibit pit bulls.

Christmas Breakfast in the Park (CBITP) was the inspiring result of Saben’s original idea. Fifty volunteers responded during the month before Christmas 2018. Enough donations poured in, along with Saben and her friends’ personal contributions, to feed 350 people plus pets. They were even able to provide some basic personal necessities for guests plus some supplies and toys for their pets.

“I was astonished at the response. So many people wanted to help! It grew to three tents and 60 dozen eggs the first Christmas,” she said. “I knew that the homeless shared whatever food they had with their pets. I wanted to be sure that on Christmas morning at least, they would have a generous hot meal for themselves and food for the animals they love. Their pets are homeless, too, out in all weather with no shelter, enduring the same hardships as their owners.”

In preparation for the second CBITP in 2019, Saben chose Confederate Park and repeated her Facebook message. Many volunteers returned, the list of donors and supporters grew, and the city offered portable

toilets and garbage collection. Saben hoped there might be enough left-over donated funds to pay the application fee required to form a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization.

The 2019 event drew a line of people waiting at Confederate Park before 8 a.m. Not only did Saben and her elves deliver Christmas breakfast to the homeless and pets in Confederate Park, they also provided dinners to many in the surrounding neighborhoods. Approximately 400 hot meals were served. Left-over food, juice and coffee were delivered to the Cathedral Residences Senior Living centers downtown and to the Hands & Feet Foundation Westside, stretching the outreach and positive impact of CBITP even further.

“This was a small spark of an idea that became two Christmas morning events to help needy people and pets. How the community rallied to participate has been amazing. We had many more volunteer cooks this Christmas. Increased donations bought extra personal care items that people needed, like socks and toiletries,” Saben said. “Both years American Legion Post #137 members volunteered and donated, with special thanks to Richard Lane, Commander of American Legion #137 and Roger Jones, both repeat volunteers who cheerfully cracked and scrambled 90 dozen eggs!” The Legion Post members want to help the homeless because, unfortunately, so many turn out to be veterans, according to Post Commander Richard Lane.

Elizabeth Haugen learned about the Christmas Breakfast event through American



Homeless guest Jessie and his dogs, Tinkerbelle & Midnight

Legion Post #137 and decided to join their efforts to raise money and support the event. An avid quilter, she donated two quilts to be raffled off to raise money to purchase event supplies.

“The raffle was such a success it raised \$750. A friend of mine who is also a quilter, Lorraine Happy, donated ‘The Quilt of Valor’ which she wanted me to present as a gift to a veteran attending the breakfast,” Haugen said. “I met veteran David McGuffin there, who talked to me at length about his military service. He was a very special person, and I gave him Lorraine’s patriotic quilt. He was

so moved and said he had never received anything like that in his life.”

A major supporter from day one was Anthony “Doc Tony” Crothers, the Jacksonville chiropractor who financially contributes and volunteers to help local non-profits. Along with his contributions to help the homeless, Crothers is known for his passion to save animals and support local animal rescue groups.

“Doc Tony, his assistant Paula Michelle Cloud and their staff worked tirelessly both years,” Saben said. “They provided dog food and toiletry bags filled with personal care items, socks, reusable water bottles, and approximately 500 tee shirts for the event.”

Saben’s longtime friend from both Murray Hill and San Jose, Billie Jean Lentes, is not the least surprised at the success of CBITP. Lentes is known as a go-to “Uber Lady”, always ready to transport animals to vet appointments. She lent her transport skills to pick up donations, personally stored event items and loaned tables for the breakfast.

“Cynthia is so passionate about helping others and helping animals, you’ve just got to support her. Whatever she asks me to do, I know it’s for a worthy cause,” Lentes said. “Community outreach is vitally important. The government requires too much red tape and takes too long to act. Local residents see a need and respond much faster and more effectively. Christmas Breakfast in the Park is a perfect example of what the community can accomplish by working together.”

Volunteers helped in countless ways, and Saben wished she could name and thank every adult, youth, organization and business



Christmas Breakfast in the Park founder Cynthia Saben, with volunteer Elizabeth Haugen and veteran David McGuffin, for whom the quilt was given. The quilt, named The Quilt of Valor, was created and donated by Haugen’s friend, quilter Lorraine Happy.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 43

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who participated. Pastor Russell Kopp of Highland Freedom Baptist Church drove dinners to community residents who could not come to the park. Food and coffee tents were staffed by repeat volunteers, who kept pouring hot coffee, cocoa and handed out 500 water and juice bottles. At the care tent, volunteers helped guests choose a coat, jacket or clothes, a toiletry bag, small fleece blanket, nylon backpacks, gently worn work boots or ladies purses filled with feminine products, ChapStick, razors, deodorant, wet wipes, hand sanitizer, small combs, soap, or shampoo.

“One gentleman we met both years named Jessie, brought his two dogs, Midnight and Tinkerbell in the cart we were able to give him last year. It was in rough shape, so PitStop Pit Bull Rescue Transport donated a new upgraded cart for his beloved dogs,” Saben said.

Saben, with Kimberly Traylor and Jeannette Castro, all volunteer for PitStop, which is a major founding supporter of CBITP. They secured dog and cat food and supplies from Pet Supermarket at Jacksonville Beach and Earth Pets in Mandarin. Dog leashes and collars were among the most popular donated pet gifts, appropriately imprinted with “Unleash Kindness.”

Many more animal rescue advocates volunteered, including Connie Cannaday

of The London Sanctuary Hound Rescue. Erik Stordahl of The Old Dog House was a major matching funds event donor.

Several caring dentists and their staffs donated adult and youth toothbrushes, toothpaste and other items: Riverside Dental, Dr. Howard Fetner, Crovatto & Edward’s Family Dentistry, Normandy Dentistry, and Eagle Harbor Dental.

Fuccillo Nissan of Clearwater donated a \$500 gift card. Heather Deane at Color Fusion Custom Printing and Apparel, donated flyers and care bags. Winn Dixie gave a substantial discount on oversized boxes of biscuits. One W.E. Cherry Elementary teacher who loves animals, Rebekah Harp, and her students created approximately 500 Christmas cards to distribute.

Saben plans to complete the 501 (c) 3 Tax-Exempt Status Application process so that Christmas Breakfast in the Park can become a Florida non-profit charity in 2020. She is hard at work on CBITP 2020, with the goal of locating the event closer to the library downtown on Main Street. Saben would like to provide guest seating with donated tables and chairs to better serve more guests, more comfortably. Interested volunteers, donors, or any business that would like to become a corporate sponsor, can go to Christmas Breakfast in the Park’s Facebook page or contact Saben at cynthiasaben@gmail.com.

Canine Wedding: A Social Highlight of the Season

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

It was a May- September wedding; the bride a mere four years old and the groom fourteen. As shocking as it seems, the service was inspired by love and devotion. “Nola and Rufus love each other so much, they should get married,” said young Mayling Meyers of Nola Myers and Rufus Jones.

And so, they did.

The touching (and hilarious) ceremony was conducted at the home of the groom’s human parents, Glenn Jones and Ron Episcopo. The bride’s family was ecstatic that their rescued mixed breed female had found such a stable and refined gentleman for her spouse. The lovely pooch was escorted down the aisle by their matchmaker, Mayling Myers, while young Luke Myers acted as the collar bearer. Blake Osner provided voiceovers for the speechless couple.

In attendance, along with the family of the beautiful bride, who wore a white veil from Poodle of Hollywood, was Rob Levine CEO of First Coast No More Homeless Pets. Many other guests also enjoyed the festivities, which including music by Mason Manion, who, of course, played the couple’s favorite song, “How Much is that Doggie in the Window.”



Mayling and Luke Myers with Rufus and his bride, Nola

An unfortunate interruption occurred when Tucker Yates, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, yipped an objection to the proceedings, but that was dismissed as the yappings of a jealous ex. The happy couple was united in matrimonial bliss and enjoyed a reception including a cake topped with little images of the blushing bride and her handsome Labradoodle husband. The couple will spend their honeymoon at the Dew Bark Inn after the aging groom gets a much-needed nap.

Desiring to assist their less fortunate canine companions, the happy couple requests that family and friends make donations to First Coast No More Homeless Pets at fcnmhp.org.

Budding Bolles journalists support Humane Society

Bolles upper school students from its photography IV and The Bugle classes participated in a special service project at the Jacksonville Humane Society Feb 4. The experience was a lesson in using skills and trade to make a difference in the lives of others – particularly many of the society’s four-legged residents.

At the Humane Society the students met some of the animals. The photography students used their cameras to capture pet portraits of the adoptable dogs and cats while journalism students wrote pet bios. The goal of their work was to promote the adoption of the animals. Humane Society officials will use the photos and write-ups to engage with the community on pets looking for a local home.

Students from Jacksonville’s historical neighborhoods who took part in the program were Atticus Dickson of San Marco, Kloe Brill of San Jose, Brooke Geddes of Ortega, and Ashley Khoo of San Jose.



Sarah Scherkenbach, Atticus Dickson, Humane Society Education and Outreach Manager Savanna New, Kloe Brill, Brooke Geddes, Sophia Mitchell, Kristen McGrath. Bottom row: Ava Sickler and Ashley Khoo.

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Six Boy Scouts from Troop 2 fly up to Eagle

Six Boy Scouts from Troop 2, which meets at St. Johns Presbyterian Church received their Eagle award during a special ceremony Jan. 26. Those who were honored were Mason Doherty, Reid Hampton, Arturo Hernandez, Reedy Monahan, James Monteleone and John Wright Stanly.

A senior at Episcopal School of Jacksonville, Doherty has loved the experiences and friendships afforded him by his association with Troop 2. He has participated in numerous "high adventure" trips to National Parks in the US as well as Philmont Scout ranch with adults and older Scouts from Troop 2. For his Eagle project, he repaired large sections of fencing at the Clay County Soccer Club fields and repainted all fencing surrounding the complex. He had great support from his fellow Scouts and friends who assisted in the effort. As a soccer player at Clay County, he enjoyed the chance to impact a facility that has been a large part of his sporting life. Doherty said his favorite scout memory was getting lost while climbing the Tooth of Time in Philmont Scout Ranch, NM. "We ended up climbing almost vertically up a cliff and over an entire rock field, basically blazing our own trail, but we finally reached the summit. Even though we were completely lost, and it was a risky and terrifying climb, it was the best view I have ever seen in my entire life," he said.

Hampton is a senior at Episcopal School of Jacksonville, where he is a captain and six-year varsity wrestler, and a member of the rowing team. He began scouting at an early age when he joined Troop 2's Cub Pack, achieving his Arrow of Light, and then crossing over into the troop itself. His Eagle project involved hand-stripping and refinishing the floors in two youth rooms at Riverside Park United Methodist Church. Due to the complexity of the project, Hampton organized, scheduled and led work crews from Troop 2, his wrestling team, his rowing team and his peer group, in order to complete the project. His



Bottom Row: Arturo Hernandez, Reedy Monahan, Reid Hampton. Top Row: John Wright Stanly, Mason Doherty, James Monteleone

favorite scout memory is from his trip to Northern Tier, a Boy Scout high adventure canoeing trek in the wilderness of Manitoba, Canada. Early one morning his crew set off before the sun rose. As they paddled along in the early morning hours, he said he noticed how the beautiful, pristine landscape around him reflected off the water. He then witnessed the most magnificent sunrise he had even seen. He said he will forever remember this wonderful experience, as well as the great friends and experiences that scouting and Troop 2 have provided him.

Hernandez graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 2019 and is currently attending FCCJ. His Eagle project was restoring a shed at St. John's Presbyterian Church. The church generously allows the troop to store a majority of its camping gear and supplies in the shed outside of the church's main building. His project was to repaint and fix some of the siding of the building since some pieces of wood were rotting. Like his friend Doherty, Hernandez's favorite scout memory is getting lost climbing the Tooth of Time in Philmont Scout Ranch, NM, and he agreed that the vertical climb to the summit was risky but provided the best view he had ever seen in his entire life.

Monahan is a senior at Bishop Kenny High School where he is a captain of the varsity sailing team and on the varsity golf team. His Eagle project involved building a fence for

Navy Ortega Lakeshore (NOL) Little League at NAS, where he played baseball for many years. His favorite scout memory is attending the high adventure trip to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Especially memorable was having a snowball fight on the second highest peak, Mt. Phillips, at an elevation of almost 12,000 ft.

Monteleone attends Bishop John J. Snyder High School and is a member of the school's golf team and team manager for the soccer team. He is also a member of the North Florida Junior Golf League and plays tournaments most weekends. For his Eagle Scout project, Monteleone built two handicap-accessible picnic tables for the Willowbranch Rose Garden located on Park Street. He was able to get the materials donated for the project, and with the help of Scoutmaster Alan Wilson, Barry Burton, his dad and fellow scouts, built and installed the tables in the community garden. Monteleone has a few scouting memories that really stand out. He really enjoyed the North Carolina summer trips, especially going down Sliding Rock, white water rafting, and the Dillard House food eating competitions. He received his scuba diving certification and attended the Boys Scouts Sea Base in the Florida Keys on two separate occasions. Another favorite experience was attending the National Scout Jamboree in West Virginia in 2017.

Wright Stanly is a senior at Stanton College Preparatory School. Throughout his years at Troop 2, he enjoyed the friendships he's made with his fellow scouts and the mentorship he received from the adult leaders of the troop. For his Eagle project, he cleaned up the surrounding landscape, replaced the siding, and painted a shed at his church, St. John's Presbyterian. His favorite scouting memory was white water kayaking in North Carolina on the troop's annual summer trip. In addition to scouting, he enjoys running for Stanton's cross-country team and participating in student government.

Community is welcome at RPDS dualathlon, tot trot

Riverside Presbyterian Day School (RPDS) administrators and staff hope families from all over Jacksonville and beyond will join them and their students March 28 during Daily's Riverside Kids Duathlon and Tot Trot. The races begin at the school, 830 Oak St., are aimed at teaching children to live a healthy lifestyle, so they are fit for life, and reflect the school's emphasis on health and fitness. The event is open to all participants and their families, and the first race commences at 8 a.m.

"Through the addition of the Daily's Riverside Kids Duathlon & Tot Trot, we hope more children in Jacksonville and the surrounding area will be exposed to the lifelong benefits of being fit for life through healthy eating habits, daily exercise, hard work and determination," school staff stated on a RPDS web page dedicated to the event.

The duathlon (run, bike, run) for ages 5-15 begins at the school and wends its way through Riverside. The Tot Trot will take place on the RPDS track and is for children ages 6 and under. The junior duathlon is for ages 5 through 9 and the senior race is for ages 10 to 15. Races conclude on the RPDS campus with a celebratory festival, complete with child-friendly activities such as inflatables, face painters and other activities. Participants are encouraged to explore Riverside afterward as well. The registration fees are \$40 for the duathlon, \$20 for the trot. More information can be found on the school website.



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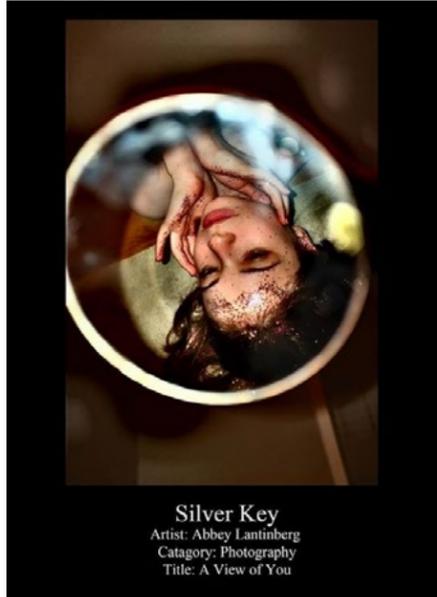
St. Johns art students win awards in scholastic competition



Gold Key

Artist: Haley Juskowski
Category: design
Title: Cardboard Phone

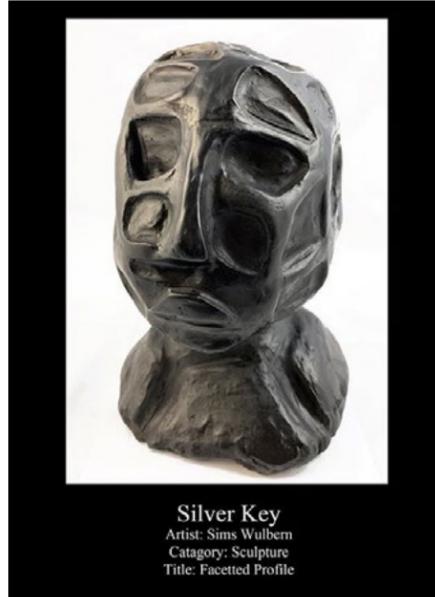
Artwork by Haley Juskowski



Silver Key

Artist: Abbey Lantinberg
Category: Photography
Title: A View of You

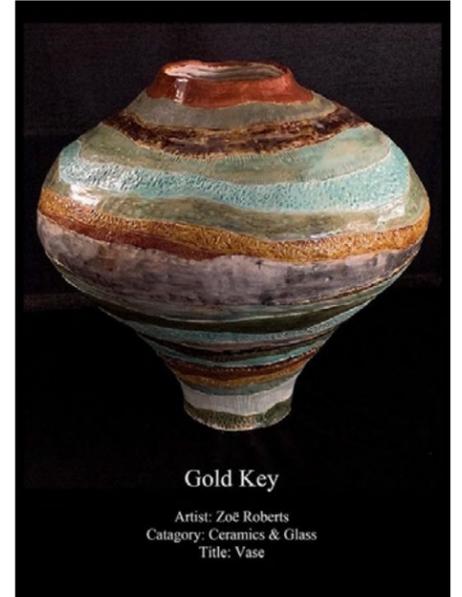
Artwork by Abbey Lantinberg



Silver Key

Artist: Sims Wulbern
Category: Sculpture
Title: Faceted Profile

Artwork by Sims Wulbern



Gold Key

Artist: Zoë Roberts
Category: Ceramics & Glass
Title: Vase

Artwork by Zoe Roberts

Five students from Jacksonville's historic neighborhoods were among 36 student artists from St. Johns Country Day School, to be recognized in the 2020 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Collectively, the St. John's students took home 89 awards.

Haley Juskowski of Ortega Farms took home a Gold Key and an Honorable Mention.

Abbey Lantinberg of San Jose was recognized with a Silver Key and an Honorable Mention, while Lulu Nowicki of Avondale earned a Silver Key, and Zoë Roberts of Murray Hill won a Gold Key. Sims Wulbern of Ortega Forest took home with three awards – two Honorable Mentions and a Silver Key.

"It's a significant achievement to earn any of these awards," said Visual Arts Department Chair Anna Reynolds-Patterson. "Each

award represents our students' dedication to creative and technical artistic skill. We are proud of these artists for excelling at this level, especially considering many of the awards were received by students still in Middle School."

Since 1923, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have recognized the vision, ingenuity, and talent of youth throughout the United States and provided opportunities for creative teens to be celebrated. The Awards are presented by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. The Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talent and present their remarkable work to the world through the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. The Awards give

students opportunities for recognition, exhibition, publication, and scholarships.

Students across America submitted nearly 320,000 original works this year in 29 different categories of art and writing.

Also winning awards for St. Johns were: Yashas Aprameya, Olivia Belland, Landon Brafford, Kassie Burton, Addison Ellis, Brooke Ferris, Kelsey Gregson, Kinley Hall, Kyla Hartwell, Lea Hartwell, Natalie Higingbotham, Desiree Holmberg, Anna Kemp, Mary Kate Kent, Khloe Lloyd, Michael Maytin, Tyce Moore, Ava Morin, Mia Morin, Riley Myers, Delaney Payton, Kylie Rodriguez, Kendall Sage, Noelle Sanford, Emma Schultz, Claire Trammell, Laney Valdivia, Reagan Wagstaff, Laura Walden, Ruihong Wang, and Sophia Woolard.



Sims Wulbern



St. Marks students show love with art supplies

As part of their service learning project, St. Mark's second grade students partnered with Art with a Heart in Healthcare to collect art supplies for young patients staying at Wolfson Children's Hospital. The supplies were placed in "Art-to-Go" bags and blessed in chapel on Feb. 12. In addition, students created keepsake pictures in art class that were given to patients along with the bags on Valentine's Day to brighten their day.

"We loved watching the joy and excitement our students had while working on this special project," said Dina Middlekauff and Sue Fligor, second grade teachers at St. Mark's.

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John Stockton students run best 'High Five' campaign yet

The Friends of Stockton this year realized its most successful "High Five" campaign to date at John Stockton Elementary School on Carlisle Road. During the campaign, students and friends group members asked families, friends and neighbors to give students a "high five," i.e. a \$5 donation to support art, music and PE programs as well as the robotics team at the school. All the funds will go toward those goals as well as providing science consumables and new audiovisual equipment for the cafeteria and outdoor courtyard.

The children who turned in donations got a paper hand recognizing their contribution, which was hung in the school cafeteria. This year, Stockton students took the initiative and hosted "handstands" around their neighborhoods selling lemonade, homemade bracelets and even copies of books they wrote. Their entrepreneurial spirit was rewarded, with Stockton students selling 4,162 hands and raising \$20,810 for



Sadie Hogan and Addie Barnett won first and second place prizes during the John Stockton Elementary High Five campaign.

John Stockton Elementary. Sadie Hogan won the big prize of Principal for the Day, and Addie Barnett won second place as Assistant Principal for the day.

"We are really proud of the children," Stephanie Freeman, Friends of Stockton president. "It is rare to see children leading capital campaigns, and they did a great job."

Kids, parents, teachers dance off during West Riverside event

West Riverside Elementary had its second annual Parent Teacher Association (PTA) family dance Feb. 7 for Valentine's Day, which by all accounts was a success. Admission was free but students were encouraged to bring a canned item for Feeding Northeast Florida. Thanks to families' efforts, the PTA collected 160 pounds of food, enough to make about 133 meals for those in need. Students, teachers and staff had a blast at the dance, with dance contests between different age groups and parents, too. The PTA provided dinner.



Top: Kyle Krebs, Olive Thomsen, Luke Curell, Nathalie Rivera, Harper Vihlen. Bottom: Lucy Kohler-Austin and Amelia Curell



Front: Ashton Body, Sally Barksdale, Jordan Harrow, Ariel Largen, Audrey Franken, Erin Shay, Kaya Olszewski, Miranda Doro. Back: Spencer Huie, William Volen, Braden Witkovich, Cole Nigro, Julia Kagiliery

Episcopal science fair winners

At the Northeast Florida Regional Science and Engineering Fair in Jacksonville this week, Julia Kagiliery, a junior at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville was selected to present her project at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair in Anaheim, Calif. in May, while her classmate, Jordan Harrow, a junior, was selected to present her project on the pesticide resistance at the Genius Olympiad in New York.

Eight students in Episcopal's Honors Science Seminar were selected to present their projects at the State Science Fair of Florida in March. The students also earned place awards and special award certificates, gifts and cash prizes totaling \$800 from corporations, professional organizations and government agencies. Included among the award winners who are going onto the State Science Fair were Sally Barksdale, Ashton Body, Miranda Doro, Harrow, Spencer Huie, Kagiliery, Cole Nigro, Erin Shay, and Braden Witkovich.

Students in the Honors Science Seminar also presented their science projects to judges at the School Science Fair on Jan. 21-23 in the Berg Gallery of the Munnerylyn Center. All students in the Honors Science Seminar advanced to the Northeast Florida Regional fair in February.

"The judges were impressed with the students' creativity, scientific thinking and critical thinking," said Marion Zeiner, director of Scientific Research. "The projects were complex, novel, and pertinent to the problems that face society today."

Based on the extraordinary quality of the projects, the judges chose two winners in both the biological sciences and the physical sciences.

Body and Barksdale both placed first in senior biology, and Kagiliery and Harrow were first in the senior physical sciences.

Body's project targeted drug delivery for drug-resistant cancer, while Barksdale studied the immune response to cancer treatments. Meanwhile, Harrow's project dealt with pesticide resistance in *Daphnia* and Kagiliery determined the sulfur content in lignite coal.

Also competing in the science fair in the senior biological category were Ariel Largen, who placed second with a project on antibacterial substances; Cole Nigro, who took third place with a project on zinc phytoremediation in lettuce; Audrey Franken, who studied cherry juice on the energy of fruit flies (honorable mention); Erin Shay, who studied sunscreen on planaria (honorable mention); William Volen, who studied tick responses (honorable mention).

Competing in the senior physical science category were runner-up Spencer Huie who studied the reduction of CO₂ in oceans; third place winners Miranda Doro, who studied the removal of microplastic with ferrofluids and Braden Witkovich who studied water electrolysis; and Kaya Olszewski, who received honorable mention for the study of kinetic energy for bone stimulators.

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One Love Foundation names St. Johns as hero school

The One Love Foundation has certified St. Johns Country Day School as a Hero School—One Love’s highest commendation—in recognition of its commitment to healthy relationship education through a combination of educational reach, student leadership, and ongoing awareness-building activities.

St. Johns is one of only nine Hero-certified schools across the nation, and the only one in Florida.

One Love is a non-profit organization and national leader providing relationship health education to students across the country. Through compelling workshops and peer-to-peer discussions, One Love programs open young people’s eyes to healthy versus unhealthy behaviors and offers a framework we can use to discuss these behaviors in our own lives.

“Our Hero schools are showing the impact that deep engagement around the



One Love Student Ambassador Allison Korahais

topic of healthy relationships can have on a school community,” said Chief Program Officer Megan Shackleton. “It is our honor to recognize their commitment and we are proud to continue to support these schools in their efforts to create healthier and safer communities.”

“One Love is important to me because we work to promote healthy relationships

among teens and young adults,” said One Love School Ambassador and Club founder Allison Korahais, who worked to bring the program to the School and to achieve Hero certification. “Our One Love Club helps inform our students about what comprises a healthy relationship, the importance of healthy boundaries, and the warning signs of unhealthy relationships.” Korahais announced the certification this morning and presented the School with a banner acknowledging the Hero status.

“St. Johns is proud to be able to teach our students the fundamental tools for building healthy relationships and helping them become leaders for community-wide change,” said Acting Head of School Mary Virginia Fisher. “This work is part of our commitment to help parents raise responsible, capable adults who will not only survive but thrive now and in their lives ahead.”

Episcopal students lauded at Junior Science Humanities Symposium

Sally Barksdale and Julia Kagiliery of the Episcopal School of Jacksonville took home the hardware during the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) at the University of Florida on Jan. 28.

Barksdale placed first and Kagiliery was second after the students presented their projects to an audience of their peers and a panel of UF researchers, who selected them as the top student speakers from the State of Florida. Barksdale and Kagiliery will now represent the state at the National JSHS in April in Virginia.

Barksdale investigated the response of the immune system to cancer treatments at the Mayo Clinic. Kagiliery worked in

mines in North Dakota and research labs at Texas Tech to develop an efficient and less expensive method to determine the sulfur content in lignite coal. Both have been students in the Episcopal Honors Science Seminar for two years.

JSHS is a collaborative effort with the research arm of the Department of Defense and administered in cooperation with nationwide colleges and universities. “With only two students from each state selected to compete in the national speaker competition, it is a distinct honor that both Florida students attend the same school,” said Marion Zeiner, director of Scientific Research at Episcopal.



Sally Barksdale and Julia Kagiliery



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St. Paul's Catholic celebrates three special weeks

The last week in January, St. Paul's Catholic School in Riverside participated in three events in one week.

The Pre-K 3 and VPK class made paper copies of their hands to be displayed in the Capitol rotunda in Tallahassee for Children's Week, a time when childcare advocates lobby for child safety, health, and the education of all of Florida's children.

Also, the students participated in Florida's statewide initiative, Literacy Week. Teachers from all over Florida asked their students to read the same books at the same time. Susan Salem's Pre-K 3 class read, "Grumpy Bird" by Jeremy Tankard and Quana Register's class read, "Roosters Off to See the World," by Eric Carle.



Susan Salem reads from the book, "Grumpy Bird," by Jeremy Tankard.

Last, the entire school, Prek 3 - 8th grade celebrated Catholic Schools' Week, a time when Catholic Schools across the country celebrate their education. One day the students dressed like a book character, and other they dressed like their favorite teacher. They also participated in karaoke.



St. Paul's Catholic preschoolers show off the hands they made which will be displayed in the Capitol rotunda in Tallahassee.

Bolles athletes commit to colleges



Chance Moore, Alice Creed, Marshall Gainer, Helena Kummings, Laine Roberts, Elias Batton, Simon Brackin, Jenna Mulligan, Brielle Bouchard, Eli Gordon, April Kupsky and Neo Garcia Hohra

Ortega resident Alice Creed, San Jose residents Laine Roberts and Elias Batten, Riverside resident Simon Brackin and San Marco resident Eli Gordon were among 12 Bolles student-athletes who were honored Feb. 5 for committing to particular colleges or universities to continue their athletic and academic careers. Family, friends, classmates, coaches and faculty gathered in Davis Gymnasium on the San Jose Campus to celebrate their achievements. Athletic Director Matt Morris made some welcoming remarks and several coaches introduced their respective athletes.

The 12 students who committed to play collegiate athletics next year are: Baseball: Chance Moore, Daytona State College; Cross Country/Track and Field: Alice Creed (track and field), Haverford College; Marshall

Gainer (track and field), Samford University; Helena Kummings (x-c), Emory University; Laine Roberts (track and field), Vanderbilt University. Football: Elias Batten, Long Island University; Simon Brackin, Princeton University. Gymnastics: Jenna Mulligan, University of Michigan. Girls' Lacrosse: Brielle Bouchard, Savannah College of Art and Design. Men's Soccer: Eli Gordon, Wilkes University. Swimming and Diving: April Kupsky, Babson College and Neo Garcia Nohra, University of Arizona. The signing ceremony was the second of three college commitment ceremonies planned at Bolles this school year to recognize student-athletes as they commit to colleges. During a similar ceremony in November 2019, 10 students were honored, and another ceremony will take place in April.

Episcopal students win events at regional Latin forum

Thirty-four Episcopal Latin students joined 200 other Latin students from the northeast Florida area for Regional Latin Forum at St. John's Country Day School Jan. 25.

The students competed in tests about the ancient world, a variety of creative projects, Olympic events, and Certamen, a brain brawl-like trivia game. In addition to having a lot of fun, the students won awards in 15 academic categories, five athletic events, the remote-control chariot race, nine creative projects, and the level 1 and advanced level of Certamen. Scotty Montgomery was also elected Praetor for the Region.

Included among the competitors for Episcopal were Ortega residents Don Kohla, Jack Adams, William Allen, and Alston Rachels.



Don Kohla, Jack Adams, William Allen, Dr. David Schwei, Alston Rachels, and Logan Allen.

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Team photo by Julia Nichols '21

Zoo makes house call to Avondale CDO

Avondale Child's Day Out Early Learning Center had a few visitors from the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens on Jan. 23. The 2-, 3- and 4-year-old classes were able to have a close encounter with a skinny pig, otherwise known as a hairless guinea pig, named Mitch, as well as a pancake tortoise dubbed Shel, and a blue-tongued skink who goes by the name Pippin. The event was part of the zoo's educational outreach.

"The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens understands that transportation can be a burden for certain communities, from young children at daycare to senior citizens in retirement communities, so we strive to make the zoo as accessible as possible for everyone," said Andrew Jacobs, zoo outreach educator. "Through our outreach programs, we aim to provide hands-on learning experiences while also encouraging an interest in animal welfare, conservation and an appreciation for nature."



Ms. Brenna, TJ Perry, Ryan Eberling and Lenox Barnum interact with a blue-tongued skink named Pippin.

Elementary students visit with Martha Washington



Philip Little, coordinator of Social Studies for Duval County Schools with Marley Moret and Martha Washington



Stevie Ball with Martha Washington



Kavya Patel, a fifth grader from The Bolles School was an essay contest winner.

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Being able to meet with Martha Washington at the Public Library was a helpful tool in teaching fifth grade social studies, said Leslie Bransford, a teacher at St. Mark's Episcopal School. The program presented by reenactor Carol Spacht from Pennsylvania to the students in Duval County "was right in line with the students' studies, and their upcoming trip to Washington D.C. will be a culmination of those studies," she said.

The program, a collaboration between Duval County Schools and the National Society of Colonial Dames of America, Florida, offered students a firsthand visit with the historical first lady. NSCDA Historical Activities Chair Elizabeth Barrs Howard said this year was the largest group of students in attendance, with over 5,000 students over the five-day series of presentations in Jacksonville and St. Johns County. Students from schools around Duval County have been preparing essays about Martha Washington for the essay competition, and Bransford's student, Marley Moret won the contest for St. Mark's Episcopal.

Stevie Ball took first place for Riverside Presbyterian Day School, and Kavya Patel for The Bolles School. Other winners include Ava



Martha Washington as portrayed by reenactor Carol Spacht

McDonald and Stevie Rukab from Hendricks Elementary and Baily Conner, St. Johns Country Day School.

Mrs. Washington engaged the students with lessons in manners of the period including proper ways to bow and curtsy. There was plenty of interaction with the audience as she called students up to represent the 13 colonies and England's King George III. Her explanations of taxation without representation included a resounding chorus of "NO!" from the students when asked if they thought the colonists liked the taxes levied on stamps, sugar and tea.

Mrs. Washington also emphasized the roles women played in the fight for independence. Student volunteers represented various women including spies for

the Patriot cause such as Deborah Sampson, who disguised herself as a man to fight in the war, Sally Franklin Bache – Benjamin Franklin's daughter – who rallied women to collect \$300,000 dollars and make 2,000 shirts for soldiers, Molly "Pitcher" Hays, who manned a canon, Mercy Otis Warren who defied the British by writing a play calling the British soldiers "blockheads," and Phillis Wheatley, the renowned slave poetess.

Part of the mission of the Colonial Dames is education about the colonial period of American history. Sponsors for the event included the Roger L. and Rochelle S. Main Charitable Trust and St. John's House Bed and Breakfast.

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Ortega Elementary families enjoy sweet taste of literacy



Jiaden Proctor with his mother, Keonya Proctor, and aunt, Akilah Proctor, at the milk-and-cookies station.



Skylar Ford and her father, Cliff Ford, at the milk-and-cookies station



Jayden Wooden, Ta Keriya Moore, Janiya Ford and her mother, Jasmine Nelson at the book-tasting station

Ortega Elementary families came out Jan. 30 for Family Literacy Night, where they had the opportunity to visit different stations to learn how to foster literacy. Three of the most popular stations were the book-tasting station, the milk-and-cookies station, and the design-a-bookmark station. At the book-tasting station, families were able to enjoy cheese, crackers, and sparkling cider while sampling different genres of books. The milk-and-cookies station allowed families to enjoy a tasty treat while reading a bedtime story, and the design-a-bookmark station let kids choose from a variety of fun and brightly colored materials. The Jacksonville Public Library also had a table set up where families could apply for a library card. The evening concluded with a Chick-fil-A dinner and door prizes.

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Ruth N. Upson Pre-K salutes flag with songs



At the flag raising were (from left to right) back row: McKenzie Morrison, Gregory Borgis, Apple Kopitke, Makenna Floor, Nestor Caraballo, Isabella Smith, middle row: Karen Carter, Finley White, Reagan Overby, Ruthie Kiser, A'mani Stancil, Gail Kane and front row: Mabel Thornton, Milles Pittman, Arielle Dixon, Tess Spilsbury, Hudson Andres

Patriotism in song was the theme at the flag-raising ceremony at Ruth N. Upson Elementary Feb. 7, when 460 students, faculty and staff assembled in front of the Murray Hill school to hear Gail Kane and Karen Carter's pre-kindergarten class sing two classics. The young students belted out George M. Cohan's tribute to the U.S. flag, "You're a Grand Old Flag" and "This Land is Your Land," one of the United States' most famous folk songs, written by Woody Guthrie and sung, perhaps most famously, by Pete Seeger.

"They aren't easy songs to learn. And the children did great," Kane said. The quarterly flag-raising ceremony was presented by the school's safety patrol.

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West Riverside students spread kindness on Valentine's Day

West Riverside Elementary students got to experience love and kindness firsthand on Valentine's Day, when they found the front halls of their school filled by loving staff, parents, and first responders who high-fived and cheered them on as they walked to a special pep rally.

The school is a model for its kindness program, and each year it conducts a kindness pep rally honoring local kindness heroes, Stephanie Vihlen, PTA president, said. Barry Henry, a member of the local chapter of the American Civility Association, also attended, as did Miss Teen Florida USA for 2020, Rylie Spicker, who receive a kindness award from the association.

"There is always room for kindness in this world," Spicker told the crowd of elementary schoolers dressed in red, purple and pink. "I want you to complete one act of kindness today. Really put in an effort to be kind."

Brittany Bettis, a Riverside parent said she emphasizes kindness when giving her children instruction, Whittaker, 10, Fletcher, 9, and Eliza Kate, 7.

"We teach them to be kind to everyone because Christ was so kind to us," Bettis said.

"This is so fun. I come every year and it's so sweet. The community helps, and they make it so fun."



Miss Teen Florida USA walks with West Riverside Elementary kindergartener Sariah Stephens and counselor Gladys Laboy Carrasquillo.

The event concluded with dancing, but that didn't distract Livia Pinto, 8, from explaining what she thought the definition of kindness was.

"To me, kindness is what people should treat others with, so we can be a huge family," said Pinto. "Without kindness, the world would be nothing. But if we do have kindness, everything will be better."

Nonprofit seeks uniformed volunteers to read to children

Literacy Pros of Jacksonville, Inc, is seeking firefighters, chefs, flight attendants, law enforcement officers, doctors, postal workers, members of the military, or others who wear a uniform to inspire local children through the power of literacy. The nonprofit is requesting uniformed professionals join its #Blue4Books program as volunteer guest readers by donating an hour to read to local kids, make crafts and talk about their careers. The program was created by Literacy Pros President Janice Gendreau. It launched in February 2019, with the goal of helping children interact and build trust with JSO officers in non-emergency, non-threatening settings. During the free, monthly #Blue4Books events, Jacksonville police officers read to children and work on crafts connected to the book selections. "Crime and illiteracy are related: thieves stealing dreams and success from society," Gendreau said. So far, the program has had tremendous success, she said, adding



A JSO officer reads and draws with children in Literacy Pros's #Blue4Books program

that the nonprofit is now ready to launch its long-term goal of expanding the program to include a variety of uniformed professionals. To find out more about volunteering with #Blue4Books or to receive more information on the program, contact Literacy Pros of Jacksonville, Inc. at literacyprosjacksonville@gmail.com or call (904) 210-6677.

Douglas Anderson names National Merit Scholars

Three students at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts have been recognized as National Merit Scholar finalists.

Adam Agonoy, Samuel Pabon, and Mallorie Sievert were among 15,000 students nationally to be considered for a National Merit Scholarship.

"We are incredibly proud of these hard-working students," said Douglas Anderson Principal Melanie Hammer. "Douglas Anderson would like to congratulate Adam Agonoy, Samuel Pabon, and Mallorie Sievert for advancing to finalist standing in the National Merit competition."

The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. Approximately 1.6 million high school students enter the program each year. High school students can become eligible for the program by first taking the Preliminary SAT (PSAT)/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQST).



Samuel Pabon, Mallorie Sievert and Adam Agonoy

Approximately 15,000 semifinalists advance to finalist standing. Within the finalist group, winners are chosen for the Merit Scholarship based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments. About 7,500 finalists will be selected to receive a scholarship in between the beginning the March and mid-June.

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Camp: June 14-21, 2020

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1222 PEACHTREE ST - \$234,900
2 BR / 1 BA / 1,224 sqft.

This adorable brick bungalow is a must-see! Original wood floors throughout most of the house are in great shape. Low-E windows, new septic tank, newer water heater, and recently updated bathroom. A bonus room and a massive laundry/mud room. Located just minutes from San Marco and premier dining and nightlife spots.



2005 HERSCHEL ST 1 - \$349,000
2 BR / 2 BA / 1,600 sqft.

Large 2/2 first floor apartment in a beautifully restored classic building in 5 Points. Kitchen has granite and stainless appliances, formal living room w/gas fireplace, french doors to private patio. Formal dining room plus office/sitting room off master suite. Second BR and BA completes the unit.



2263 ST JOHNS AVE - \$999,999
6 BR / 3 BA / 1 HB / 4,471 sqft.

Large first floor unit in a beautifully restored classic building in 5 Points. This condo is truly a gem from the original proportions and layout to the fabulous renovation. Kitchen has granite and stainless appliances, formal living room, gas fireplace, french doors to private patio. Formal dining room plus office/sitting room.



1364 PINEGROVE CT - \$297,000
3 BR / 1 BA / 1HB / 1,135 sqft.

Totally fenced back yard with fruit trees, flowering plants, beds for gardening, fire pit, and room to room. New Roof, plumbing, updated kitchen and baths, all stainless appliances, designer features and lighting, wood and tile floors throughout, storage sheds, new decks, U-turn drive, plenty of parking, and room for parking a boat.



4242 ORTEGA BLVD 16 - \$225,000
2 BR / 2 BA / 2,000 sqft.

Upstairs Condo in Ortega, featuring parquet flooring in the sunroom area and kitchen, carpet in bedrooms and living spaces, enclosed sunroom, stainless appliances, and overlooks the courtyard.



4753 SHELBY AVE - \$158,000
3 BR / 1 BA / 1,298 sqft.

This charming Murray Hill POOL home has a huge fenced in back yard ready to entertain. New roof in 2013 and pool was re-maricited in 2017. Freshly painted in 2019. Beautiful hardwood floors throughout and tile in kitchen, bath and bonus living space. This is a must see listing with so many possibilities.



REDUCED
4841 POLARIS ST - \$184,500
3 BR / 1 BA / 1,458 sqft.

Large Murray Hill Bungalow. Family room with French doors to backyard, new flooring, newly renovated kitchen and bath, laundry room, freshly painted inside and out and new roof, a new HVAC to be installed at closing.



6833 TOWNSEND RD - \$899,000
3 BR / 2 BA / 1,429 sqft.

WEST-SIDE HORSE FARM FOR SALE: 55-acre property includes 3/2 house; 12-stall barn with 2 grooming stalls, 2 wash stalls, tack room, and laundry; 7 paddocks; 1 riding arena; large storage building; two smaller storage sheds; and more than 40 acres of trail riding land.



3750 SILVER BLUFF BLVD 101 - \$175,000
3 BR / 2 BA / 1HB / 1,760 sqft.

END UNIT CONDO WITH BEAUTIFUL VIEWS. Spacious kitchen, indoor laundry, attached garage and more. New Roof 2019. Newer black stainless steel dishwasher, microwave and stove. Take advantage of the amazing amenities this community offer! You will love it here!



2308 COLLEGE ST - \$1,250 (Residential)
2 BR / 1 BA / 1,000 sqft. / \$1000 security deposit

Downstairs APARTMENT FOR RENT. From 5 Points, College west to sign-corner of College and Osceola. Living room, dining room, updated kitchen (R/R), hardwood floors, ceiling fans, fresh paint, washer/dryer connect in laundry room, extra storage, extra sound proofing between units, one year lease, security deposit \$1,250.00, quarterly pest control, owner may consider pets, outside smokers only.



2751 POST ST - \$1,475 (Residential)
3 BR / 1 BA / 2,275 sqft. / \$1,500 security deposit

RIVERSIDE 1ST FLOOR DUPLEX FOR RENT. From 5 Points, Post St west to property. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, living room, dining room, kitchen (R/R) CHA, approx. 1200 sf, hardwood floors, built-ins, non-working fireplace, washer-dryer connect in unit, shared open porch, owner may consider pet with NRPF, no smoking, \$1500 security deposit, 1 year lease, [AVLB sh/fm] available now



3522 PINE ST - \$1,875 (Residential)
2 BR / 2 BA / 1,680 sqft. / \$1,800 security deposit

CLASSIC AVONDALE APARTMENT FOR RENT. Brick Avondale duplex with spacious upstairs apt available. Large living room plus attached sunroom, 2 large bedrooms, 2 full baths with vintage tile (en suite), gorgeous refinished original oak and heart pine floors throughout, formal dining room large enough for amazing dinner parties, kitchen (R/R), washer/dryer, \$1800 sec dep, 1 yr lease, off street parking, water & sewer plus lawn service included, no pets, no smoking [ATK DSW pm] available now

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