



South Jacksonville Presbyterian Senior Pastor Adam Anderson and his wife, Lindsey with their children Frankie and Abe

Crop Walk raises funds to feed the hungry

Fifty walkers from five local churches turned out to raise money for hunger awareness Nov. 1 when South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church hosted its annual "Crop Walk."

Included among the walkers were participants from Geneva Presbyterian, Lakewood Presbyterian, Hendricks Avenue Baptist, and Faith United Methodist churches. The walkers dodged raindrops as each covered a one- to three-mile course in San Marco, raising \$5,000 to help feed the hungry globally. Approximately 25% of the funds were donated to United Community Outreach Ministry (UCOM), a local nonprofit with a food pantry in San Marco.



'Tis the Season

With just a week to go before the Thanksgiving holiday, Balis Park in San Marco was beginning to look a lot like Christmas, thanks to the ladies from the San Marco Garden Circle. Led by Ginny Taylor and Elizabeth McGraw, co-chairs of the Circle's Holiday Decorating Committee, 10 members of the gardening group gathered on Nov. 19 to dress the towering artificial tree that is annually displayed in the gazebo in San Marco Square. To ensure that the tree does not sway in the wind as it did last year, the women called upon the expertise of Avondale's Tommy Wilhelm, owner of Elite Outdoor Lighting, who volunteered to firmly anchor the tree. Decorating the tree this year were a crew of "socially distanced elves," including Pam Vandergriff, Shari Thanner, Lynne Murphy, Elizabeth McGraw, Ginny Taylor, Tommy Wilhelm and Tiffany Davis. Not pictured but part of the crew were Paula Joyner, Mary Toomey, Shelly Boynton and Lynda Erwin.



Fun, fundraising and Nashville tunes

The Sykes family and many others enjoyed live musical performances during a laid-back, fun-filled afternoon on the Keeler property on Jacksonville's Westside to support the Will King Foundation, which raises funds to support heart treatment and surgical care for international children visiting hospitals in Jacksonville.

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10 million meals and counting

In November, San Marco's Dean Porter and his wife, Sherri, celebrated the 8th anniversary of Hunger Fight, their nonprofit that provides nutritious meals to hungry children and families, by holding a week-long Thanksgiving Community Outreach packing event.

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Berkshire Hathaway Creative Services Marketing Director Marisa Barbieri and Malia

Team from Berkshire Hathaway helps make dreams come true

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty enjoys supporting Dreams Come True of Jacksonville, an organization that helps brighten the lives of children who are battling life-threatening illnesses. Team members from the Northeast Florida real estate firm recently participated in the charity's Trunk or Treat event and Virtual 5K race, where team members raised \$4,370 for the nonprofit. Members from three of the realty's branch offices also collected donations for Dreams Come True during its community shredding events.

"Dreams Come True has been and continues to be very close to our hearts, and we are deeply committed to supporting this wonderful organization," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty President and CEO Christy Budnick, who is also a member of the Dreams Come True Board of Directors. "Our company believes in creating a positive impact in others' lives, and we truly appreciate the support of our passionate team to help make dreams come true for many deserving local children."



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Wolfson Children's Hospital's 'bridge of hope' to the future

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

Wolfson Children's Hospital President Michael Aubin called it a "big deal" when medical center employees made their inaugural trek through the new skybridge over Palm Avenue Oct. 30. The glassed-in pedestrian walkway connects the P2 Parking garage with what will soon be the new Wolfson Children's Hospital entrance and critical care tower. Although the new critical care tower and entrance to the medical center's Southbank campus are currently under construction, employees enjoyed a safe jaunt over the bridge, two stories above the street.

"In a project like this, there are certain times when you say this is a major deal," Aubin said. "The ground-breaking was a major deal. Putting this bridge in place was a major deal, and getting it open so our team can come over and our patients can use it is a major deal. Then, 13 months from now, when we actually get to enter the new building, that will be a major deal," he said,



Wolfson Children's Hospital President Michael Aubin with Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville President Michael Mayo

estimating the new entrance and building will be complete in February 2022.

To celebrate the new edition to the campus Oct. 30, employees were greeted by team members dressed in Halloween costumes, who passed out candy and other goodies as they made their way to work. Heading the welcome effort were Aubin and Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville President Michael Mayo, both of whom were on hand at 7 a.m. to greet employees as they came and went across the bridge during the early morning hours.

"This is an opportunity for us to meet and greet our team members and encourage them to use the new skybridge," said Mayo. "I look for every opportunity I can to interact with our team members. I am glad we can now provide them with a very safe way to cross Palm Avenue. I am very excited about this being open," he said, noting that when the building is finished it will lead to the second floor of a two-story welcome area that will serve not only as the main entrance to Wolfson Children's Hospital but also as the main starting point for all patients and visitors to enter the medical center's Jacksonville campus.

"The first floor will be the new entry level and the second floor will be the connector that will take you to any part of the campus," he said, adding that the third through ninth floors will be dedicated to Wolfson's new neo-natal intensive care and pediatric intensive care units. "We're expanding our bed capacity from 52 to 75 beds, a 25% increase. Everything will be state of the art. This will be a one-of-a-kind intensive care unit," Mayo explained.

The new skybridge allows Baptist Health to reimagine the entry point of its main



The new skybridge across Palm Avenue that connects the P2 garage with the new entrance to Wolfson Children's Hospital and Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville

Jacksonville campus, a feature that is currently buried on Prudential Drive. "Once it is finished, our new entry point will be visible off of Palm Avenue and the Interstate," he said. "The entrance will have four large lanes, valet parking, and easy directions into the P2 garage so people won't be confused when they come onto the campus for the first time."

In the new plan, the old rotunda entrance will be used primarily for adult patients who are discharged from Baptist's adult tower. Children and parents will be discharged from the front of the Wolfson building, while the ramp and circular entrance to the Heart Hospital on Prudential Drive will remain for patients using that facility.

In the front of the new entrance will be green space and a new piece of sculpture, similar to what sits in front of Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center, said Mayo. "We took a lot of our inspiration and direction

from the Baptist MD Anderson building," he said. "When you come down the Interstate you will see this mirroring of two beautiful healthcare buildings – the new critical care tower and Baptist MD Anderson on the other side. It will make for a nice campus.

"This has been a part of a 10-year plan of development we've done by doing different enhancements throughout the campus. It's kind of a capstone project," he continued.

For Aubin, the skybridge signifies more than a safe way to enter the campus. "The exciting thing about this bridge – I say it's a 'bridge of hope' – is that when the kids and their parents come over the skybridge and they have neo-natal babies in the hospital, for us it's that they have hope that this center will make them better. That is really what this is all about. The bridge is great, and it keeps people off the street, but what counts is where it is leading to. That's what makes the big difference."

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www.ResidentNews.net
Phone: (904) 388-8839 | Fax: (904) 423-1183
1650-302 Margaret St. #310, Jacksonville, FL 32204

PUBLISHERS	SALES
Seth Williams seth@residentnews.net	Debra McGregor Director of Sales debra@residentnews.net
Pamela B. Williams pamela@residentnews.net	EDITORIAL
DESIGN	Marcia Hodgson Managing Editor marcia@residentnews.net
Joshua Garrett Art Director josh@residentnews.net	Contributing Writers Julie Kerns Garmendia Lilla Ross, Mary Wanser Peggy Harrell Jennings

GOT NEWS? EMAIL US AT
editor@residentnews.net

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Publix is finally coming to East San Marco

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

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During a hybrid Zoom and in-person meeting of the San Marco Merchants Association (SMMA) at Southside Baptist Church, the East San Marco project was one of several updates given on several San Marco construction projects, including Park Place at San Marco, and the San Marco One building in San Marco Square.

Speaking before the group were Patrick McKinley, vice president and market officer for Regency Centers, Park Place developer Bill Ware of Harbert Realty, and Paul Thomas, vice president of asset management of Sleiman Enterprises, which owns the historic San Marco One building.

Dustin Kaloostian of Beachside Buggies also spoke before the group. He talked of his company's progress in providing free transportation to San Marco and Southbank riders after it was forced to shut down completely due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

But most of the crowd was especially interested in learning about the status of East San Marco, and when the long-promised grocer, Publix, might be coming to the neighborhood.

"We finally do have some light at the end of the tunnel," said McKinley. "I know everyone has been hearing that for a long time." Many construction projects have been hampered by COVID-19 and East San

Marco was one. Delays caused by the virus have delayed the permitting process pushing back the groundbreaking ceremony until January 2021, he said.

Regency has already submitted their site work permits to the city and they are ready to be picked up, McKinley said. He added that architectural plans also have been submitted, and he estimated they would be approved by the end of the year. Contractors are currently submitting bids and a general contractor will most likely be selected in December, he said.

In mid-November, Publix signed a lease with Regency and the new supermarket will anchor the small, long-anticipated shopping center that will be located at the corner of Atlantic Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue.

What is planned for the site is a courtyard-shaped shopping center with a 39,000-square-foot Publix on the second floor of a 50-foot-tall building located at the corner of Atlantic Boulevard and Mango Place. Underneath the store will be parking and a small Publix liquor store, McKinley said.

The Publix will not be a "baby-sized" grocery store like the 28,000 square-foot grocery in Riverside, but rather a custom-sized store that will be larger than Riverside's grocery but smaller than the typical 54,000-square-foot Publix at University Boulevard. "This is a unique urban site, and Publix is open to creating a custom store," he said. "It's not going to feel small like the Riverside store. This one is going to have everything you are going to want. You won't feel under-merchandised," he told the crowd. "It will serve the community well."

The 2.35-acre site will include a courtyard design with 62,000-square feet of retail



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outlets including two restaurants, bordering Atlantic Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue. After three or four months of site work, vertical construction can begin, McKinley said, noting that Regency hopes to deliver Publix so the grocer can start fitting out the interior in the Summer of 2022. He also estimated that the center's retailers would open a few months later in late 2022 or early 2023. The challenges of COVID-19 and its impact on the restaurant industry have presented a challenge for Regency when it comes to signing on tenants for the center's restaurants, he said. "Trying to get a marquee restaurant for that one space (on the corner of Atlantic Boulevard and Hendricks Avenue) has gotten a bit more challenging," he admitted.

Other than some minor details, the center's design plans have not really changed from what was presented to the community at its October 2019 town meeting, he said.

McKinley also noted that Regency is coordinating as much as it can with the developers of Park Place at San Marco, which is scheduled to be built on land that was formerly the campus of South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church. Although the two projects will be built simultaneously, he said there should be no real concern about traffic tie-ups while East San Marco is under construction.

"We will have the staging of most of our work done on site," he said, noting that some site work regarding drainage was done in May, when one lane of Atlantic Boulevard was closed for four or five days. "We choose to do it then because traffic was way down. They city wanted us to do it at that time instead of in the middle of 2021 when traffic might be back to normal."

Park Place at San Marco

Also speaking in the meeting was Ware, who joins Andy Allen and George Leone of Corner Lot Development Group in overseeing the development of Park Place at San Marco.

The new development, which will be built on land adjacent to Matthews Restaurant

and behind South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church, will consist of a 133-unit, four-story, 49.5-foot tall residential complex and a two-story parking garage.

The development was slightly delayed due to a contentious lawsuit led by a San Marco neighborhood group, Right Size San Marco, which objected to the way the property was rezoned to allow a nearly 50-foot tall building to be built in the San Marco Overlay, which mandates buildings not be taller than 35 feet. The city and developers were able to move ahead when Right Size San Marco lost an appeal before the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH), and dropped a second appeal before it could be heard before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Ware said his development team includes EnVision+Engineering, led by Doug Skiles of San Marco, and Group 4 Design. Live Oak Contracting, a Jacksonville-based firm, will be the contractor.

"It's been a long time coming. I'm excited about it," said Ware, noting that the project has been a "team effort" from Day 1.

Ware said his team plans to break ground in the second quarter of 2021. "We have our civil plans approved by the city and available for permit," he said, adding that the project's architectural plans are being "wrapped up" and should be completed by the end of November to be submitted to the city in early December.

Ware said he was working closely with McKinley so the two projects can "dovetail" nicely. "We want our effort to complement one another on Alford Place so that the main corridor we are creating can be pedestrian friendly. I really believe it is going to add a huge positive dynamic to San Marco. We are attempting to make San Marco more pedestrian friendly, and I do believe once these two projects are up and operational, with all the infrastructure, sidewalks, road improvements, lights and so forth, that we will have the highest walkability factor in Jacksonville," he said.

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San Marco One

Thomas also brought the SMMA group up to date on the renovations being made to San Marco One, a historic commercial building in the heart of San Marco Square. The exterior has been painted and preserved in such a way to keep it watertight, he said. William Jaycox, a San Marco architect, has helped Sleiman Enterprises preserve its historic nature. Jaycox has also suggested interior marketing layouts that will make the 8,000-square-foot interior space attractive to as many as three tenants. Thomas also said that he expects different tenants to lease space on the upper and lower floors.

“We’ve completed the exterior painting and added some wings to bring back the original architecture,” Thomas said. “It gives it more of a Mediterranean feel, and we’ve replaced two of the three roofs.”

Thomas said he is not ready to make an announcement about what tenants might eventually fill the newly renovated space, however he said his team will be marketing to restaurants, although they might not fill the entire space as they did before. He expects tenants to move into the building at the beginning of 2022.

One leasing challenge facing Sleiman Enterprises is the necessity of opening up the first floor so tenants will feel they are visible from the street, Thomas said. To accomplish that goal, the company is proposing to remove some crepe myrtles along the front and incorporate a “landscape island” just west of the main entrance to the building. Thomas claimed the proposal, which will be considered by both SMMA and the San Marco Preservation Society, will enhance walkability in front of the building and assist making signage more visible for the first-floor tenant.

“We would take up the maintenance of landscaping and pay for all the improvements,” he said. “We feel this will open up the building and allow people to walk by a little bit better. We are hoping everyone is open to the idea, and we welcome further discussion about it.”

Beachside Buggies

The Beachside Buggies transport service that offers free rides throughout San Marco and the Southbank has resumed after a few months’ hiatus due to COVID-19. The service is now running for limited hours on weekends only, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday but plans to add service on Thursdays at the end of the November, said Kaloostian.

“Our goal is still the same. We want to change the way people get around San Marco.”

— Dustin Kaloostian, Beachside Buggies

Understanding that people might be leery of riding in the small vans due to the pandemic, the company has made several safety modifications to its vehicles including offering hand sanitizer, and masks and separating riders so that fewer people are transported at the same time.

“Our goal is still the same. We want to change the way people get around San Marco,” Kaloostian said. “We want to change the way people think about traveling the half mile from their condo our hotel. We want residents who may have done it one way for so many years to entertain a new possibility.”

SMMA announces new officers, awards

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

President Joe Carlucci announced new officers for the San Marco Merchants Association (SMMA), who will take charge in January 2021 and bestowed two awards from the merchant’s association to members of the community, during a hybrid-in-person SMMA meeting Nov. 11 at Southside Baptist Church.



Scott Wohler

Scott Wohlers, vice president of Riverplace Capital Management, will take over as president of the merchant’s association, while Leah Roesler, owner of Cascade Outdoor Design, will serve as vice president and Heidi Roberts, vice president and universal branch manager of Ameris Bank, will serve as treasurer. Wohlers has been serving alongside Carlucci as vice president this year while Roesler has been an active SMMA board member for several years.

The group also awarded Community Partner Awards to 1st Place Sports for its “outstanding support of San Marco Merchants Association activities,” and to Southside Baptist Church’s Senior Pastor Dr. Gary Webber for the support the church has lent the organization by opening its facility to meetings and generously sharing its parking lots with the community.

Carlucci also announced changes in the normal Christmas activities planned for San Marco Square due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Although the annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held in Balis Park as usual on Friday, Dec. 4, the activity will only last a half hour, from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Instead



San Marco Merchant’s Association President Joe Carlucci with Southside Baptist Senior Pastor Dr. Gary Webber

of community choral, band, and dance groups providing entertainment, a single soloist will sing Christmas carols at the event, he said. “Santa will be there, but there will be no sitting on Santa’s lap this year,” Carlucci said. To help alleviate disappointment from young children who will not be able to whisper their wish lists to Santa this year, SMMA is setting up a special mailbox in the square especially for Santa letters, he said.

After the Christmas Tree Lighting, a Christmas Classic movie will be shown on the Southside United Methodist Church property at 6:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, the annual Festival of Lights road race sponsored by 1st Place Sports will take place at 5:30 p.m. for its one-mile fun run and 6 p.m. for its 5-kilometer race. Traffic through the square will be shut down from 2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. to prepare for the races, he said. As in years before, there will be festivities throughout the square but in a “reduced” manner compared to other years, he said, adding that the merchants plan to decorate the square by wrapping all the light poles and installing 45 new wreaths on all the light poles in San Marco.

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Khan's donation to aid museum move to Northbank

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

With a little help from a \$5 million donation courtesy of Jaguars owner Shad Khan and his family, the Museum of Science and History has launched its new fundraising campaign to assist in funding the museum's move to the Northbank.

MOSH Genesis is the new name for the \$20 million capital campaign launched last year as MOSH 2.0.

In October, MOSH announced plans to build a new museum on the Shipyards property, where Khan is proposing to build a multi-use development.

Khan described MOSH's plans as "a spectacular addition to downtown Jacksonville."

"The best downtown districts in the United States include urban parkland and cultural destinations, and we can have that here in Jacksonville with the Museum of Science and History anchoring a new riverfront park," Khan said.

"I'm hoping my contribution to the capital campaign will spark additional commitment from throughout the region so we can get started on a new downtown. I am confident it will, because I know I'm not the only person in Jax who believes it's time to finally meet and even exceed our potential."

Earlier this year, MOSH received an undisclosed gift from the C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Foundation, a \$2.5 million pledge from VyStar Credit Union, and \$500,000 from PNC Bank.

MOSH CEO Bruce Fafard said the board of trustees had originally planned to

renovate and expand the existing museum on the Southbank.

"But there were a lot of things we wouldn't be able to do, and the donors were lukewarm to renovating here," Fafard said.

The board had a committee look at the options, including a marketing study.

"It became obvious that the Northbank, especially the Shipyards, was a very viable solution and the board voted to move in that direction," he said.

Fafard said the board likes the Shipyards because it is close to the city's Sports and Entertainment District.

"I can see visitors coming for several hours, having lunch on the lawn and going to see a baseball game," he said.

Fafard said he hopes to have chosen an architect by next summer so that the project can enter the design phase.

But the exact location of the museum remains uncertain.

The Shipyards, a 45-acre site between Metropolitan Park and Berkman II, is owned by the city.

The Downtown Investment Authority has asked the National Park Service if the Shipyards property can be swapped as public park space for Metropolitan Park. The city is prohibited from selling the 24-acre Metropolitan Park property as part of a 1981 federal grant. If the Park Service agrees to the swap, part of the Shipyards could be developed by Khan or another developer.

Another complication is that because the Shipyards was formerly an industrial site it is a brownfield, environmentally



A rendering of what the new Museum of Science and History might look like if it were built on the Shipyards property.

contaminated, and would have to be cleaned up under state and federal guidelines.

"We are working closely with DIA. The exact location won't be determined until we get a response back from the National Park Service," Fafard said. "Regardless of the decision, there will be a location and space at the Shipyards for us."

Fafard said the new Northbank location will allow the museum to pursue a "bolder vision."

"We're going to be 80 next year. If you look at our history, we've always been able to make bold moves."

The museum was founded in 1941 as the Jacksonville Children's Museum in Riverside.

It moved to the Southbank in 1969 and changed its name to the Museum of Arts and Sciences in 1977.

In 1988, it changed its name to the Museum of Science and History as part of an expansion that included the Alexander Brest Planetarium. It was renovated and expanded again in 1994.

"This is another bold move. We will stay true to our mission to inspire the joy of lifelong learning by bringing to life the sciences and regional history. This will allow us to start with a clean palette. We can design the museum to be more adaptable and create interactive and experiential exhibits," he said.

Sixth downtown sculpture is installed on Laura Street

The sixth and final sculptural masterpiece within the City of Jacksonville's Downtown Sculpture Initiative was installed on Laura Street Oct. 31.

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville in collaboration with Farah & Farah, a personal injury law firm revealed a 20-foot-tall sculpture called "Laura's Flower" positioned just outside of one of Farah & Farah's offices located at 100 North Laura Street (at the Northwest corner of Forsyth Street). The Downtown Sculpture Initiative, which partners with private companies to enhance Downtown, has brought more than \$400,000 worth of public art to Jacksonville's Urban Core.

The Laura's Flower sculpture is named after the daughter of Jacksonville founder Isaiah D. Hart, for whom Laura Street was also named. Farah & Farah and the Cultural Council funded the design and construction

of the artwork. Farah & Farah owns and will maintain the sculpture.

The sculpture was created by Gus and Lina Ocamposilva, a husband-and-wife team from Clearwater, Florida, who were the visionaries behind the project. Their work includes table-top size pieces - made of clay, cast stone, resin, and steel - and more than 60 public large-scale art sculptures in cities, such as Chicago, New York, Atlanta, Miami, and Las Vegas. In 2013, the City of New York invited them to exhibit three 13-foot-tall sculptures designed for the East River Park Promenade in Manhattan.

"Investing in Jacksonville is one of Farah & Farah's core pillars and greatest honors," said Eddie Farah, founder and managing partner at Farah & Farah. "Laura's Flower" is the second sculpture that our firm has backed in the last five years to support the beautification and development of

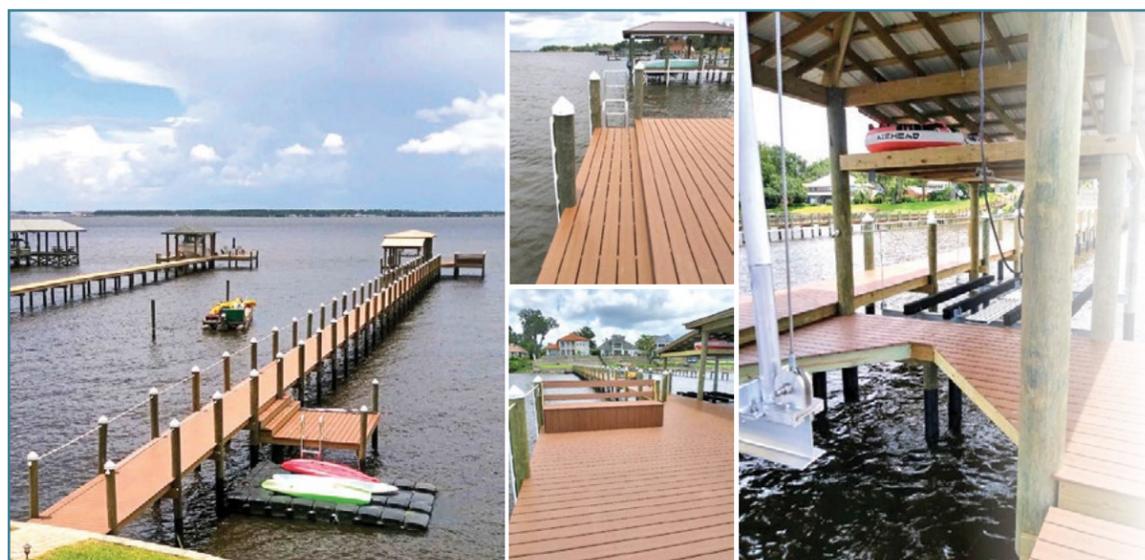
downtown Jacksonville. We're proud to be a part of this project and look forward to the enhancement it will bring to the downtown scenery!"

As a sculpture, Laura's Flower combines elements of abstract and figurative, classic and contemporary forms. The hand-textured aluminum material is configured to appear soft and fluid. The curved forms incorporate tubes, exposed bolts, and applied color, meant to enliven the sculpture and surrounding area.

David Engdahl, a sculptor from San Marco, has facilitated, coordinated, and managed the four of the six sculpture projects in the Cultural Council's Downtown Sculpture Initiative as a volunteer. Originally, the initiative planned to install 10 works of art throughout Jacksonville's urban core but at this time has no more projects in the pipeline, he said.



Laura's Flower was installed Downtown on Laura Street as part of Jacksonville's Downtown Sculpture Initiative



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Jaguars float possibility of building hotel on Metropolitan Park land

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

While the City Council is still debating Jaguars owner Shad Khan's proposed Lot J development deal, team President Mark Lamping unveiled a development plan for the downtown riverfront, which would feature a Four Seasons hotel.

Lamping made the presentation at Nov. 12 at the Downtown Investment Authority's Strategic Implementation Committee, which was considering incentives for the proposed Lot J project.

The new project would be developed on Metropolitan Park and the Shipyards and in addition to the hotel would have a medical complex, office space, 400 apartment units, parking garages, a marina and a Riverwalk extension.

Lamping said the project would be done at the same time as Lot J, which will require the city borrowing \$200 million.

"The public involvement in that will be significantly less both from a dollar standpoint and from a percentage of project standpoint - because of Lot J," Lamping said.

The Four Seasons, which Khan would own, would have a 10,000-square-foot spa and 11,000 square feet of food and beverage. Khan already owns a Four Seasons hotel in Toronto. The nearest Four Seasons is in Orlando where rooms cost \$600 a night.

Lamping said the project could begin within six months of reaching an agreement with the city.

But before any construction can begin, two hurdles must be cleared:

The first, the Shipyards is a brownfield site, and Lamping said his team is waiting on an environmental status report from the state.

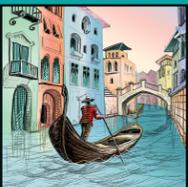
The second, Metropolitan Park cannot be developed until another site for a public park is found and approved by the National Park Service due to a clause in federal funding contract used to build the park in the 1980s.

The city has asked the federal agency whether it can swap Metropolitan Park for the Shipyards. Lamping said a portion of the Shipyards property could be set aside for the park.

The Museum of Science and History (MOSH) has also announced plans to relocate its museum facility onto property on the Shipyards site.



Renderings of a new Four Seasons Hotel Jaguars owner Shad Khan would like to build in land now part of Metropolitan Park and the Shipyards



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Questions arise on sustainability, financial feasibility of Lot J project

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

Mayor Lenny Curry's generous incentives for Shad Khan's \$450 million multi-use development of Lot J has stirred up city residents like nothing else since the controversy over the sale of JEA.

The legislation has had a bumpy ride in the City Council, where it is being challenged and at least two amendments are in the offing. But even as the bill is being revised, a decision of whether to give the project the go-ahead could be decided as early as Dec. 8.

Curry is proposing to give Khan's Gecko Investments and the Cordish Companies of Baltimore \$233 million in tax dollars for the development that would be one of the largest in the city's history. Among the details:

- Live! District would have 75,000 square feet of restaurant and retail space, 40,000 square feet of Class A office space, a 150- to 250-room hotel and two mid-rise apartments buildings with 400 units. The city would own Live! District and lease it to the Jaguars for 35 years with four 10-year extensions, and therefore, the property would not generate tax revenue.
- The city would build parking garages with 700 spaces and pay for infrastructure improvements that would include a 700-space surface parking lot built over an existing stormwater retention pond to the west of Lot J. The infrastructure improvements are estimated at \$77.4 million.



A rendering of the Live! District and other buildings planned for Lot J

- The city would be responsible for up to \$15.1 million in cost overruns for the publicly owned portions of the Lot J project and the developer would cover other project cost overruns.

In addition, the developer would receive incentives: a 75% Recapture Enhanced Value Grant for 20 years capped at \$12.5 million for the apartments, which has already been approved by DIA and a \$12.5 million grant upon completion of the hotel.

A financial analysis done for the Jaguars by Chicago-based C.H. Johnson Consulting Inc., estimates the Live! District would create 1,070 full-time equivalent jobs and create a \$456.6 million economic impact over 30 years beginning in 2022.

City Council Auditor Kim Taylor said the deal would only generate 44 cents in revenue for each \$1 spent by the city, although the City's Office of Economic Development put the figure at \$1.69.

No independent market analysis of the development has been done to determine if it is economically viable and sustainable.

Lamping has said if the City Council approves the legislation, construction could begin in the first half of 2021 and take three years to complete.

But Lot J, a former industrial site, is environmentally contaminated that would have to be cleaned up in accordance with federal environmental regulations before any construction could begin. The city,

which would pay for the cleanup, estimates it would cost \$77 million.

Correspondence between the Mayor's Office and the City Auditor's Office indicates the cleanup could take three years. And the auditor notes that the deal would give the developer seven years to get Live! District completed and up to 12 years to finish the hotel.

Khan, who donated \$150,000 to the mayor's re-election campaign, and Cordish have been negotiating the Lot J deal with Chief Administrative Office Brian Hughes in the Mayor's Office for more than two years, said Jaguars President Mark Lamping.

The deal, however, only became public Oct. 5 at a news conference held by Curry and Khan. Curry said he was sending the legislation to the City Council. It was the expectation that it would be approved before the end of the year. Meanwhile, six weeks later, Lamping unveiled yet another Khan development for Metropolitan Park and the Shipyards that would include a Four Seasons Hotel, a medical complex and residential.

The push back on Lot J was immediate. Why was the city giving so many incentives to a billionaire, while the city was covering half the cost of the project without getting incentives from Khan?

In particular, residents want some assurance that the team will stay in Jacksonville after its lease with the city expires in 10 years. Speculation is rampant that Khan could move the team to London, where he has already moved two home games.

District 14 City Council member Randy DeFoor, who represents Riverside, called it "a fat deal."

"Sweetheart deals are great, but we want a married deal, and the only way this project makes any sense at all is if the Jaguars stadium lease is extended for at least 25

Carlucci pushes to put Lot J negotiations in hands of DIA

At-Large City Council member Matt Carlucci thinks the Lot J deal has been negotiated backwards, and he's hoping to get it turned around.

"The mayor negotiated this deal with the Jaguars and Cordish. It's very lopsided. They've thrown it over to the City Council for us to review and pass," Carlucci said. "That's not how it works. The Downtown Investment Authority negotiates these contracts. They review the viability and sustainability and put together how project should be designed and what will work. They negotiate a lot of the incentives."

City Administrative Officer Brian Hughes said the city negotiated with Jaguars owner Shad Khan, his company Gecko Investments, and the Cordish Companies of Baltimore because the city has a long-term contract with Khan and owns the property.

But Carlucci said the DIA negotiated the development agreement for the District on the Southbank, which is to be built on land formerly owned by JEA, and it is currently

negotiating a development agreement for the River City Brewing Company, which also is leased by the restaurant from the city.

Carlucci said the last time the city handled the negotiations was for Daily's Place, an amphitheater built by Khan.

"DIA wasn't involved. They had beautiful renderings of the building but when it was built, it was nothing like the renderings," Carlucci said. "DIA would have made sure about the architecture."

Carlucci said the mayor has put the City Council in the position of doing the work of the DIA.

"The mayor's bill is full of waivers keeping DIA out of the project," Carlucci said. "We find ourselves as a council doing the work of DIA. That's why it's not working well. We're not subject-matter experts."

Carlucci has a substitute bill that would amend the Lot J legislation to remove the waivers that bypass DIA and require that the deal be negotiated by DIA.

City Council member LeAnna Cumber, who is the council's DIA liaison, has a

similar amendment that would send the legislation as it exists to DIA for review.

Cumber introduced her bill at the Nov. 19 Committee of the Whole meeting but it was deferred because there wasn't a quorum. Cumber didn't respond to a request for comment.

Carlucci said he has reached out to Cumber and hopes they can come up with a consensus bill after the Thanksgiving holidays.

"I haven't read her bill, and she hasn't read mine, but I think we're headed in the same direction. At the end of the day, DIA by code is to manage and have oversight of any of the contracts associated with Downtown development projects. The mayor wants the oversight. That's outside the purview of the city code.

"It's not a slight to the mayor. It doesn't mean we're against Lot J. I've voted for every Jaguars' bill going back to the beginning," Carlucci said. "Call me crazy. I'm just trying to follow the law."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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years and they commit to a certain number of home games,” DeFoor said.

At-large City Council member Matt Carlucci, a San Marco resident, said Khan was getting special treatment. He questioned why the deal was negotiated by the Mayor’s Office and not the Downtown Design Review Board and the Downtown Investment Authority, as required by city code.

Three civic groups also weighed in:

- The Urban Land Institute North Florida offered its expertise to analyze the deal, saying “any project of such magnitude – financially, catalytically, and optically – deserves sufficient time and transparency.”
- OurJax, a citizens watchdog formed after the JEA scandal, asked the City Council “to slow down the unnecessarily rushed and non-transparent process.

... It is not good enough for the mayor and the City Council to say, ‘trust us.’”

- The Jacksonville Civic Council, in a letter co-signed by former mayor John Delaney, also called for transparency, urging the release of all documents and calculations related to the project.

According to a survey by Barcelo & Company, 70% of the residents polled oppose the proposed deal, with 25% strongly opposing it. Only 17% favored the deal and only 6% strongly favor it.

Carlucci introduced a bill to hire a firm to take an independent look at the deal and another bill that would send the deal to DIA to be negotiated.

District 5 City Council member LeAnna Cumber, who represents San Marco, introduced a bill that would send the deal to DIA to be reviewed.

Carlucci and Cumber each convened Town Halls for the public to weigh in.

City Council President Tommy Hazouri took the unusual step of suspending the legislation’s usual review by council committees and instead convened a Committee of the Whole, so the entire council could review the legislation.

The second meeting of the Committee of the Whole on Nov. 19 revealed the true extent of the tensions generated by the Lot J deal, with sharp words exchanged among the City Council members, as well as between Hazouri, Lamping and Hughes.

Asked why the deal has numerous waivers that excluded DIA, Hughes said the city owns Lot J and already has a lease with the Jaguars and didn’t think it was necessary to go through the DIA.

But Hazouri said the Mayor’s Office “violated the spirit of what the DIA is supposed to be doing.”

Attorney Paul Harden, who is working on the Lot J deal, said they are making concessions to the city that will be reflected in the revised bill. These include giving the city 50% of the net revenue from the Live! District during the Florida/Georgia game. They also pledge not to sell Live! District until five years after its completion.

But the consensus of the City Council members was that there were too many questions yet and they need to see a final bill.

Hazouri has scheduled another meeting of the Committee of the Whole at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 3. If the committee is satisfied, it could vote and send its recommendations to the City Council, which could vote on the project as early as Tuesday, Dec. 8.

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Historic incentives breath life into urban development

By Lilla Ross, Resident Community News

Preserving historic buildings is a key element to the redevelopment of downtown and now there's a new tool available in the form of city incentives that will help cover some of the extra expenses that come with refurbishing an old building.

The incentives were approved by the City Council in October, and Lori Boyer, CEO of the Downtown Investment Authority, said she expects to see a number of development applications come in in the next few months.

"It will be transformative to old building stock. I think we're going to see a lot of them get off the ground," Boyer said. "By incentivizing, you can make something happen that is transformative or changes the value of downtown and the neighboring properties.

"It becomes a policy decision about how much you value historic building stock and the importance of that to the culture and identity of downtown. It creates an ambience," she said.

DIA already gives incentives to downtown developments both old and new, such as Recapture Enhanced Value (REV) Grants, which give developers a tax rebate on the value of the enhanced property for a set number of years.

"It allows a developer to ask for an amount that is necessary to bridge the financial gap when they are trying to restore a building, the difference between construction costs versus what they get in rents," Boyer said.

The Laura Street Trio for instance will only have 24 to 50 residential units. "That doesn't yield a lot of rent, or pay off a big loan, but it will make all the difference in downtown," Boyer said.

A company that brings jobs to the area can be eligible for other incentives.

In the last decade, DIA has given 16 downtown development projects various incentives. Here are some better known examples. The complete list accompanies this story.

- The District on the Southbank received a REV grant of 75% for 20 years, not to exceed \$56 million.
- The Cowford Chophouse received a \$500,000 Historic Preservation and Revitalization Trust Fund Grant
- 220 Riverside received a REV grant of 75% for 20 years not to exceed \$4.9 million with a \$30 million minimum capital investment requirement.

To qualify for the new historic incentives, buildings must be at least 50 years old and designated historic by the City Council and contribute to the Downtown Jacksonville Historic District.

The new incentives would include funding to offset the costs of upgrading fire and other systems required to meet building codes. The city also would cover some of the costs of exterior and interior renovations such as flooring and elevators.



Sweet Pete's sweet shop with its close proximity to City Hall, brings a historic ambience to James Weldon Johnson Park.

Smaller projects could be eligible for grants capped at 40% of the total cost of the project.

The DIA also could give forgivable loans of up to \$100,000 from the Downtown Historic Preservation and Revitalization Trust Fund without approval from the City Council. But there is currently no money in the fund.

Loans of more than \$100,000 would be available through the Downtown Preservation and Restoration Program that would require City Council approval.

The legislation also removes the \$1 million cap on historic incentives.

Jacques Klempf, who renovated the old Bostwick Building at 101 E. Bay St., into the Cowford Chophouse, said renovating an old building comes with special challenges.

The Bostwick building was in such poor condition, it was dismantled brick by brick and rebuilt.

"Nothing had been done to it for 80 years," Klempf said. "I would have been better off mowing it down and starting from scratch. But that building is the entrance to downtown, that was my main reason for purchasing it."

And it also yielded a cache of historic records and artifacts from its two vaults that contained 200 lock boxes that hadn't been opened since the bank closed in 1926.

"We were very fortunate. DIA was willing to help developers to keep the fabric of historic downtown," Klempf said. "We worked with the mayor and council. We shared with them our vision. Once we completed the project, they came through with incentives. It was a nice bonus."

Robert Pavelka didn't get incentives for his 2007 renovation of the Churchwell Lofts on Bay Street, but the project is a study in the complexity of renovating a historic building.

The building was constructed as a brick warehouse in 1904 and Pavelka's grandfather and great uncle bought it in 1922.

"It was beautifully built. It's a substantial building," he said.

The walls on the lower floors are 24 inches thick and the building has over 100 windows.

In renovating the building into luxury condos, Pavelka said they left much of the original building intact. Many of the windows are the originals with wavy glass, and the walls are exposed brick.

"All the columns were heart pine. We just refinished everything, left it natural. We sanded and polyurethaned the floors. We didn't stain them. I wanted it to be upscale, urban chic."

Pavelka, an Ortega resident, said he applied for incentives under the Peyton administration but didn't get them.

"A lot of it depends on who is running the city and how badly they want to work with you," he said. "It's great to have an incentive, but it doesn't make it profitable. You have to have the right market. It has to make economic sense. Incentives didn't work for us but hopefully it will work for other people."

For Alex Sifakis, president of JWB Real Estate Capital, incentives are critical and essential piece of historic preservation.

"You need incentives because the rent is not enough to make money off development. In other downtowns, the rents are high enough, you don't need incentives. If you incentivize development, eventually you will get enough residents and amenities that will make it more desirable and raise the rents.

"That new program is pretty great as far as enabling developers to save historic buildings," Sifakis said. "We think it's a great move and will make great impact on revitalization."

JWB recently bought two historic buildings: Federal Reserve Bank at 424 N. Hogan St., and the adjacent Baptist Convention building at 218 W. Church St.

The bank was designed by Henrietta Dozier, the first woman architect in Jacksonville; the Baptist building by famed architect Henry Klutho, who helped rebuild the city after the 1901 fire.

Sifakis said the buildings will be redeveloped as one project with the parking lot to be converted into an outdoor courtyard with seating for two to three restaurants. In addition, the Baptist building will have 24 residential units and the Federal Reserve will have event space on the upper floors.

JWB is in talks with DIA about incentives and plans to begin work by the middle of next year. Sifakis said they also will be pursuing a federal historic tax credit.

Sifakis said JWB did not get incentives for the shipping container apartments on Ashley Street, but in retrospect, wish they had because the project was more expensive than they had anticipated.

JWB also has acquired the Porter House mansion, 510 Julia St., another Klutho building catty corner to Federal Reserve and Baptist building that will be turned into office space and retail/restaurant.

It also owns Klutho's Seminole building, 400 N. Hogan St., which is anchored by Sweet Pete's and has a vacant restaurant space.

The buildings are in close proximity to City Hall and James Weldon Johnson Park. In a few years, the Emerald Trail will run down Hogan Street from Springfield to the river.

"The Emerald Trail is a great amenity," Sifakis said. "Urban trails have proven to be a great catalyst for revitalization."

Boyer said she hopes the incentives will help boost the residential population downtown and the number of restaurants and retail shops to sustain them.

"We have a great quality of life for the beach lifestyle and the suburban lifestyle, but we're not as competitive with the urban lifestyle," she said. "By creating an urban lifestyle, we'll be catering to what millennials are looking for. It helps us compete for jobs and business recruiting."



JWB's plan for the Federal Reserve Building on North Hogan Street is to have event space on its upper floors.

Downtown Historic development projects

List of open projects approved in the last 10 years that are currently administered by the Downtown Investment Authority:

RIVERSIDE/BROOKLYN

220 Riverside

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: \$30,000,000
REV Grant: 75%/20 years, not to exceed \$4,905,980
Loan: None

200 Riverside

(a/k/a Vista Brooklyn)
Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: \$50,000,000
REV Grant: 62.5%/20 years, not to exceed \$9,000,000
Loan: None

Riverside Lodging (a/k/a Residence Inn)

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: \$17,500,000
REV Grant: 75%/20 years, not to exceed \$3,700,000
Loan: None

Lofts at Brooklyn

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: \$28,000,000
REV Grant: 75%/the earlier of 15 years or 2037, not to exceed \$3,380,000
Loan: \$625,750, 20 years at 0% interest

Brooklyn Riverside (BR Riverside, DST)

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: \$35,500,000
REV Grant: 75%/20 years, not to exceed \$5,154,000
Loan: None

Fidelity Information Services (d/b/a FIS)

Minimum Capital Investment: \$145,000,000
REV Grant: 75%/20 years, not to exceed \$23,400,000
Loan: None
Other: City QTI contribution of up to \$600,000 for 500 new jobs over ten (10) year period

LaVILLA

Lofts at LaVilla 2

(a/k/a Jefferson Station)
Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: \$26,000,000
REV Grant: 75%/15 years, not to exceed \$2,980,000
Loan: \$400,000, 20 years at 0% interest

Lofts at LaVilla on Monroe

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: None
REV Grant: None
Loan: \$303,750, 20 years at 0% interest

DOWNTOWN

ACE Jax, LLC (Jones Brothers)

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: None
REV Grant: None
Loan: None
Other: \$1,500,000 Historic Preservation and Revitalization Trust Fund Grant

AXIS Hotels, LC (Ambassador Hotel)

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: None
REV Grant: None
Loan: None
Other: \$1,500,000 Historic Preservation and Revitalization Trust Fund Grant

FOODONICS EQUITIES, LLC (Cowford Chophouse)

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: None
REV Grant: None
Loan: None
Other: \$500,000 Historic Preservation and Revitalization Trust Fund Grant

SOUTHBANK

Southbank Apartment Ventures

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: \$37,000,000
REV Grant: 75%/15 years, not to exceed \$7,810,000
Loan: None

CDP Home Street (SoBA)

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: \$21,000,000
REV Grant: 75%/15 years, not to exceed \$2,530,000
Loan: None

The District

Estimated Capital Investment: \$280,000,000
REV Grant: 75%/20 years, not to exceed \$56,025,000
Loan: None

GV-IP Jacksonville Owner, LLC (One Call)

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: None
REV Grant: None
Loan: None
Other: \$100,000 annual Commercial Revitalization Grant for creating/maintaining 900-1,175 jobs

SunGard Data Systems, Inc.

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: \$1,235,000
REV Grant: 50%/10 years, not to exceed \$80,000
Loan: None
Other: Create/maintain 120-250 jobs

City's first Eco-Counter dedicated on Northbank Riverwalk

More than 30 guests gathered at Corkscrew Park on the Northbank Nov. 17, to dedicate Jacksonville's first Eco-Counter, a permanent bicycle and pedestrian tracker. Included among the crowd were representatives from Downtown Vision, the City of Jacksonville (COJ) Parks Recreation and Community Services, Downtown Investment Authority (DIA), JTC Running, Black Girls Do Bike, Major Taylor Cycling Club, and the North Florida Bicycle Club.

Located along the Northbank Riverwalk under the Acosta Bridge, the sleek 7.5-foot Eco-Counter kiosk displays daily and year-to-date pedestrian, runner, and bicycle use. Additional trackers are planned for the urban core and information collected will help the City and its partners in future recreational and transit planning. Having reliable data showing foot traffic is also valuable as the City and its partners seek outside grants to improve bike/ped infrastructure.

The Eco-Counter was made possible by a \$31,550 donation from JTC Running, the nonprofit organization that founded and hosts the annual Gate River Run, among other initiatives. "JTC's mission is to support health, outdoor recreation and running in Northeast Florida," said JTC Board President Larry



DIA CEO Lori Boyer speaks at the dedication of the Eco-Counter in Corkscrew Park Nov. 17.



A cyclist breezes past the new Eco-Counter in Corkscrew Park.

Roberts. "All proceeds from the Gate River Run stay local to support high school track, JTC-sponsored races and training classes, and major initiatives like the Eco-counter and the planned 30-mile Emerald Trail."

Also speaking at the event were San Marco's Lori Boyer, CEO of the DIA; Daryl

Joseph, Jacksonville director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services; Eric Miller, vice president of District Services for Downtown Vision and president of the Downtown Dwellers; and Karissa Moffett, Jacksonville Bicycle and Pedestrian coordinator.

"The Eco-Counter is a great tool for collecting valuable data that can help guide active infrastructure investments Downtown while also promoting and inspiring the community to take advantage of our 2.8 miles of Riverwalk promenade," said Boyer. "The St. Johns River is at the heart of Downtown's infrastructure, and we're grateful for JTC's generous donation that will encourage access to the river for locals and visitors alike as they walk, jog, bike, or simply stroll along the Riverwalk and take in the scenic views."

As of the event day, nearly 14,000 pedestrians and runners, and 2,500 cyclists have traversed through Corkscrew Park on their journey along the Northbank Riverwalk to and from Riverside since the Eco-counter was installed in late October.

Moffett said the Eco-Counter will help create a ridership baseline that can be used to assess future years, and ensure investments are moving the City toward its goal of increasing walking and bicycling trips by 10% by 2030. "Thank you to JTC for spearheading the first permanent counter in Jacksonville—this is the first of many to help us reach our goal of becoming a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community," said Moffett.

Park Place developer plans to transform San Marco bathhouse

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News

A men's bathhouse that for decades rested in the shadow of Southside Baptist Church is about to undergo a dramatic transformation.

Bill Ware, vice president of development for Harbert Realty of Birmingham, Ala., is in the process of personally purchasing 1939 Hendricks Avenue, where the former Club Jacksonville, an adult entertainment men's club, used to reside. He will own the property through an LLC. The derelict building was condemned by the City Municipal Code Compliance Division in 2019.

A San Marco resident, Ware, is best known as the representative for Harbert Realty, the developer of Park Place San Marco, a four-story apartment complex soon to be built on land previously owned by South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church. He said he has the property under contract and plans to renovate the building into a

two-story professional office building that will house two to three tenants.

It is Ware's plan to demolish the one-story, 2,000-square-foot rear wing of the building that formerly housed the men's club's indoor pool, jacuzzi, fitness equipment and other amenities, so that he can build an two-story elevator, welcome lobby, and public restrooms in that space. He has filed for a demolition permit and hopes to take the rear portion of the structure down in December. He hopes to begin construction early next year on the \$3 million project, which includes the purchase price.

The property is currently owned by the Estate of Raymond P. Diemer in care of Athletic Ventures of Florida and Joan Elizabeth Diemer and is listed for use as a club, lodge or union hall. In 2020 it had an assessed value of \$691,021, according to the Duval County property appraiser website.

The property includes 25 parking spaces, "which is a commodity in San Marco, as you know," Ware said.



The former Club Jacksonville is set to be transformed into a professional office building

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How to Succeed at Small Business Finances and Investing

By Peter E. Bower
President, CEO and founder
Riverplace Capital Management

Small businesses continue to be the engine that fuels the American economy. Succeeding in small business is undoubtedly one of the most challenging and gratifying experiences that a person can have. What are the key ingredients to success? How can you navigate the financial challenges that you face? My team and I have worked with small business owners and businesses for more than 40 years, and there are some key financial strategies that you want to consider for your small business to succeed.

Let us be clear, the number one financial concern for small businesspeople is generating **positive cash flow**. If expenses are not met with enough income to pay them, then not much else matters. Any business that endures for any length of time has managed this.

Next in importance is to try to develop **stable revenues** the owner can count on month in and month out. The nature of the business determines how easily this can be achieved, but it is always a consideration and a goal. One way to accomplish this is through diverse income sources. Relying too much on one or just a few sources is always uncomfortable and risky. When it

comes to valuing a business, those with the most stable revenues are always worth more than ones that do not have this.

The most important investment that a small business can make is back into the firm. Growing can take money. **Providing a cushion** for the surprise events and the inevitable needs that crop up is a priority too. Any responsible businessperson knows there are good years and bad ones. Not spending up to the limit during the good years allows the establishment of reserves to make it through the not so good ones.

Many business owners love the challenge, sense of independence, and opportunity involved in managing an enterprise. However, providing for ones' family is not to be ignored. This may be in fact, the most important reason for working. A good life, a better life, and a safe and **financially secure** one are what so many of us want for our loved ones. Success provides for all these and other aspirations.

Succession or cashing out becomes a very important consideration at some point. Planning for either of these must take place along the way. How will the business proceed if you are no longer there? Or, how will you create the greatest value and price for when you might want to sell it? There are many things that can be done for either possibility — knowing what to do and how to do it are important.



Some businesses may or may not provide much value when sold. Like everyone else, every business person needs to think about **providing for retirement**. This may seem like a luxury at times, but just remember how quickly events can change everything. For those who are able, making retirement investments separate from the business, may make all the difference in your financial security. There are many tax-efficient ways to do this. What's right depends on you.

Making investments separate from your business can provide invaluable security during challenging times. This may not be your highest priority when starting out, but will soon become one as success grows. If the worst happens and the business gets in trouble, having other **wealth** can be critical to you and your family's future. Just think

of the value of many hospitality and leisure businesses today compared to a year ago.

Working with a financial advisor like **Riverplace Capital** can help you better navigate the challenges involved with building, running, and perhaps selling a business. Doing this in a financially efficient and successful manner is the goal. Knowing what to do to sustain the business and create the most value is how we help you. If you would like to discuss your business plan, ideas or challenges, call us. We have helped many business owners secure their **financial independence** and create wealth for themselves and their families. We publish a weekly update on financial topics entitled, "Lonely Bull Blog". If you would like to receive this, please sign up contact us via email at info@riverplacecapital.com or via text (904) 614-8000.

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Subaru shares the love with \$115,500 donation to Wolfson Children's

To kick off the 13th-annual Share the Love campaign and celebrate the success of last year's philanthropic drive, Subaru of Jacksonville presented a check for \$115,500 to Wolfson Children's Hospital. The donation, which is the result of the 12th annual Share the Love campaign, is the largest to-date from the local dealership since pledging a five-year commitment to Wolfson Children's in 2016.

The gift will help fund care and advanced technology to treat critically ill and injured children at Wolfson Children's Hospital, along with child passenger safety education through THE PLAYERS Center for Child Health at Wolfson Children's. While the donation is usually announced and presented to Wolfson Children's Hospital in the spring, it was delayed so that it could coincide with the beginning of this year's campaign due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For this year's Share the Love campaign, Subaru will donate \$250 for every new

vehicle purchased or leased from Subaru of Jacksonville between November 19, 2020, and January 4, 2021. Customers may choose between four national charities for the \$250 donation – including ASPCA, Make a Wish Foundation, Meals on Wheels, and the National Park Foundation – or Subaru of Jacksonville's hometown charity, Wolfson Children's Hospital. Subaru of Jacksonville matches every \$250 donation, regardless of the charity chosen by the customer, with all matching funds benefitting Wolfson Children's Hospital. Additionally, Subaru of America and Subaru of Jacksonville donate \$2 and \$3, respectively, to Wolfson Children's for every Subaru oil change at the dealership.

Subaru of Jacksonville has donated \$476,448 to Wolfson Children's Hospital since the partnership began in 2016. This year's event is the final of a five-year pledge to support Wolfson Children's.

The Jacksonville dealership was the first corporate partner to support trauma services



Wolfson Children's Hospital President Michael Aubin, Jessica Winberry of THE PLAYERS Center for Child Health at Wolfson, with Roxanne Porter and Phil Porter, owners of Subaru of Jacksonville

at Wolfson Children's and established the "Subaru of Jacksonville Porter Family Trauma Services Endowment," creating a legacy of support for generations to come.

"We are proud of the results and partnership with Wolfson Children's Hospital. Everyone in our community has known someone or

has personally benefited from the amazing care at Wolfson Children's Hospital. Jacksonville is so fortunate to have such outstanding care available for our children, and we consider it an honor to support the hospital and its remarkable staff," said Phil Porter, owner of the dealership.

Donors furnish Clara White rec room for homeless vets

Homeless Veterans in reemployment programs at the Jacksonville Clara White Mission were honored with the first recreation room at the facility. Donors rallied from the three surrounding counties to furnish the room with a foosball table, indoor basketball, magnetic dart board, board games, masks, furniture, military service wall hangings, supplies, and the services of a professional painter.

The Clara White Mission was designated by the We Can Be Heroes Foundation for delivery of food and goods. The male Veterans Dormitory and the female Veterans Boulevard House at the mission provide a



The new Clara White Mission Rec Room

welcoming place for veterans in need of a place to live while they work toward independent living.

Donors from Clay, Duval and St. Johns Counties included Community Presbyterian Church in Atlantic Beach, the American Legion Auxiliary 233 of Ponte Vedra, the Women's Tuesday Mah Jongg Group of Fleming Island, and anonymous veterans and volunteers with We Can Be Heroes.

Fundraising campaign to make magic for Theatre Jacksonville

As 2020 draws to a close, Theatre Jacksonville is ready to make some magic happen! With the help of a matching grant initiative through the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, donations from Dec. 1 - 31 will do just that. Any gift of up to \$500 given to Theatre Jacksonville's Make Magic in 2020 campaign by December 31 will "magically" double – and 10% of the gift amount will also be donated to one of three local charities if the giver specifies as such.

"We have been able to keep operations going this year, during exceptionally difficult times, in part due to the generosity of our donors. Our Make Magic in 2020 program is a fantastic way for operating funds to get a much-needed boost during these final months and for your donations to pack an extra punch," said Theatre Jacksonville Executive Director Sarah Boone.

The three charities Theatre Jacksonville has selected to assist are Clara White Mission, JASMYN, and Mental Health America of Northeast Florida. Clara White Mission offers a variety of programs to chronically homeless and low-income clients, particularly veterans. JASMYN supports and empowers LGBTQ young people through health and wholeness services and youth development opportunities. Mental Health America raises awareness of mental health and wellness, provides training, and works to impact policy and legislation. Each giver may designate and name one if they wish to help a charity in addition to Theatre Jacksonville.

Donations to the Make Magic in 2020 campaign can be made by visiting www.theatrejax.com.

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Pajcic and Pajcic continues tradition of giving back

When Seth Pajcic of The Law Firm of Pajcic and Pajcic handed Ju'Coby Pittman, CEO and president of Clara White Mission, a check for \$100,000 Nov. 16, it was to continue the Pajcic tradition of giving back to the community.

"Ever since my dad and uncle started the firm, they thought about how they could give back to the community. With this check we are trying to continue a tradition of giving back, especially to important charities like Clara White and what they do, feeding people, providing

housing (for veterans), and job training," said Seth Pajcic. "People that can, this is our time to step up and do a little extra and that's what we're doing. We are fortunate to have the means to donate and give to a mission like Clara White and make our community a better place."

Pittman said the donation would be a game-changer for her nonprofit. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Clara White has been struggling as many charitable organizations have been, lacking volunteers and resources to feed hundreds of individuals



Ju'Coby Pittman speaks to media about the gift of \$100,000 dollars given to the Clara White Mission on Nov. 16. Clara White board chair Michelle Paul, veteran client Russell Graney, Seth Pajcic of Pajcic and Pajcic, veteran client Wayne Stephens and Clara White president and CEO Ju'Coby Pittman gathered to announce the gift during the check presentation.

and families every day. The money will help the mission stay open and continue to feed people and provide packaged goods to families who have come to depend on it,

she said. "We are a safety net. We've been around 117 years," she said. "Today I didn't expect this check, but I can tell you we need it more now than ever."

Genealogical society names new president

James W. Preston, governor, Florida State Society of Mayflower Descendants, installed new officers of the Richard Warren colony during a Zoom meeting Nov. 7.

A resident of Brandon, Fla, Preston presides over 1,411 Florida members in 17 local colonies in Florida, including the Richard Warren Colony, which includes members in Northeast Florida. The Florida Society is one of the largest state organizations of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Richard Warren Colony was established in 1957 at Ponte Vedra, and serves Jacksonville, St. Augustine, and Florida's First Coast.

Members installed for three-year terms included:

Governor, Dr. William P. Cheshire; Deputy Governor and Treasurer, Donna Webb; Secretary, Carolyn Gentry; Elder, Jan Davis, and Captain, Audie Boggs.

Cheshire, professor of Neurology at the Mayo Clinic, is a 10th great-grandson of William Bradford, an English Puritan separatist. "At this time when America is struggling with political divisions, our Mayflower heritage reminds us of the principles of freedom, equality, justice, and



James W. Preston



William P. Cheshire

humanity that, in the Mayflower Compact written 400 years ago, bound our forebears together in common purpose. As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, may we all come together again as a nation," said Cheshire.

Outgoing governor, Mere Schwartz, highlighted the historic opportunity this year to commemorate Plymouth's 400th anniversary of the Mayflower voyage and the founding of Plymouth Colony in 1620. "Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Plymouth conducted inspirational and educational events to celebrate, especially the relaunch of the Mayflower II after extensive restoration," she said.

Anyone who can offer proof of lineage from one of the passengers who traveled to America on the Mayflower in 1620 is welcome to apply for membership in the Florida Mayflower Society. For more information, visit Richardwarrencolony.com.

Community Foundation adds two to board of trustees

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida elected Carol J. Alexander and Velma Monteiro-Tribble to its Board of Trustees for three-year terms, starting in January 2021. Also, in January, current trustee and U.S. District Court Judge Brian J. Davis will become chairman-elect of the Board, in anticipation of his becoming chairman in January 2022.

"We are delighted to welcome Carol and Velma to the Board of Trustees—they each have extensive experience in the corporate, philanthropic, and nonprofit arenas and will bring new perspectives to our governing body," said Martha Frye Baker, the current chair of The Community Foundation's Board of Trustees. "And we are particularly gratified that Judge Davis has agreed to lead the Board starting in 2022."

Carol J. Alexander is president and chief creative officer of MaBu: A Cultural Resource. An arts management executive, producer, storyteller, and educator, her work has taken her around the world including her oversight of the reopening of the National Museum of Liberia in 2017, following a 14-year civil war there. She has been the driving force behind two local museums. She serves as the Founding Executive Director of Jacksonville's prestigious Ritz Theatre and LaVilla Museum, and she founded and has



Carol J. Alexander



Velma Monteiro-Tribble

directed the artistic and educational operations at the American Beach Museum on Amelia Island since it opened in 2014.

Velma Monteiro-Tribble is director, Grants and Programs for the Florida Blue Foundation. Prior to joining the Florida Blue Foundation, she served as executive officer and assistant treasurer of the Alcoa Foundation, a worldwide \$500 million foundation based in Pittsburgh and New York City. She also spent five years at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. She has served in executive roles at the National Association for Community Leadership and at American College Testing (ACT). Monteiro-Tribble has served on the Program and Initiatives Committee at The Community Foundation since 2018.

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Barnwell named Duval County Principal of Year

Marilyn Barnwell of Alfred I duPont Middle School in San Jose has been named Duval County's Principal of the Year. Prior to receiving the top honor, Barnwell had been named Duval's Middle School Principal of the year and was among three other finalists from throughout the county vying for the top honor.

"DuPont's story is America's story in that it is a tale of self-will and self-determination characterized by a burning desire to do and be better," said Barnwell. "At duPont Middle School, community is everything and is the bedrock of all that is good and pure as seen through the eyes of our children."

Also competing for the top honors were Kimberly Dennis of Fishweir Elementary School, who was named the county's Elementary School Principal of the Year, James Ledford, principal of Duncan U. Fletcher High School in Neptune Beach, who was named the county's High School Principal of the Year, and Shirley Winfrey, principal of Hyde Park Elementary, who was named Principal of the Year for the county's Innovation and School Improvement Region.

Barnwell is head of one of the most diverse schools in Duval County with English language learners making up about



Marilyn Barnwell

20% of its student body and representing more than 20 languages.

As principal of duPont Middle School since 2012, Barnwell helped launch her school's Dual Spanish Language program and its designation as an International Business and World Language Academy Magnet Program. Under her leadership, her school also has the distinction of being the first middle school in Duval County to adopt the Global Scholars Program,

which promotes cross-cultural understanding by engaging youth in collective problem solving about common issues shared around the world.

"I recognize that as a school leader my most important role is that of life-long learner," she said. "I have a moral and ethical responsibility to stay abreast of the changing trends as it relates to best teaching practices. My primary goal is to turn-key this learning with teachers, thereby leading to increased student performance. I'm excited about the opportunity to learn and put into practice winning strategies for ensuring that our most vulnerable students, including our students with disabilities and English language learners, are given all of the tools necessary to achieve proficiency in all content areas."

For Barnwell, raising student achievement has been her primary focus, she said. During the 2017-2018 the school passed the 400-point threshold (out of 900 points) according to state accountability reports and remained above the 400-point threshold the following year as well. In 2020, duPont was recognized via the Best and Brightest Program and received the Retention and Principal Awards for its performance from 2016-2019.



The Rev. Adam Anderson with wife, Lindsey, and their children, Frankie and Abe.

South Jacksonville Presbyterian welcomes new pastor

South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church (SJPC) has welcomed The Reverend Adam Anderson to serve as pastor and head of staff for the San Marco church.

A native of Ohio, Anderson earned a marketing degree from Grove City College in Pennsylvania as well as master's degrees from Ohio State University in both City & Regional Planning and Public Administration. He spent time working in the field of public policy specializing in affordable housing and helping people with mental health issues live sustainably as part of the community before following the call to ministry.

"Ultimately, I felt called to take my public policy background into the church setting and use ministry as the tool to engage the broader community," Anderson explained. "My time in campus ministry left me with a desire to do more than lead mission work, to dig deeper and try to help fix the root of these issues."

Anderson attended Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, Texas. He then served as head pastor for Old Stone Presbyterian Church in Delaware, Ohio, before being called to SJPC.

"I am so happy to be here," said Anderson. "SJPC already feels like home, and I see so much potential in the church's future — I think we've only begun to scratch the surface of how we can impact this community together."

Anderson's wife, Lindsey, has a background in pediatric home health services and directing rehab in nursing facilities. The family is settling into the Miramar neighborhood and their children are excited to be attending Hendricks Avenue Elementary.

Landon teacher named semifinalist for Duval County Teacher of Year

Mathew Schemer, a native and resident of San Jose, who teaches seventh-grade civics at Julia Landon College Preparatory and Leadership Development School, was named as one of 15 semifinalists to compete for the Jacksonville Public Education Fund's 2021 VyStar Duval County Teacher of the Year.

One of four middle school teachers who was selected as a semifinalist, Schemer is a graduate of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and has nine years of teaching experience at Landon Middle School. In the classroom he created his own fictional nation, Schemerica, to serve as an educational aid to help students understand what it means to be an active and engaged citizen. "The invention of Schemerica revolves around the idea that any student can succeed when provided with a learning environment they enjoy and feel comfortable in," he said. As a result of this work, he has been asked to develop a gifted curriculum in civics.

Also selected as semifinalists for county Teacher of the Year honors were: Christine Bell, Chets Creek Elementary; Maryjane



Mathew Schemer

Cassette, Sabal Palm Elementary; Kenneth Ford, Carter G. Woodson Elementary; Jemee Jackson-Gaines, Richard Lewis Brown Gifted and Academically Talented Academy; Kimberly Parker, Lake Lucina Elementary; Margaret Rogero-Hastings, Mandarin Oakes Elementary; Kayla Santiago, Cedar Hills Elementary; Leslie Wilkinson, Garden City Elementary; Nadine Ebri, Southside Middle School; Katie Kiefaber, Matthew Gilbert Middle School; Charlotte Wintz, James Weldon Johnson College Preparatory Middle School; Sharmariton

Ashley, Andrew Jackson High School of Advanced Technology; Shayla Baylock, William M. Raines High School; and Jim Schmitt, Mandarin High School.

The teachers will go on to be considered as finalists for the county's top teaching honor and all 15 will participate in JPEF's Teacher Leadership Initiative, a professional learning community that connects teacher leaders with best practices in equity and school quality.

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Wolfson graduate serves aboard USS Ronald Reagan

Petty Officer First Class Cedric Brown, a Samuel W. Wolfson High School graduate, served on board the Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) during exercise Keen Sword (KS21), which took place between Oct. 26 and Nov. 5.

Directed by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, KS21 is a biennial, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command-scheduled, and U.S. Pacific Fleet-sponsored field-training exercise that is designed to enhance Japan-U.S. combat readiness and interoperability.

An estimated 9,000 personnel from the U.S. Navy, Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps are participating in the exercise, including ships from the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group and more than 100 aircraft from Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5, USS Ashland (LSD 48), HMCS Winnipeg (FFH 338), Commander Task Force 72 and 5th Air Force.

Brown is a master-at-arms responsible for being a small arms instructor who qualifies both new and experienced shooters assigned to the USS Ronald Reagan.

"It feels good to not only be supporting the operation but also supporting my fellow sailors," said Brown. "Times get hard out here, and I'm glad that I can rely on my shipmates through both good and bad times."

The exercise helps strengthen bilateral relationships and demonstrates U.S. resolve to support the security interests of allies and partners in the region.

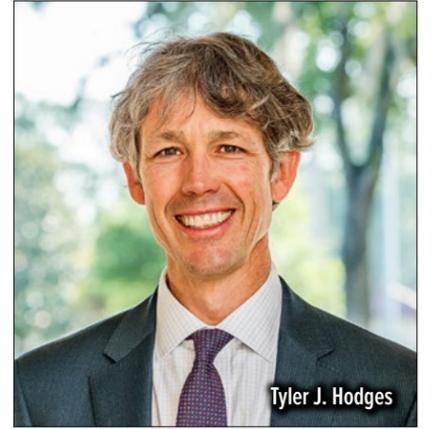
Keen Sword is an example of the strength of U.S.-Japan Alliance, the foundation of peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region for more than 60 years. The relationships built and maintained



Petty Officer First Class Cedric Brown

during these events are critical to Japan-U.S. shared capability to respond to contingencies at a moment's notice.

Since Ronald Reagan's Yokosuka departure in June 2020, the ship continues to operate in the Indo-Pacific alongside allies and partners to demonstrate the United States of America's commitment to defense agreements, as well as promote peace and prosperity by supporting international norms.



Tyler J. Hodges

Bolles president elected to FCIS Board

The Florida Council of Independent Schools has elected Bolles President and Head of School Tyler J. Hodges of San Jose to its board of directors.

Hodges joins a board of five officers and 12 directors who are elected by their peers. FCIS membership includes 145 schools serving more than 72,000 students around Florida – from Pensacola to Key Largo. The board elected Hodges to the group during the organization's virtual annual meeting on Nov. 5.

"We are fortunate to have Tyler Hodges as a member of our board," said FCIS Executive Director Barbara H. Hodges Ed.D. "This confirms his standing as a valued member of the Florida family of independent school leaders, and we look forward to working with him."

Hodges' first official FCIS board meeting will be Sept. 23-24, 2021 in Tampa. As part of his new leadership responsibilities, Hodges will serve on accreditation visitation teams during the school year and participate on board committees.

Realtors named as October top producers for Berkshire Hathaway

Anita Vining and Beth Chesak were among the top producing agents named by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty in October.

Working from Berkshire Hathaway's San Marco office, Vining received recognition as the top listings, sales, and transactions agent. Chesak was the agent recognized for top production.

"Congratulations to our top producers, each of you have risen to the top of your profession," said Christy Budnick, president and CEO.

Company Founder and Chairman Linda Sherrer also praised her top agents. "You have consistently set a high standard in both professionalism and within the industry with performance and knowledge," she said.



Anita Vining



Beth Chesak

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Cultural Council and PNC Foundation team up to support new Jax Arts Project

Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville and the PNC Foundation have joined forces to support the JAX Arts Project, a new program for individual artists living in Northeast Florida working on community-based projects resulting in pieces of art that reflect the unprecedented current social environment.

"The JAX Arts Project will take into account the challenges of creating and presenting art works in the time of COVID-19," said Jannet Walker-Ford, chair of the Cultural Council's board of directors. "The Cultural Council is thrilled to work with PNC on this new grant-making program for our local artists."

Grant submissions must take place in Greater Jacksonville between Dec. 15, 2020, and June 30, 2021, and must incorporate social-distancing measures to view or experience the artwork due to COVID-19.

"By funding quality arts programming, we help to showcase the artistic talent and creativity of the next generation, while contributing to the \$4 billion arts and culture industry in Florida," said Brian Bucher, PNC regional president for Port Cities. "We also know how critical economic support is to local artists during these exceptional times."

For more information, including detailed grant guidelines, visit the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville website.

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Jaguars donate \$58,000 to local nonprofits serving military and veterans

Jaguars President Mark Lamping joined Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry at a press conference inside City Hall Oct. 28 to announce the 2020 recipients of the Jacksonville Resource and Reintegration Center community grants. The Jaguars Foundation and the City of Jacksonville's Military Affairs and Veterans Department awarded \$57,500 to military and veteran-serving organizations throughout the community.

"Today's grant recipients play a key role in keeping our nation strong by caring for its greatest defenders," said Jaguars President Mark Lamping. "The Jaguars are honored to support these organizations and their programming, be it residential services, financial assistance, mental health, and even canine outreach. Their hard work is key to caring for our military, veterans, and their families across the First Coast."

Grants were provided to nine organizations: Five Star Veterans Center, that provides residential services for veterans; Florida National Guard Foundation that offers financial assistance for Guard members and their families; K9s for Warriors that supports the expansion of a warrior and service dog training program; Northeast Florida Women Veterans that provides emergency services to women veterans; Operation New Uniform that provides training for transitioning veterans; Operation Barnabas that offers hardship fund support for veterans; Veterans Council of St. Johns County that provides emergency assistance to veterans; United Way that supports operating expenses for the Mission United Launch; and Yoga 4



Jaguars President Mark Lamping addresses the crowd during press conference where his team bestowed \$58,000 in grants to local nonprofits that provide services to the military and veterans

Change that provides trauma-informed yoga for veterans.

"The Jacksonville Jaguars have been amazing partners in our efforts to support military service members and veterans in our city," said Curry. "I am grateful to the team for their continued contributions to our community. These grants to veteran-serving organizations further enhance Jacksonville's well-earned reputation as the most military- and veteran-friendly city in the nation."

Since 2013, the Jaguars have provided over \$1.5 million to help fund the Veterans Resource and Reintegration Center at City Hall. Including today's announcement, the team has also given nearly \$360,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations during that same time.

The Jaguars held their annual Salute to Service game Nov. 8 at TIAA Bank Field. CSX served as presenting sponsor for the Salute to Service activities, which included events and programming for military members, spouses, and families on local bases and at TIAA Bank Field throughout November.

Historian at-large launches new book

Jacksonville Historical Society announces publication of *LIFE: The Untold Story of Charles Adrian Pillars* by Wayne W. Wood

The 2020 holiday season's best gift will be the latest engaging masterpiece by Riverside resident Wayne W. Wood, the Jacksonville Historical Society's Historian At-Large and former longtime board member.

"*LIFE: The Untold Story of Charles Adrian Pillars*," is the culmination of 10 years of visioning, research, and wordsmithing about the sculptor behind Jacksonville's most iconic piece of art, prominently placed in Memorial Park since 1924.

Wood skillfully combines his passion for history, his love of art and architecture, and his knowledge of Jacksonville to dig deep into the life of a somewhat obscure artist whose only goal was to be known as Florida's most famous sculptor. With more than 200 photos of historic people, places and events, "*LIFE*" provides the backstory behind Memorial Park's sculpture, "*Life*," in riveting detail.

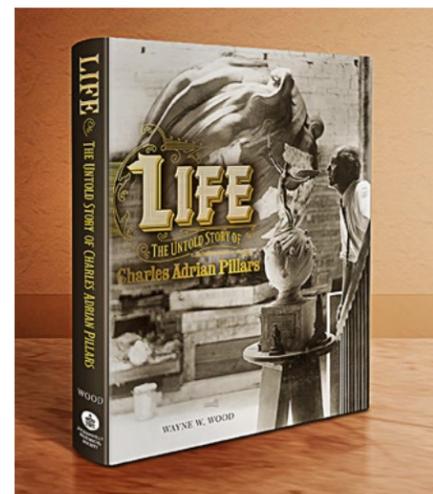


Right, Wayne W. Wood, author of "*LIFE: The Untold Story of Charles Adrian Pillars*," presents a copy of the book to Michael Pajcic, representing The Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic and the Pajcic family, whose grants helped underwrite publication, in Memorial Park in front of the namesake sculpture, "*Life*."

Published by the Jacksonville Historical Society through grants from Steve and Anne Pajcic and the Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic, the hardcover book retails at \$49.95.

To purchase this exquisite 400-page volume, which weaves art, architecture, and significant historical events around one man, visit jaxhistory.org and click on "Shop."

Just in time for the holidays, the book is also available at San Marco Books and More, Chamblin's Uptown, Chamblin's Bookmine, and at the 18th Annual Gingerbread Extravaganza at Old St. Andrews Church (book signing Saturday Dec. 5, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. and Saturday Dec. 12, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.). The book will also be on sale at a special book signing in Memorial Park on Saturday, Dec. 5, 10:30 a.m. – noon, to benefit Memorial Park Association.



"*LIFE: The Untold Story of Charles Adrian Pillars*" by Wayne W. Wood

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SUMC women serve community and world children

The women of Southside United Methodist Church hosted a service day on Nov. 9, serving around the community and children throughout the world.

The women planted irises and spread pine straw to beautify the entrance of Hendricks Avenue Elementary, and they prepared a Christmas surprise for the Hendricks Avenue teachers.

Annually, the members of Southside collect items for "Thanksgiving Bags" and donate them to UCOM to give to local families. The bags include everything for a Thanksgiving feast including a grocery gift card for a turkey and other items. This year the church collected over 50 bags and over \$800 in gift cards. During the service day, volunteers checked and sorted the bags at UCOM to prepare them for delivery to the families.

The Operation Christmas Child mission overseen by Samaritan's Purse collects shoeboxes filled with toys and necessities for children around the world. In 2019, more than 10.5 million shoebox gifts were collected. At the service day, the women filled 34 boxes and collected the funds to ship the boxes.



Chip Cosper, Marina Caro, Leslie DeVooght, Carlton DeVooght

The women also filled one-gallon bags and gently used purses with necessity items to hand out to people on the street that the church members might meet. Each bag contained toiletry items, snacks, bottles of water, socks, along with a variety of other items. The bags were passed out to the congregation following church services in November and December. Southside UMC has three services every Sunday at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., and 11 a.m.

Kairos Outside is a mission to support and encourage the family members of incarcerated people. Volunteers wrote encouraging notes and made Christmas sachets for program participants.

Every year, Southside hosts a mission brunch to raise money for local and international missions. Next year's brunch will be held on Saturday, April 24. In preparation for the brunch, the volunteers made decorations. At the 2020 Brunch, over \$7,000 was raised.

Southside United Methodist Church is currently preparing for an Angel Tree to support the students of Hendricks Avenue Elementary. For more information on the church's service opportunities go to SUMCJAX.com or follow Southside United Methodist Church on social media.



Carlie Peyton, Pat La Mountain, Liz Morgan

Friday Musicale seeks new supporters with Harvest Festival



The Ancient City Brass Band performs at Friday Musicale's Harvest Festival Nov. 15.

It wasn't so much about raising money as making new friends when Friday Musicale held its annual Harvest Festival in Riverside Nov. 15.

With the goal to bring awareness to the musical nonprofit and its programs, the "friendraiser" event partnered with Feeding Northeast Florida, Mars Hill Church in Riverside, Central Riverside Elementary, Ancient City Brass Band, River City Rhythm Kings, and Oceanway School of Dance, successfully drawing many of their supporters to the festival for the first time.

With entertainment from the Ancient City Brass Band, the River City Rhythm Kings, and dance performances from the Oceanway School of Dance, the festival offered food, games, and 16 vendors selling arts and crafts and other items. Food donations were collected for Feeding Northeast Florida.

"Our barometer for success is to cultivate new audiences and to partner for community outreach," said Janet Withers, stewardship coordinator for Friday Musicale.



Debbie Cain, Phyllis Cain, Joann Kuhns and Rick Dorn enjoy the music at Friday Musicale's Harvest Festival Nov. 15.



Maia Arnold, Willow Gann and Lindsey Nichole Smith have fun at Friday Musicale's Harvest Festival Nov. 15.

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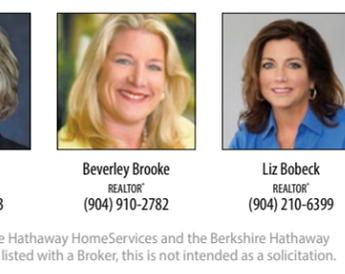
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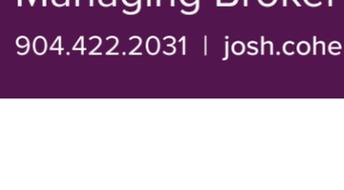
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Devin Dawson with Leah Sykes, Ben and Rachel Sykes, Quinn Rozycki, Samson, Isaac (with Dad), Levi, Silas, Vicki and Brad Sykes, Jacob Sykes and Meredith Edwards



The Hughes family representing The Will King Foundation is Will's father Taylor Hughes, sister Emma Grace, sister Caroline, mother Courtney and brother Joshua.



Nick and Angela Chandler with Jaclyn holding Andy Corr, Candy Corr, Chris and Thomas Corr

Kickin' it at Keeler with the Will King Foundation

It was an afternoon full of fun and fundraising as children's activities and live musical performances, tasty eats from Mayday Ice Cream, food trucks and bar-b-que were served at Gather + Give on behalf of the Will King Foundation. Passionate supporters of the foundation also enjoyed live music by Nashville performing artists Devin Dawson and Jacksonville native, Leah Sykes. The event took place Nov. 7 at the Keeler Property on the Westside.

The foundation was established to honor the memory of Will King Hughes, a twin born to Courtney and Taylor Hughes, who went to be with his Lord and Savior after a long and harrowing battle with

complications and infections following an early-term birth, complicated by a series of seizures and kidney failure, among other fatal difficulties.

The foundation's primary mission is to raise funds to help support lifesaving heart treatment and surgical care for children visiting internationally to receive treatment in Jacksonville hospital systems. The foundation is now a partner with Patrons of the Heart, the organization founded to help make medical care available to children throughout the world who would otherwise go without. To learn more about how you can show your support, visit www.willkingfoundation.com.

20th annual golf tournament on par, raised funds for Daniel

The 20th annual Hank Haynes golf tournament was a socially distant hit for Daniel, one of the area's longest functioning nonprofits that fights for children. The goal of the organization is to raise funds for vulnerable children and families in need of financial aid and resources to better their circumstances.

On Dec. 9, the Timuquana Country Club played host for the socially distant outing, as guests mingled and enjoyed the banquet, complete with a silent auction, live auction and a speech by former Daniel kid, Aramis Johnson, who is now a preacher raising up other children and families after overcoming great odds stacked against him.

Presenting sponsor Enterprise Integration, along with countless supporters from Weather Engineers, GHG Insurance, Miller Electric, Duval Motor Company, Brumos Collection, Swisher International and many more joined the ranks to support the organization that helps to "improve the odds for kids since 1884". For more about Daniel, visit danielkids.org.



Shepherd Colledge with Madison Shelly



Low net winners, representing the Haskell Foundation: Allan Iosue, Alan Verlander, David Auchter and...



The PLAYERS Red Coats presented a check for \$10,000 dollars, surprising Rethreaded founder and president Kristin Keen, who was in shock upon the unveiling of the surprise gift, one that will be matched by top donors.



Libi Halperin with Ellen Cottrill



Rethreaded founder and president Kristin Keen with first lady Molly Curry and Shannon Italia



Olivia Scaturro with Michele McManamon

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Christine Sweet with Emily Pepper, Vaughan Lee Griffin, Jackie Cook, Jeanine Fickling and Jim Griffin



Justin Nicholson with Jill Gayton, Roger Bowen, Ryan Hufstetler and David Hensley



Good works get noticed for Rethreaded, benefit survivors

Rethreaded is a local organization changing the lives of women who were abused, trafficked, and downtrodden by providing a new lease on life through the empowerment of other women. Through the creation of garments and socially conscious gifts, the company offers employment programs and counseling to help better lives and better our world.

During a recent fundraiser titled Gather + Give on Nov. 18, the PLAYERS and the philanthropic arm of past chairmen, the "Red Coats," gifted the mission a \$10,000 surprise donation that will be matched, yet fulfilled the goal of the nonprofit's holiday events in a moment. The gift will forever be etched in the minds of the leadership of Rethreaded and its support system of faithful givers.

Patrons and supporters were on hand to shop and celebrate the momentous occasion, all while helping to elevate the conversation for the latest program titled - Shop with a Purpose. For more about Rethreaded and the mission to renew hope, reignite dreams and release potential, visit www.rethreaded.com.

Seeing girls for who they are and who they might become

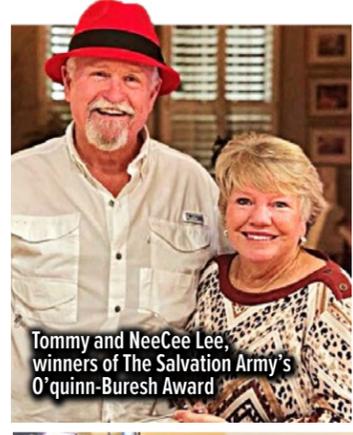
The Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center hosted Manifest Change & See the Girl, its first open-invite virtual fundraising event Nov. 18. Many supporters of the policy center affectionately referred to it as "see the girl," which is the tagline manifested from a girl asking adults to "See me for who I am, not for who you think I am. See me for who I am and who I can become." During the event, the policy center partnered with Manifest Distilling to offer guests the option to purchase a signature event glass and cocktail kit. At least 140 guests from across the United States tuned in to learn more about the agency's mission to lead policy and practice reform for girls in the juvenile justice system. To view the event on YouTube tune into: <https://youtu.be/mJtIXuuBk>.



See the Girl participants
Photo courtesy of Andrea Bottin



See the Girl glass that was purchased by guests tuning into the Manifest Change & See the Girl virtual event Nov. 18.



Tommy and NeeCee Lee, winners of The Salvation Army's O'Quinn-Buresh Award



Guests of The Salvation Army's Red Shield Ball snacked on cheese and charcuterie during the virtual event.



Majors Keath and Candice Biggers speak during The Salvation Army's virtual Red Shield Ball Nov. 21.

Tommy and NeeCee Lee honored at virtual Red Shield Ball

Tommy and NeeCee Lee were the 2020 recipients of the O'Quinn-Buresh Award, which was bestowed on the couple, who have served the Army's Advisory Board and Women's Auxiliary for 18 years, during a virtual rendition of The Salvation Army's Red Shield Ball Nov. 21. Chaired by Lauren Scheible, Courtney Taylor, and Christine Carter, the virtual ball featured a curated cheese tasting for two or more with thoughtful charcuterie and libation pairings catered by Biscottis, which were delivered to guests' doors, as well as entertainment and a live auction. All funds support the Army's Red Shield Lodge and Carpenter Family Marketplace, a client-choice pantry that gives clients the opportunity to select foods that are best for their household in an environment that preserves dignity. The marketplace was created from funds raised by the friends of Pete and Marilyn Carpenter and 2019 Red Shield Ball Fund-a-Need donations.

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‘Food for their bellies, books for their brains’

Hunger Fight celebrated its eighth anniversary, Nov. 8, doing what it does best – packing nutritious meals for hungry children and families in Northeast Florida.

“We started fundraising Nov. 8, 2012 and began packing meals in June 2013 and this Sunday we will surpass 10 million meals,” said Dean Porter who serves the nonprofit alongside his wife, Sherri, Hunger Fight’s founder.

Hunger Fight held its 7th Thanksgiving Community Outreach event Nov. 1-8 at its San Marco warehouse. Normally a two-day event, the Porters decided to stretch the packing activity over seven days to accommodate COVID-19 guidelines. “We stretched it out so we could have smaller groups and do social distancing,” Dean Porter said. “We wanted to make everybody feel more comfortable and still be able to make our goal of packing 400,000 to

500,000 meals to distribute to the children and families we service on a regular basis.”

During the week-long event, more than 600 volunteers participated in the packing activity.

Along with packing meals, the nonprofit also started its “Feed the Need to Read” program more than a year ago. “We started collaborating with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and have since started our own homegrown program, where we can be more targeted to the children we are trying to reach and work directly with daycare centers to get books in their hands so we can get the children better prepared for school before they go to kindergarten,” said Porter, adding that 46% of children in Northeast Florida are not reading on grade level. “We don’t want to change just the child’s life, we want to change the family unit, so



Emily Dearing, Josh Slocum, Bella Willard, McKenzie Parish and Abigail Harrison of Holiday Hill Baptist Church pack meals on Nov. 7.

that we can really make a difference in those communities that have a high drop-out rate.”

Since the program started, Hunger Fight has passed out 88,000 books and serves 2,800 preschoolers with reading material each month throughout the First Coast.



Lisa Wright places four of the nine justices at the bench.



Nora Lee carefully cuts pieces of gingerbread for “Justice for All.”

San Marco gingerbread display honors late Supreme Court justice

Despite concerns about the pandemic, the 18th Annual Gingerbread Extravaganza will be every bit as magical as in prior years. More than two-thirds of the gingerbread builders this year are new to the show and every display will be brand-new. While the month-long event will again feature a holiday gift and bake shop, this year the Jacksonville Historical Society has added a quilt raffle, an online silent auction with prizes unique to the society, and contests for Best Displays and Best Tree.

Gingerbread Extravaganza takes place Dec. 1-27 (closed Mondays) at Old St. Andrew’s Church, 317 A. Philip Randolph Blvd. Visit jaxhistory.org for all the details about times, how to reserve your visit and the measures the society is taking to ensure health safety, including reserving Tuesdays for seniors and those with compromised health.

Each year several families from the historic neighborhoods participate in the event with a gingerbread creation and this year is no different.

From the heart of San Marco, friends and family gathered at Lisa Wright’s home on Felch Avenue to construct a display that nearly defied categorizing. It wasn’t fantasy, and certainly was not a traditional gingerbread display nor was it religious, so in the end “Justice for All” was deemed to be “landmark.”

“This year we started off with a theme, but we changed it as we went into September,” said Wright. “The death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg in September led us in a new direction. As we studied her life, we came to better understand the importance of ‘Justice for All.’ That explains our title.”

Lisa Wright, Linda Ellis, Nancy Balch, Becky Hilbert, John Wright joined two children, sixth grader Ava Ruth Lee and fourth grader Nora Lee to make up “GG’s Family and Friends” team, which was motivated to enter again after their first attempt in 2019. “We found the experience to be more involved and complicated than

we originally thought, but we were hooked,” said Wright.

With a Ping-Pong table in the living room as a gingerbread workstation, Wright said “heaven only knows how many hours we put into it, but it was there for seven weeks!”

In addition to the traditional gingerbread and royal icing, GG’s team used various candies, such as gummy bears, red Twizzlers, black licorice, Life Savers and sprinkles, as well as cereal, pretzels, pasta, quinoa, black pepper and black rice.

The creative and architectural aspects of this project were easier than the engineering aspect, Wright said. “The adults in the group wished on numerous occasions they had taken Shop in high school, but we prevailed! Dealing with humidity proved to be our biggest headache.”

Wright reported no major mishaps during the creative process but said they would have a glue gun handy and their fingers crossed during set-up at Old St. Andrew’s Church.

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5 IMPORTANT REASONS TO Support Local Businesses

- 1 Farm-to-table foods help improve health**
Buying foods grown locally allows access to fruits and vegetables that are chemical free such as grass-fed meats, fresh eggs, and dairy from cows cared for locally. Local farmers are more likely to utilize sustainable practices and not "factory farming practices," which line the pockets of faceless corporations.
- 2 Small businesses elevate the local economy**
A 2003 study done by the Institute for Local Self-Reliance illustrated the local multiplier effect supporting small businesses can have in the community. It showed that a portion of each dollar spent at local independent stores is re-circulated in the community as payroll, goods/services purchased from local businesses, profits spent locally by owners, and charitable donations. According to the study, for each \$100 spent locally, \$45 went to secondary local spending as opposed to only \$14 which might be spent locally by a large chain store.
- 3 Shopping locally builds personal connections**
Small business owners often know customers by name and offer a personal friendly connection to the customers they serve. Customers celebrate when their favorite local businesses succeed or mourn when they are forced to shut their doors. Local entrepreneurs have an investment in their enterprises and are often happier and have a sincere attitude toward clients.
- 4 Quality customer service**
Personalized customer service from local establishments is preferable to the service received from large chain stores that view clients as nameless customers with bank accounts. Directly connected to every employee in their store, local business owners offer personalized service by taking customers' suggestions or issues more seriously. Local shopkeepers understand customer preferences. They tailor their services to individual needs and offer professional advice to make the shopping experience better.
- 5 Small businesses are unique and add character to the neighborhood**
One-of-a-kind boutiques and restaurants offer the community a unique flavor and play a big role in the neighborhood identity. The attention to detail their enterprises provide as well as the unique architecture of their shops' facades can be a selling point and provide a quaint and appealing visual appearance to the community.



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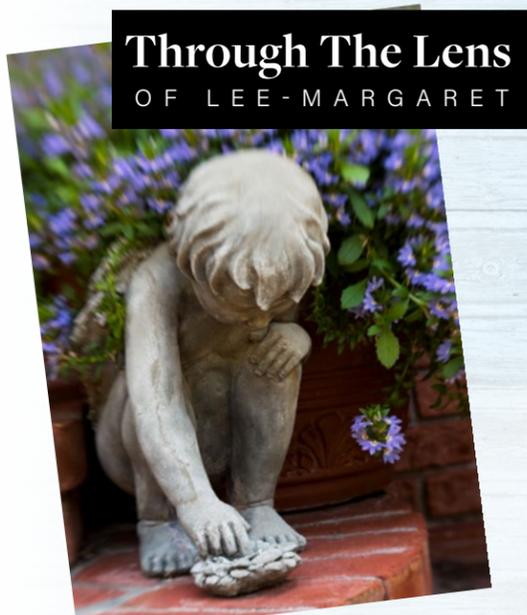
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Equal Justice for All Legal Expense Insurance Corporation provides affordable legal services to North Florida residents



Equal Justice's attorneys are available to handle many legal matters for their clients for one low monthly fee.

Every citizen should have access to the legal system, and a person's ability to have access is greatly enhanced with the assistance of a licensed attorney. The concept of affordable legal representation might seem out of reach to many. However, local attorney Fred C. Isaac, founder of Equal Justice For All Legal Expense Insurance Corporation, has made this concept his mission - successfully providing affordable legal services in Jacksonville for the over 30 years.

"The concept is simple – Equal Justice provides an insurance policy for legal matters," said Isaac, who started Equal Justice with David R. Lewis and Herman S. Paul in 1989 to provide access to legal representation at a fair price.

Equal Justice's attorneys are available to handle many legal matters for their clients. For a monthly fee, a variety of legal issues

can be taken care of by the plan's attorneys, who have expertise in family law issues, misdemeanor criminal violations, real estate transactions, and personal injury matters. The plan provides members the power to manage their legal matters simply and effectively. A group policy through Equal Justice is available to all employees of a participating company. Employees typically pay through monthly payroll deductions or bank draft programs. For \$20 a month, members and their families are entitled to a variety of legal services.

Rebecca Schriver, chief financial officer of Equal Justice, often hears clients say that the access to the legal services has been immeasurable. "Employers like the fact that their employees no longer have to worry

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

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“The goal of our company has been to find an expeditious way for an individual to have the advantages of ongoing legal representation just like large corporations have.”

— Rebecca Schriver
chief financial officer of Equal Justice



about their legal issues because they have an attorney representing them,” Schriver said. “Statistics indicate that seven out of 10 people experience some type of legal issue in any 12-month period, and most of them do not hire an attorney because they cannot afford to do so. Approximately 30% of employees miss work due to a legal issue. The employees save precious hours at work and have peace of mind because they have a lawyer who is able to handle issues that they would have had to take time off from work to deal with themselves - such as traffic violations or family law matters.” Employers are able to provide a fringe benefit to their employees at no cost to them. The employees basically have an attorney on retainer.

“They know exactly with whom they’ll be dealing when they pick up the phone and call us,” Schriver said. Not to mention, employers and employees don’t have to

mind the clock when they are dealing with their attorney. The monthly fee ensures relief from expensive, hourly rates.

Don’t work for a company? In business for yourself? Or maybe you’re an individual who wants the peace of mind that a lawyer is available anytime you need one. Equal Justice also features opportunities for individual policies at the cost of \$25 per month. The plan offers unlimited phone and office consultations, contract review and preparation, and many other services. The pressure of having to monitor the hours spent talking to your attorney is removed and there are no exorbitant legal bills to pay. Schriver boils the opportunity down to numbers and cost savings. A simple will, living will and power of attorney for a husband and wife, for example, typically costs between \$1,500 and \$2,500, which are covered under the plan.

“The annual fee of \$240 a year to participate in Equal Justice seems almost too good to be true,” Schriver said. “The goal of our company has been to find an expeditious way for an individual to have the advantages of ongoing legal representation just like large corporations have.” Equal Justice, based in Jacksonville, employs attorneys throughout North Florida. The Florida Bar supports the concept of legal service plans as a means of increasing a citizen’s ability to obtain legal services at an affordable cost. Equal Justice For All Legal Expense Insurance Corporation provides insured clients with access to the legal system as well as access to preventative legal services so they can find resolution early on the “small” issues before they become “major” legal problems. Fred Isaac has been practicing law in Jacksonville since 1969. For more information, call (904) 399-3313 or visit our website at www.equal-justiceforall.com.

Fred C. Issac



As managing partner of the law firm of Foerster, Isaac and Yerkes, P.A., Fred C. Isaac holds an AV rating by the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, the

highest rating that can be determined by his peers. He is a graduate of Jacksonville University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and holds a Juris Doctorate from Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University. Isaac is licensed with the Supreme Court of both the State of Florida and the United States of America as well as the United States Middle District of the State of Florida and all appellate courts in Florida.

Rebecca Schriver



Rebecca Schriver has long tenure with Foerster, Isaac & Yerkes, P.A. having worked for the firm 34 years. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in

Business Administration from the University of Alabama and is a graduate of the American Institute for Paralegal Studies. Schriver is a Florida Registered Paralegal and is a member of The Florida Bar’s Florida Registered Paralegal Enrichment Committee.

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Resident Community News Publisher Seth Williams with JSO Assistant Chief Jimmy Judge and his wife, Shannon

H O M E T O W N H E R O E S

The Resident congratulates heroes the entire community is proud of

Resident Community News Publisher Seth Williams personally congratulated Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office Assistant Chief Jimmy Judge, the winner of his newspaper’s Hometown Hero contest, and his wife, Shannon, during a special presentation at The Peninsula on the Southbank Nov. 16. Judge, who is assistant chief of JSO’s Zone One, was nominated for the contest by the Downtown Dwellers, a community organization whose members live in Jacksonville’s urban core on both sides of the river. He was presented with a framed copy of the article, which ran in the November edition of *The Resident*, and gift certificates for dinner for two at Bellwether Restaurant. *The Resident* also congratulates Light it Forward award winner Nancy Chamblin for her invaluable work with the Downtown Ecumenical Services Council. Periodically throughout next year, *The Resident* will be featuring stories on hometown heroes who are making a difference in Jacksonville’s historic neighborhoods. Stay tuned next month when we feature Carolyn Baggett of Baptist MD Anderson and Kristen Zumwalt of Bishop Kenny High School. If you would like to suggest a neighborhood hero to be featured in the newspaper, please contact Marcia Hodgson at marcia@residentnews.net.

H O M E T O W N H E R O

Nancy Chamblin

To low-income people in need in Jacksonville’s urban core, Nancy Chamblin is the kind of hero that lights up a room.

A San Marco resident, Chamblin, who serves as a financial assistance program coordinator for the Downtown Ecumenical Services Council (DESC), was one of three human-services advocates honored by the Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) with the utility’s fourth annual Light it Forward Awards Oct. 23. The awards are presented to representatives known for their dedication and commitment to serving Jacksonville residents in need.

Each year, nonprofits such as DESC provide millions of dollars in utility bill assistance to JEA customers in need. JEA created the awards to recognize some of the people behind the scenes who go above and beyond to help low-income customers in the community who are seeking utility bill assistance.

“You represent the best there is in servant leadership. Your work in helping those most in need is truly the work of angels,” said JEA Interim CEO and Managing Director Paul McElroy during the virtual event.

Sheila Pressley, director of JEA Customer Revenue Services and Elizabeth Paulson, manager of JEA Customer Assistance Programs went a step further in a letter to Chamblin.

“When the community had a need over the past year, you did more than just see the need — you met it. Thank you for assisting JEA limited-income customers and answering their call for help,” wrote Pressley and Paulson. “You are part of the greater good and a shining example of what care-in-action looks like.”



Nancy Chamblin

In a phone interview, Chamblin said the award was unexpected and she was honored to receive it. “It was just delightful that JEA recognized me for this award,” said Chamblin. “I feel really like its an award for DESC. I got it because I’ve just been there the longest. I did not expect it at all because at DESC we all just share our work and our joys and our struggles. The thanks we get goes to everyone. I feel it is the team that earned this honor. It really was wonderful that out of all the agencies and the people in Jacksonville, who are helpers, that DESC would be singled out this way to receive this honor.”

“The thing I’ve found that is so good is that all the agencies are cooperating and helping each other take care of people who are common to all of our agencies. We coordinate with JEA and different landlords and apartment complexes. Often when landlords learn that we are going to help, they stop the eviction or drop the late fees. Everybody just seems to be pulling together so nicely to help people in need right now.”



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In Memoriam

John Reilly Schultz

September 30, 1963 – November 5, 2020

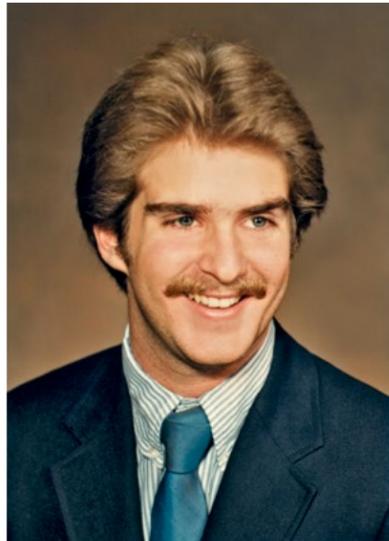
By Frederick Schultz Jr.

On November 5 John Schultz died of heart failure at his home in Ortega Forest. In addition to his twin children, Rick and Reilly, John leaves behind his mother, Nancy, sister, Catherine, and brothers Frederick and Clifford. His father, Governor Frederick H. Schultz, predeceased him.

For 35 years John worked in real estate development, management, construction, and brokerage, both commercial and residential. Together with many partners, he built numerous shopping centers and some six hundred houses. He also managed the extended family's investments.

John attended The Bolles School and the University of Florida. He served as a director of Jacksonville Bancorp, Metro YMCA, the Daniel Companies, the Museum of Science and History, St. Vincent's Foundation, Junior Achievement of Jacksonville, Jacksonville Museum of Modern Art, Intrepid Capital Corp., Bolles School Alumni Board, and Southeast Atlantic Corp. He was a board member of our local NAACP chapter, the Trust for Public Land, the National Association of the Remodeling Industry, and was a founding member of the Ribault Group. He was voted one of 20 outstanding young men in Jacksonville.

Unusual for a real estate developer, for decades he was active in conservation. In particular, he championed St. Johns Riverkeeper, the Nature Conservancy, and Jacksonville University Marine Science Research Institute.



“John knew every street and block in Jacksonville and seemed to be on a first-name basis with a thousand friends and colleagues. He sincerely loved the people of Jacksonville and took every opportunity to expand his circle of friends.”

John knew every street and block in Jacksonville and seemed to be on a first-name basis with a thousand friends and colleagues. He sincerely loved the people of Jacksonville and took every opportunity to expand his circle of friends. Those who enjoyed his friendship knew that if they needed help, they could call John night or day.

His devotion was legendary. When Stella Lodesky, the family babysitter, fell victim to dementia, John visited her bedside every day for years. With his Uncle Jack who was mentally handicapped, he arranged "vacations" — trips taken together to Disney World, Las Vegas, sea cruises, and other colorful destinations.

He adored his twins and rarely missed their performances or games. Nearly every day he stopped by to see his mother. He helped to raise five step-children.

From kindergarten friends to fraternity brothers (SAE) to fellow Rotarians, once he made connections he held onto them. A friend wrote to us this week saying "John had the biggest heart of anyone I ever knew." To that must be added his keen wit, rousing sense of fun, and a remarkable memory for personal details. He leaves behind dozens who counted him as their best friend in the world.

In lieu of flowers, his family asks that donations be sent to Riverside Presbyterian Day School, 830 Oak St., Jacksonville, FL 32204.

A memorial service will be scheduled post-pandemic.



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THE WAY WE WERE: JOE JOSEPH

BY MARY WANSER
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS



Bryn-Alan Studios 1980, currently Mudville Grille

“I’ve seen Jacksonville change over the past 70 years,” said Joe Joseph.

Joe is the first generation of the Joseph family to be born in America, in Jacksonville’s St. Vincent’s Hospital in 1947. His family established themselves in Florida in stages. His great-grandfather immigrated to Tarpon Springs on Florida’s west coast in the late 1890s from Syria; his grandfather did the same in the 1930s. Joseph’s father immigrated at the age of 13 and became a naturalized citizen in the 1940s before serving in WWII.

Joseph is the eldest of six, with three brothers and two sisters. He grew up surrounded by several relatives on Belmont Terrace in San Marco until 1963, at which time his growing family moved to the Arlingwood neighborhood of Arlington. He started school downtown at Immaculate Conception for first, second, and third grades. He remembers riding with a brother one year his junior on the 31 Colonial Manor bus to and from. By fourth grade, Joseph had transferred to Assumption where he wore a uniform of blue pants and a white shirt with a capital “A” patch sewn on his pocket. He then went on to Bishop Kenny High School, uniformed in a choice of blue or grey pants, white shirt, and a red and blue tie around his neck. After graduation, Joseph spent a year at JU as an engineering major before getting married and becoming an entrepreneur.

When Joseph was a child, he spent a great deal of time at Central Park, now known as Southside Park, on Hendricks Avenue behind

Southside Branch Library. “Every afternoon after school, we’d go up there and play ball,” he said. The park ranger maintained a large cabinet there that contained equipment for the children to use—items like mitts, nets, gloves, and a tetherball set. “He had everything! You could come there with nothing, and he would have it all there for you to play with,” Joseph said with a voice still filled with excitement. “When I was growing up, we didn’t even think about crime,” said Joseph noting that, today, a supply cabinet in a public park sounds preposterous. There was a swimming pool on the park’s site as well, next to the library where the tennis courts are now, he remembered.

Joseph also recalled people all used party lines, now obsolete, when they used a telephone. They were phone circuits shared with other customers that saved on the cost of phone service. Each party sharing the line had a distinct ring, so that those within the household would know whether to answer or not. Sometimes, if attempting to make an outgoing call, one would hear the other party using the service and would have to wait until the line was available. “To go from a party line to a cell phone in your pocket to call anywhere in the world is amazing,” he said.

Joseph knows quite a bit about the Jacksonville that used to be that is no more. He recalls that five grocery stores had been within a walkable one-mile radius between San Marco and St. Nicholas: Setzer’s on the Square, Banner at the corner of Atlantic

and Hendricks, Daylight on the corner of Atlantic and Kings, Winn-Dixie where Dr. Rene Pulido’s medical center now stands, and A&P at the St. Nicholas Shopping Center. There were five gas stations, too, in that same vicinity: a Stoke’s in San Marco, a second across from the fire station, a third at Hendricks and Atlantic, a fourth past the overpass on Atlantic, and a fifth farther down on the right. Joseph’s reminiscing in fives continued as he recounted restaurants. New South was on Hendricks and Atlantic, a little Chinese restaurant stood across from where Wells Fargo bank is now, Pizza Joe’s was just past the overpass on the right, an Italian restaurant was in the same shopping center where Winn-Dixie used to be, and Old South sat caddy-corner from the St. Nicholas Shopping Center.

According to Joseph, prior to consolidation in 1968, the Jacksonville city limits used to run down the center of the St. Johns River. South of the river was called South Jacksonville and to the east was Arlington, each with its own post office. Outlying towns, too, like Orange Park and Marietta had their own postal identities.

Everything north of the invisible line was considered Downtown, and it was booming. “Jacksonville was the insurance capital of the South,” Joseph said. “There were tons of insurance companies here.” Downtown Jacksonville had been a major banking city, too. It was bustling with department stores, restaurants, theatres, and hotels. This was before strip malls and shopping centers, at a time when traveling salesmen would market their wares door-to-door. Those selling belts and suspenders would go to the clothing stores. Those selling pens and pencils would visit the office supply houses. Shoppers crowded the streets in daytime and the restaurants by lunch. Businessmen coming to town would see a movie in evening and lodge in a hotel at night—one like the Seminole, the George Washington, or the Florida. But then the suburbs came. Malls were built. And Downtown began closing



Donna and Joe Joseph, December 2019

down. “It will never be what it once was,” Joseph said.

There were only two bridges that spanned the river back then, and both began in Southside. The Acosta Bridge of 1921 led to Downtown, and the Main Street Bridge of 1941 went to Riverside. As the suburbs grew, so did the number of bridges—seven stand today, and two others have come and gone—to accommodate the increased traffic, which then led to the expressway and interstate systems to supplement two-lane roads like Atlantic Boulevard out to the beach had been. “From St. Johns Bluff all the way to the beach, there was nothing,” Joseph said.

Joseph has witnessed a multitude of changes in Jacksonville over time, and the greatest of all has been the growth and consolidation, which made Jacksonville the largest city by area nationwide. But there’s also the addition, at last, of an NFL team—the Jaguars. “Though they don’t have a very good record, and they haven’t been here very long, they are still our team,” he said.

And yet, for all that has changed in Jacksonville, there’s at least one landmark that has remained the same. That’s the river. It’s an identifying feature of the area that hasn’t changed much. Joseph believes the river is underutilized and thinks that more events and attractions on the St. Johns would serve the city well.

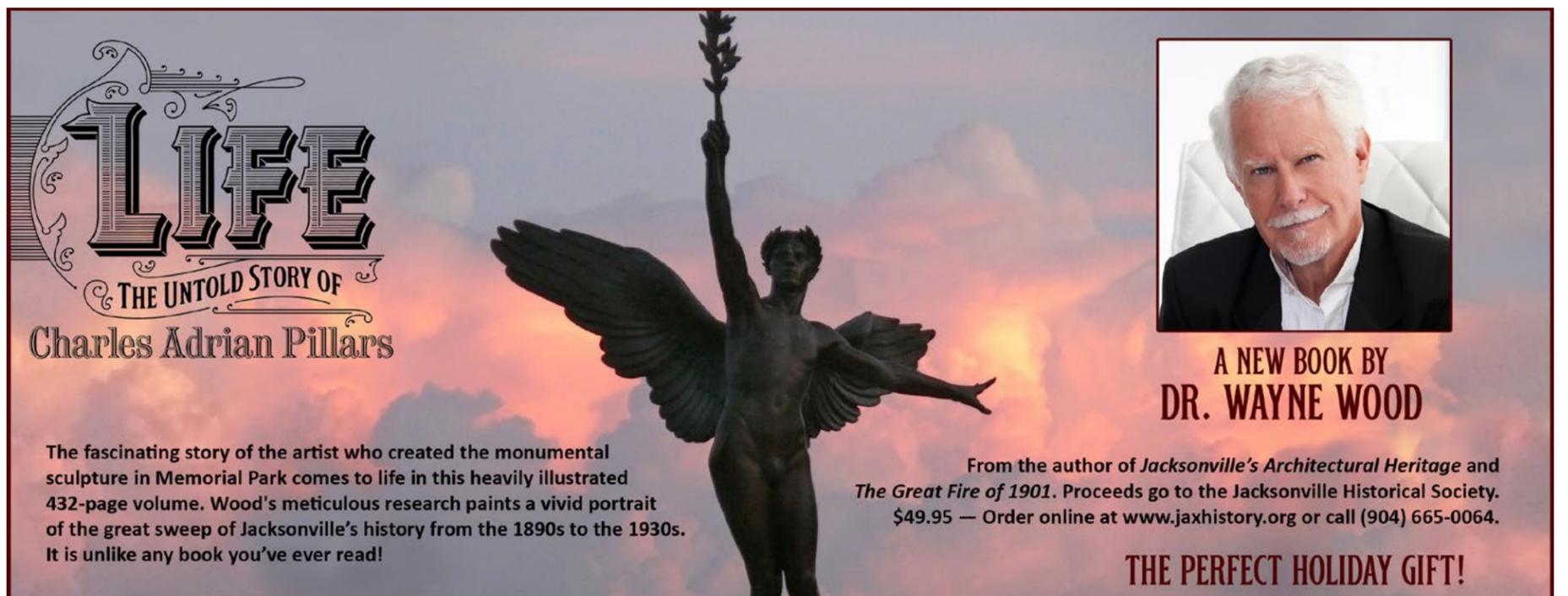
Joe Joseph lives in Arlington today with his wife of 51 years, Donna Ferguson-Joseph. They have three children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.



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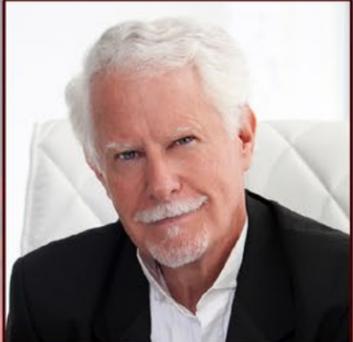
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River Garden Foundation chief development officer to retire

Kathy Osterer, a 22-year veteran of River Garden, has announced her plans to retire at the end of 2020, after a rewarding and fulfilling career.



Kathy Osterer

“River Garden will always be so important to me, and I am very proud of all that we have accomplished together. I could not have asked for finer people to have worked with,” Osterer said in a letter to past Gala chairs. “This will give me the opportunity to work on my mental health, improve on my physical health, and to take time to count the many blessings that I have in my life.”

Osterer has been involved with the River Garden Foundation since 1993, when she joined the first Gala committee. In 1995, Osterer chaired the Foundation Gala that brought the late comedian Alan King to town. In 1998, she formally accepted the position as foundation

director, and later advanced to chief development officer. Due to her leadership, the impact of the foundation has grown significantly over the years. Notwithstanding a monumental capital campaign in 2010, golf tournaments and galas, the foundation has raised millions of dollars and made thousands of friends in support of River Garden and its mission to the community during Osterer’s tenure.

“It has been a privilege working with Kathy over these last 22 years,” said River Garden CEO Martin Goetz. “Kathy is a passionate advocate for River Garden’s mission, vision and values, and we are now a better and more financially secure care community because of her.”

Foundation Board Chairman Jeanine Rogozinski also praised Osterer. “In 2007, Kathy called me to chair the annual Foundation Gala. I had only been a member of the committee a short time, but she had faith and confidence in my abilities. That was the beginning of our beautiful

friendship. Kathy is a tremendous and dynamic leader, one who never meets a stranger and always finds a way to make River Garden important to everyone. My working with Kathy and the leadership at River Garden developed into a passion and a necessary purpose in my life that I didn’t even know existed. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with Kathy and her legacy and presence will have a lasting impact upon the organization.”

Foundation Board President Sandy Zimmerman added, “I have worked closely with Kathy over the past 22 years, first as a donor, then as co-chair of the capital campaign in 2010, and now as President of the River Garden Foundation board. There is no person more dedicated and capable as Kathy. It has been my pleasure to work with her, and I am excited for Kathy to move into the next phase of life, enjoying more time relaxing with her family and friends.”

River Garden has begun a search for Osterer’s successor.

Baptist Health to partner with BAYADA

Baptist Health, the largest health care provider in greater Jacksonville, has announced a joint venture with BAYADA Home Health Care to expand upon the services provided to the community by Baptist Home Health for more than 25 years. The combined organization, Baptist Home Health Care by BAYADA, will have the capabilities to serve more patients at home, where they can recover and thrive best.

“This partnership enables Baptist Health to provide a wider array of in-home services to help people with multiple chronic conditions as well as patients recovering from an illness, injury, or recent hospitalization,”

said Joe Mitrick, FACHE, president of Transitional Care for Baptist Health and hospital president of Baptist Beaches. “The demand for high-quality home health care services is rising, and there has never been a better time to build on our legacy of care for the community.”

Baptist Home Health Care by BAYADA will begin operations in early 2021, pending licensing and regulatory approvals. BAYADA Home Health Care is a leading national nonprofit provider of in-home care and post-acute care services headquartered in Moorestown, N.J. It is the largest nonprofit home health care company in the United States.

Mitch Hunt named vice chair of local Alzheimer’s Association board

The Central and North Florida Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association named Mitch Hunt, Jacksonville community president of CenterState Bank, to serve as the vice chair of its board of directors.



Mitch Hunt

Hunt, a resident of Atlantic Beach, has been volunteering with the Alzheimer’s Association since 2014.

He started volunteering after becoming a secondary care provider for his mother when her Alzheimer’s began limiting her ability to live a normal life. Hunt’s father was her primary caregiver. His father’s dementia manifested a couple of years after his mother died. Since his father died in 2019, Hunt has served on the board of directors, made personal financial contributions, and raised funds as a team member at CenterState Bank.

“My first-hand experience, as well as my observations of other families who are dealing with the impacts of Alzheimer’s disease, compels me to do whatever I can to spare future generations of the physical, emotional, and financial tolls that this disease inflicts,” Hunt said.

On Hunt’s selection, Alzheimer’s Association Central and North Florida Chapter Board Chair Steve Waterhouse said, “I am honored to have Mitch as our vice chair. His board and business experience combined with his passion for eliminating Alzheimer’s will be valuable as we move forward with our important role in realizing a world without Alzheimer’s and all other dementias.”



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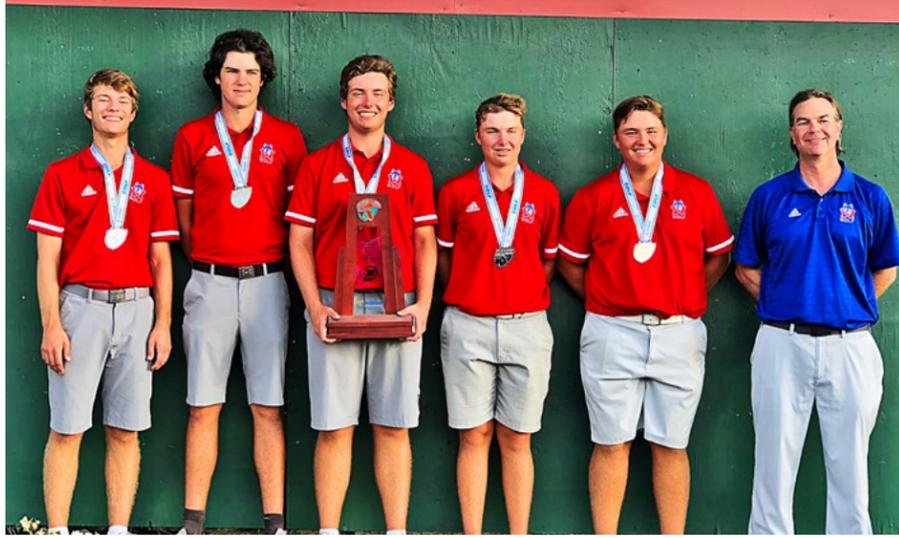
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Wolfson Boys' Golf takes second in state championship

The Samuel Wolfson High School boys' golf team capped off its historic season by tying for second place at the Boys State Class 1A golf tournament at Mission Inn Golf Resort in Howey-in-the-Hills on Nov. 3-4. The team shot a combined 620 over the two days to tie for runner-up laurels with First Academy and Windemere Prep. Lake Mary Prep won the state championship with a team score of 597.

Junior Adam Vermut shot the low score for the Pack with a 153 (71-82), followed by senior Will Davis who shot 155 (84-71). Alexander Waller shot 157, Adam Waller shot a 175, and Sam Davis shot 158 to also put in strong performances for the Pack.

As a team this season, the Wolfpack won the Gateway Conference, District 4 Class 1A, and Region 1 Class 1A championships.



Sam Davis, Adam Vermut, Will Davis, Adam Waller, Alexander Waller, Coach Timothy Yost

San Jose Episcopal students celebrate the spirit of voting

To get in the spirit of the election season, fourth grade students in Megan Trumpler's class at San Jose Episcopal Day School recently read a play titled, "Let Us Vote". It described the trials and tribulations that women went through to achieve the right to vote. After reading this play, the students partnered up and researched a woman that was an integral part of the Women's Suffrage Movement. After completing their research, they created Instagram profile pages outlining their research and pictures. Students enjoyed the project and learned a lot about an important event in history.



Noah S. and Kellan T. hold up their project on Women's Suffragist Ida B. Wells



Cars in Assumption's All Saints Trunk of Treat celebration Oct. 29



Vice Principal Jennifer Churchill and Principal Maryann Jimenez dressed for the occasion when Assumption Catholic School celebrated All Saints Day Oct. 29.

Assumption celebrates All Saints Day with trunk or treat

COVID-19 changed things up a little bit when Assumption Catholic School celebrated All Saints' Day Oct. 29. Historically, the school hosts a parade of students in their Saints costumes that ends in Mass. This year the school added a Trunk or Treat with trunks decorated in Saintry themes and prayer in the Sisters' chapel since the school body could not gather as a group.

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Wolfson debuts new College Resource Center

All over the Wolfson High School campus, the Pack is on the move. This fall, Wolfson opened an updated College Resource Center (CRC) to assist students with the college planning process, college applications, scholarship research, and financial aid. The CRC is open to all students during lunch periods and by appointment. The vision behind the center is to create a space that meets the growing demands of Wolfson's college-bound student body. Students can meet with the Wolfson college liaison, research different college programs and scholarships, learn about SAT & ACT test prep, and have a quiet space to work on their college applications.

The CRC has been used to host over 75 virtual admission counselor visits with universities across the country. "Having a dedicated space for all things college has been such a gift to the Wolfson students. Being able to use the technology in the CRC to gather students together and meet virtually



A special center to help students apply for college has opened at Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies and Leadership

with colleges has kept the Pack engaged and informed about all the college options available to them," said Jane Courtney Davis, the school's college liaison.

In addition, the CRC has recently been used for activities during the Duval County Public Schools' "Jax goes to college" week and the Wolfson BEACON day where seniors registered for Bright Futures and Florida Financial Aid. The CRC will also host upcoming signing days for Wolfson seniors who have received academic and athletic scholarships to colleges and universities.

Landon students learn the angles thanks to PTSA teacher grant

Thanks to the generosity of the Julia Landon College Preparatory School Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) the students in Kristie Putnal's eighth grade geometry class were able to use Anglegs to work out math problems in school. Each month the PTSA offers a \$50 grant to a Landon teacher, who was selected through a random drawing. Putnal was the winner in October.



Students at Landon Middle School work hard on a triangle congruence lesson using Anglegs in Kristie Putnal's eighth grade geometry class.

Smith wins state title, Kelly sets school record in FHSAA championship



Mary Kate Kelly of Episcopal (middle) places third in the 100 butterfly in the FHSAA championship meet.



Julian Smith of Episcopal (middle) wins the state title in the 50 freestyle at the FHSAA state championship

Episcopal's girls' and boys' swim teams participated in the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) state championship held in Stuart Nov. 15. Senior Mary Kate Kelly of Avondale took third in the 100 butterfly posting a time of 54.92. Her time set a new school record previously held by Olympian Nancy Hogshead, who graduated from Episcopal in 1980. Kelly has committed to swim at the University of Florida next year.

Meanwhile, senior Julian Smith claimed a state championship in the 50 freestyle with a time of 20.56.

Beach volleyball comes to Episcopal



Episcopal Head of School Rev. Adam Greene with Stephanie Chesser, Caelan Chesser, Adam Kidd and Mark Chesser with the school volleyball team

Beach volleyball has come to Episcopal School of Jacksonville.

Episcopal celebrated the groundbreaking of its new six-court beach volleyball complex Nov. 3 at the Knight Sports Campus. Shovels were put in the ground and The Rev. Adam Greene, head of school, and Andy Kidd, director of athletics, thanked donors Stephanie and Mark Chesser and Matt and Shannon Connell of Conser Moving and Storage for providing the lead gift for the project. The facility will be named Conser Beach Volleyball Center.

"We feel very blessed to be able to do this," said Mark Chesser. "All of us are blessed to have the opportunity to be at Episcopal, and we are grateful to the administration for supporting beach volleyball."

Kidd praised the committee which formed over the summer with the vision for beach volleyball. "In a time of unprecedented challenges brought by the pandemic, it's an amazing feat that a conversation we started in the summer has resulted in adding a new sport and this new facility in time to open for play in January. It would not be possible

without the work of the committee and the support of all of the donors.

"Beach Volleyball is one of the fastest growing sports in the country," Kidd continued. "Our new facility will allow our volleyball players the opportunity to train and compete at one of the finest facilities in Northeast Florida."

Mark and Tyra Tutor named one of the six courts in honor of their daughters, Thea, who graduated from Episcopal in 2018, and Zoe, a junior who will graduate in 2022. Parents Dwight and Christine Cooper asked their daughter, Jordan, an Episcopal senior, to identify two Episcopal employees to recognize who have made a positive impact on the school community. Tonya Carter, Episcopal's school nurse, and Deborah Harvey, Episcopal's security guard, were both present as Greene announced the courts that were named for them.

The site for Conser Beach Volleyball Center is opposite the Knight Field House. The courts will be open for the spring season and the team will have its first contest on Feb. 22.



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Thanks to SJEDS, Christmas comes early to St. Mary's food pantry

St. Mary's Food Pantry located in downtown Jacksonville serves nearly 1,000 individuals and families each month who find themselves in need of food. With recent COVID relief no longer available, St. Mary's food pantry put out an urgent request for food items, and San Jose Episcopal Day School (SJEDS) answered in a major way!

Sixth grade teacher Katie Foster quickly organized a friendly collection competition among homerooms in grades PreK 3 - 6 and the generosity of the SJEDS families began pouring in. SJEDS families understand the joy of making a difference for others through service learning and let their hearts for Christian service shine during this time of Thanksgiving.

After collecting mountains of food – 1,430 items to be exact – SJEDS sixth



A San Jose Episcopal student loads food into the trunk of a car headed for St. Mary's food pantry.

graders created an impressive display in the form of a sizable mountain range, complete with twinkling lights for the other SJEDS students to view. Then parent volunteers loaded up their vehicles and delivered the items to St. Mary's.



Mountains of canned goods are donated for St. Mary's Food Pantry by San Jose Episcopal students

State titles roll on for Bolles swimming, diving

The Bolles boys' and girls' swimming and diving teams continued their state title streaks, winning team titles at the 2020 Class 1A meet in Stuart on Nov. 15. The boys won the program's 33rd consecutive state title, extending the national record for straight titles, and 42nd overall. The girls won the program's 30th consecutive state title and 34th overall.

Along with a state title in girls' cross country on the same day, the Bolles athletic program has now won 144 state titles. The Bulldogs won eight events and recorded numerous automatic and provisional All-American times.

The boys' 200 medley relay that included David Walton of San Jose, William Heck of Avondale, Martin Espenberger of San Jose, and Ansen Meyer of San Jose won in an All-American time of 1:30.72.

Andres Dupont Cabrera of San Jose won the 200 free and 100 free, both in All-American times of 1:35.60/44.09. He also broke the school record in the 200 free.

The girls' 200 free relay comprised of Fresh Sathianchokwisan of San Jose, Emily MacDonald of San Jose, Katherine Meyers-Labenz, Sasha Ramey of San Marco won in an All-American time of 1:33.01.

The boys' 200 free relay comprised of Dupont Cabrera, Meyer, Heck, Adnan Atwan of San Jose won in an All-American time of 1:21.96. Heck won the boys' 100 breast, breaking the state record in an All-American time of 53.73 in the prelims.

The girls' 400 free relay (MacDonald, Ramey, Megan McGrath, and Sathianchokwisan) won in an All-American



William Heck of Bolles won the boy's 100 breaststroke and set a new the state record of 53.73 in the prelims, which was also an All American time.

time of 3:23.19, while the boys' 400 free relay – Dupont Cabrera, Seth Tolentino, Atwan, and Tomohiro Nozaki of San Jose – won in an All-American time of 3:02.73.

In addition to the swimmers, Bolles had two divers contribute to the girls' team score.

Additional automatic All-American times included: Sathianchokwisan, girls' 50 free second place, 22.85; Espenberger, boys' 100 fly second place, 47.82; Meyer, boys' 100 breast, second place, 55.39; Harry Herrera of San Jose, boys' 100 breast, third place, 55.79.

Additional All-American consideration times included: Girls' 200 Medley Relay (Meyers-Labenz, Jessica Strong of San Jose, MacDonald, Julia Murphy); McGrath, girls' 200 free, third place, 1:49.31 and girls' 100 fly, fifth place, 55.06; Ramey, girls' 200 IM, second place, 2:02.90; Nozaki, boys' 200 IM, third place, 1:51.47 and boys' 100 breast, sixth place, 56.36; Meyer, boys' 50 free, prelims, 20.92; Kaan Orhan of San Jose, boys' 100 fly, sixth place, 49.70; Sathianchokwisan, girls' 100 free; second place, 50.21.98; and Strong, girls' 100 breast, third place, 1:03.11.

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Longtime kindergarten teachers make learning fun

Kathy Stokowski, Janice Davis, Barbara Leshner, and Rayya Ossi have been educators for 73 years collectively and 64 of those years have been at Assumption Catholic School.



Jennifer Soulby, Barbara Leshner, Janice Davis, Rayya Ossi and Kathy Stokowski of Assumption Catholic School

Stokowski has been teaching at Assumption for 30 years. She has taught both preschool and kindergarten. Stokowski said she loves the family atmosphere that surrounds her at Assumption. She is now teaching children whose parents she once taught. “I love kindergarten because the students are so excited to come in and learn. We have a lot of fun incorporating music and movement into our learning activities!”

Davis has been teaching at Assumption for 13 years. Her experience also includes teaching the first- and third-grade levels. She said she loves teaching at Assumption because it gives her a sense of being at home. She said she enjoys working with children and seeing the excitement on their faces as they learn new things. “I love to create a loving, caring environment in my classroom where every child can become what God has planned for them and prepare them for the world that we live in.”

Leshner has been an educator for 21 years and has been teaching at Assumption for 12 years. She has taught Pre-K, first, second and third grade. Leshner said she is inspired

by the faith-based approach that is instilled at the school. “Teaching at Assumption Catholic School provides me with the opportunity to serve God by helping and encouraging young children to build a close relationship with Jesus and know that they are truly loved.”

Meanwhile, Ossi assists the kindergarten teachers. She has worked as a teaching assistant for nine years at Assumption in Pre-K2 through PK4 grade levels. “I love teaching at Assumption because it gives me the joy of watching the kids grow in faith and I love working with younger children.”

With these four women on the staff, kindergarten is a happy place full of learning, faith, and fun. Eddie Greaves, Dover Caro, Julia Foster, and Olivia Baker from Leshner’s class enjoyed painting pumpkins as part of their fall lesson.



Julia Foster



Dover Caro



Olivia Baker

Wolfson National Honor Society inducts 43 new members



Three seniors and 40 juniors from Wolfson High School were inducted into the National Honor Society Nov. 9.

Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies inducted three seniors and 40 juniors as new members into its chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) Nov. 9.

The ceremony was led by NHS President Ashley Shakib, Vice President Augustina Cole, Secretary Priscilla Osburn, Co-Treasurers Grace Whipple and Kathy Salazar, and Historian Jose Bonnyuet.

Wolfson High School Principal Chris Begley delivered an inspiring message about “Big Heads, Big Muscles, and Big Hearts” that underscored NHS virtues of character, scholarship, leadership, and service. To achieve membership in NHS, students must maintain a cumulative, unweighted GPA of 3.5 or higher. In December, Wolfson NHS members will be volunteering with Humble Harvest and the Salvation Army.

Members of the senior class who were inducted included: Chris Angjo, Carie Compton, Matt May. Members of the junior class who were inducted were CeCe Bailey, Sean Bailey, Amari Blake, Will Brandler, Benjamin Brown, Rynna Burgbacher, McKinley Cheshire, Ryan Ciampitti, Sam Davis, Robert Grant, Kaitlyn Hancock, Andrew Harbin, Teague Helton, Mason Hicks, Naya Hudson, Tabitha Hung, Yaroslava Isotova, Jaden Jenkins, Chase Kerner, Kelsey Kettel, Max Lewallen, Jefferson Li, Jack Lunitz, Chapman Maxwell, Hunter McCoy, Kyan Paton, Anthony Patrick, Andrew Pearson, Joey Perry, Kaden Powell, Kaylee Priest, Dabrian Stanley, Steven Toney, Leah Troup, Mary Verlander, Johnny Vodenicker, Abigail Whitcomb, Sam Whorton, Mayson Wilkins, Sheridan Yoder

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Bishop Kenny NJROTC wins Cairo triathlon challenge and drone competition

The Bishop Kenny Navy Junior ROTC team took home much of the hardware when it defeated teams from nine high schools in the 7th Annual Cairo Triathlon Challenge and Drone Competition Oct. 24 in Cairo, Georgia. The competition was an Area 12 NJROTC event.

The Crusaders triathlon team consisting of Sarah Roberts, Tony Castelo-Galliano, Katherine Capra, Luke Gould, Maya Balolong and Isaac Salcedo-Sotelo won the overall championship placing first in the Brain Brawl and Athletics and seventh place in the Air Rifle competition.

“The Triathlon Challenge is a competition format that combines Air Rifle, Brain Brawl,

and Athletics into a challenging test of physical fitness, academics, and rifle skill in one competitive meet,” said Master Chief Kevin Harris, USN (Ret.)

In the drone competition, which consisted of four events – Obstacle Course, Naval Flight Officer (NFO) challenge, Flight Deck Landing Challenge and Rotor Head Challenge – Bishop Kenny was declared the overall champ by winning the Obstacle Course and Rotor Head Race and placing second in NFO and the Flight Deck Landing challenge.

Competing for the Crusaders in the drone competition were Matthew Slade, Sean Limbaga, Ryan Soroka, and David Portbury.



Ryan Soroka, Luke Gould, Maya Balolong, Matthew Slade, David Portbury, Katherine Capra, Sarah Roberts, Tony Castelo-Galliano, Sean Limbaga and Isaac Salcedo-Sotelo

JCDS third graders combine art with science

Third graders at Jacksonville Country Day School recently studied landscapes and weaving as a part of their art curriculum. To combine the two, Alli Flores, the school’s art specialist, had the students create a tree-weaving project. This project required focus, persistence, and patience. As with each project in the JCDS art curriculum, the process that a student uses is a teaching moment. With weaving, the children are working on their fine motor skills, working on the concept of patterning, all while concentrating on their hand-eye coordination.

While in science class, the third graders dissected owl pellets as part of their studies about predator/prey relationships. Owl pellets are regurgitated remains of an owl’s



Knox Frykberg weaves a tree

meal after digestion. The pellets contain bones and fur of the animals the owl has consumed, notably rodents. Using a chart, the students identified the bones and other structures they uncovered.

RPDS students visit virtually with children’s book author

Peter Brown, author-in-residence at Riverside Presbyterian Day School this year, paid a virtual visit with the students Oct. 14.

An author and illustrator of over a dozen books, Brown’s work has been recognized in a variety of prestigious ways. In 2013, he received a Caldecott Honor Award for his illustration of the book *Creepy Carrots* by Aaron Reynolds. His illustrations in that book have been described as “gripping” and “cinematic,” in the most fun kind of ways. Brown’s talents, however, extend beyond illustration. His novel, “The Wild Robot,” has been honored with starred reviews in multiple literary journals and inclusion in many state-award reading lists, including our own Sunshine State Young Readers’ Award List. Readers breathlessly awaited the conclusion of the story in *The Wild Robot Escapes*, which did not disappoint. Brown’s work addresses themes of individuality, independent thinking, inclusion, and



Kindergartener Beatrice Sherman tries her hand at illustration.

community through the actions of his skillfully crafted characters.

Brown appeared virtually in three presentations to the students in grades, K through 6. Prior to the visit, students read several of his books during library time, and had coordinating activities in other areas of the curriculum, including art and social studies.



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Florida Secretary of Education Richard Corcoran, Ambassador John Rood, Governor Ron DeSantis, Kiersten Chism, sixth-grade scholar of the month, Head of School Dr. David Withum, and Kelly Chufo, Jacksonville Classical Academy operations manager

Florida governor visits Jacksonville Classical Academy

Governor Ron DeSantis toured Jacksonville Classical Academy Oct. 20, to observe classes and to discuss transitioning students from distance learning back to in-person instruction. The governor was joined by Richard Corcoran, Florida Secretary of Education; Ambassador John Rood, Jacksonville Classical Academy school board chair; and Dr. David Withum, Jacksonville Classical Academy head of school.

DeSantis visited classrooms and observed JXC's American classical education that emphasizes human virtue, moral character, and responsible citizenship through content-rich curriculum and teacher-led classrooms. During his visit, DeSantis observed classical education in a Latin lesson in a sixth-grade classroom and in a phonics lesson in a first-grade classroom. He also visited with students during their lunch periods.

After the tour, several teachers joined the governor and the tour group for a press briefing. Hattie Anthony, a kindergarten teacher, and Nick Barker, a fifth-grade teacher, joined the governor and shared their observations on American classical education and its impact in their classrooms.

"The most important thing that's happening in this building is happening in the classrooms," said Withum during the briefing. "It's important that they have the opportunity to teach students in the least restrictive environment possible, and to teach them in person. There's nothing that can replicate the relationship between students and teachers in a classroom. We are doing it in a way that is both reasonable and safe and meets the needs of all of our students."

San Jose Episcopal sixth graders serve the community

San Jose Episcopal Day School works hard to instill a heart for Christian service in its students and families. This light shines brightly in the sixth grade, where students organize several outreach programs each year.

Recently, the sixth graders hosted a friendly food collection competition in all homerooms. The goal was to bring in 500 canned food items.

Another altruistic activity that the sixth graders are dedicated to is helping "Dreams Come True." This organization is dedicated to fulfilling the dreams of children with life-threatening illnesses.

"We sell candy grams twice per year, and all of the proceeds benefit "Dreams Come True," said Katie Foster, a sixth-grade teacher.

Although it has been a little more challenging with COVID-19, adjustments have



San Jose Episcopal sixth-grade students Libby J., Sloane J. and Georgia L.

been made to keep all activities at the school safe. The mission of San Jose Cares includes reaching out to others in need, and this is evident each day.

Costumed students celebrate DA's Spirit Week

COVID has not stopped some of the traditions at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. During Spirit week, a DA tradition held during the last week of October, students and faculty go all out by wearing costumes. Not only do the students on campus dress up, but students who are learning virtually also participated in the fun.

Also, in November, in-person performances started up at DA with the Winter Jazz Band Concert on Nov. 17. Capacity was limited to 100 people in the DuBow Theatre to ensure social distancing, and masks were worn at all times. Visit the school's website www.da-arts.org for the complete performance calendar.



Rori Links, an 11th grade cinema arts student, dressed as Dali's Lobster phone



Erin Flowe, a junior vocal student came to school as Flo from Progressive Insurance



Aiden Coots, a sophomore theatre student showed off his dragon costume

DA musicians honored with All-State recognition

The Florida Music Education Association All-State Results have been released and once again musicians from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts have had a strong showing. Thirty students from Douglas Anderson were recognized on All-State ensembles. "Auditioning and making a Florida all-state ensemble is one of the most competitive and highest honors a Florida music student can earn," said DA Principal Melanie Hammer. Receiving All-State honors were:

Vocal: Olivia Davis, AJ DePetris, Katie Farmer-Diaz, Yuki Frampton, Trevor Hawthorne, Landon Jin, Brett Ochoa, Carter Pike.

Orchestra: Valeria Aviles, Violin; Max Griffin, Violin; Isaac Lopez, Viola; Daniel Pernar, Violin; Eden Rewa, Violin; Evan Thornton, Violin.

Band: Selected to the All-State Concert Band: Jacob Dern, Clarinet; Grant Gatto, Trombone; Jeriah Howard, Bass Clarinet; Luke Malobay, Percussion; Giovanni Martinez, Trumpet; Charlie Nelson, Tuba; Sophia Parra, Flute; TJ Shistle, Trombone.

Selected to the All State Symphonic Band: Carson Dell'Alba, Trombone; Caroline Dunham, Flute; Abby Francis, Euphonium; Ethan Halligan, Euphonium; Mackenzie Powell, Contra-Alto Clarinet; Skye Sisco, Bassoon.

Guitar: Maurice Chakour, Dominic George.



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Wolfson swimmers compete in regional championship

The swim and dive team from Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies has had an impressive season, with 26 students competing in the regional championship on Nov. 4.

The Wolfpack swimmers were led by Nic Parnell, a sophomore, and Jonah McCarthy, a senior for the boys and Leah Troup, a junior, and Cecelia Bailey, a junior, for the girls.

At the end of October, Wolfson's swim and dive team competed in the District Meet, where the girls' team placed second overall and the boys' team placed third. Wolfson has had swimmers compete at the State championship for the past 15 years and is looking forward to an impressive turn out in the relays at the 2020 events.



Swimming for Wolfson High School this year are: Cecelia Bailey, Fiona Bailey, Mayson Wilkins, Scarlett Humphreys, Bella Kennedy, Tucker Ryan, Aubrey Owens, Sam Brinkley, Ty Oliver, Aakash Thornton, Fabian Quintana, Will Brandler, Augustina Cole, Abby Tucker, Ryan Vogel, Leah Troup, Thomas Brandler, Andrew McCarthy, Jadon Cleary, Jackson Berzsenyi, McKenzie Heideman, Jonah McCarthy, Charlotte Caccam, Nic Parnell

Bolles athletes sign to play in college



Ansen Meyer signs with Georgetown University



Sasha Ramey signs with Louisiana State University

Sasha Ramey of San Marco and Ansen Meyer of San Jose were among eight Bolles student-athletes honored on Nov. 11 for committing to a particular college or university to continue their athletic and academic careers.

Family, friends, classmates, coaches, and faculty gathered in Davis Gymnasium on the Bolles San Jose Campus to celebrate the students' achievements. Athletic Director Matt Morris welcomed everyone, and several coaches introduced their respective athletes. It was the first of three college commitment ceremonies planned at Bolles this school year to recognize student-athletes when they commit to colleges.

As swimmers, Ramey signed on to compete next year at Louisiana State University, while Meyer will swim for Georgetown University.

Also honored at the ceremony were athletes from Bolles' baseball, cross country and track, and swim teams. Among the baseball players who signed were Matthew Anderson (University of Richmond), Jackson Baumeister (Florida State University), Gunner Boree (Brown University) and Jackson Mayo (University of South Florida). Maxine Montoya agreed to run for Brown University and Emily MacDonald agreed to swim at Columbia University.

Hundreds of students named to Landon honor roll

Over 500 students were named to the honor roll at Julia Landon College Preparatory School during the first nine weeks of this year. The students celebrated by eating lunch outdoors with their friends. The Landon Parents Teachers Students Association (PTSA) provided each honor-roll student with a Landon face mask to congratulate them.



Landon honor roll students enjoyed an al fresco lunch with their friends in early November.



Coach Mike Pickett joins the Drumm family – Lexi, Ethan, Allison and Rob – during a special school celebration that honored players from the senior class Nov. 13. Photo courtesy of Julia Nichols

St. Johns celebrates soccer seniors

St. John's Country Day School celebrated the seniors on its varsity soccer teams Nov. 13, including Maddie Moody of Avondale and Lexi Drumm of San Jose.

Maddie was accompanied by her mother, Dr. Laura Grippa, and siblings, Grayson and Juliet Moody. Joining Drumm at the festivities were her parents, Rob and Allison Drumm and her brother, Ethan. Also enjoying the celebration was Mike Pickett, who coaches girls' varsity soccer.

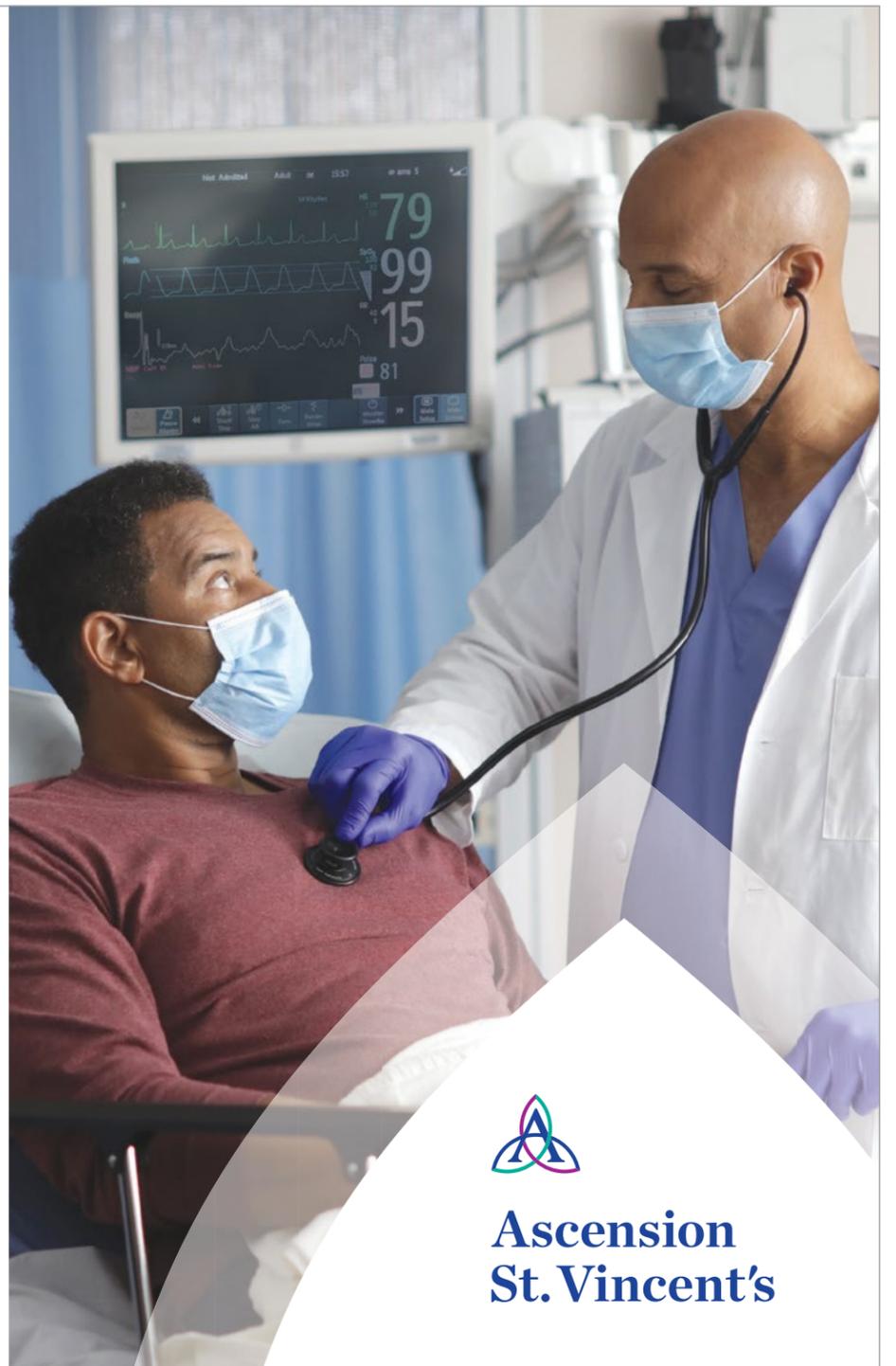
Julia Nichols of Ortega, a senior from Ortega, served as team photographer. She is a journalism fellow at the school and has done a summer internship at *The Resident* in the past.

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San Marco One

Thomas also brought the SMMA group up to date on the renovations being made to San Marco One, a historic commercial building in the heart of San Marco Square. The exterior has been painted and preserved in such a way to keep it watertight, he said. William Jaycox, a San Marco architect, has helped Sleiman Enterprises preserve its historic nature. Jaycox has also suggested interior marketing layouts that will make the 8,000-square-foot interior space attractive to as many as three tenants. Thomas also said that he expects different tenants to lease space on the upper and lower floors.

“We’ve completed the exterior painting and added some wings to bring back the original architecture,” Thomas said. “It gives it more of a Mediterranean feel, and we’ve replaced two of the three roofs.”

Thomas said he is not ready to make an announcement about what tenants might eventually fill the newly renovated space, however he said his team will be marketing to restaurants, although they might not fill the entire space as they did before. He expects tenants to move into the building at the beginning of 2022.

One leasing challenge facing Sleiman Enterprises is the necessity of opening up the first floor so tenants will feel they are visible from the street, Thomas said. To accomplish that goal, the company is proposing to remove some crepe myrtles along the front and incorporate a “landscape island” just west of the main entrance to the building. Thomas claimed the proposal, which will be considered by both SMMA and the San Marco Preservation Society, will enhance walkability in front of the building and assist making signage more visible for the first-floor tenant.

“We would take up the maintenance of landscaping and pay for all the improvements,” he said. “We feel this will open up the building and allow people to walk by a little bit better. We are hoping everyone is open to the idea, and we welcome further discussion about it.”

Beachside Buggies

The Beachside Buggies transport service that offers free rides throughout San Marco and the Southbank has resumed after a few months’ hiatus due to COVID-19. The service is now running for limited hours on weekends only, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday but plans to add service on Thursdays at the end of the November, said Kaloostian.

“Our goal is still the same. We want to change the way people get around San Marco.”

— Dustin Kaloostian, Beachside Buggies

Understanding that people might be leery of riding in the small vans due to the pandemic, the company has made several safety modifications to its vehicles including offering hand sanitizer, and masks and separating riders so that fewer people are transported at the same time.

“Our goal is still the same. We want to change the way people get around San Marco,” Kaloostian said. “We want to change the way people think about traveling the half mile from their condo our hotel. We want residents who may have done it one way for so many years to entertain a new possibility.”

SMMA announces new officers, awards

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

President Joe Carlucci announced new officers for the San Marco Merchants Association (SMMA), who will take charge in January 2021 and bestowed two awards from the merchant’s association to members of the community, during a hybrid-in-person SMMA meeting Nov. 11 at Southside Baptist Church.



Scott Wohler

Scott Wohlers, vice president of Riverplace Capital Management, will take over as president of the merchant’s association, while Leah Roesler, owner of Cascade Outdoor Design, will serve as vice president and Heidi Roberts, vice president and universal branch manager of Ameris Bank, will serve as treasurer. Wohlers has been serving alongside Carlucci as vice president this year while Roesler has been an active SMMA board member for several years.

The group also awarded Community Partner Awards to 1st Place Sports for its “outstanding support of San Marco Merchants Association activities,” and to Southside Baptist Church’s Senior Pastor Dr. Gary Webber for the support the church has lent the organization by opening its facility to meetings and generously sharing its parking lots with the community.

Carlucci also announced changes in the normal Christmas activities planned for San Marco Square due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Although the annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held in Balis Park as usual on Friday, Dec. 4, the activity will only last a half hour, from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Instead



San Marco Merchant’s Association President Joe Carlucci with Southside Baptist Senior Pastor Dr. Gary Webber

of community choral, band, and dance groups providing entertainment, a single soloist will sing Christmas carols at the event, he said. “Santa will be there, but there will be no sitting on Santa’s lap this year,” Carlucci said. To help alleviate disappointment from young children who will not be able to whisper their wish lists to Santa this year, SMMA is setting up a special mailbox in the square especially for Santa letters, he said.

After the Christmas Tree Lighting, a Christmas Classic movie will be shown on the Southside United Methodist Church property at 6:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 5, the annual Festival of Lights road race sponsored by 1st Place Sports will take place at 5:30 p.m. for its one-mile fun run and 6 p.m. for its 5-kilometer race. Traffic through the square will be shut down from 2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. to prepare for the races, he said. As in years before, there will be festivities throughout the square but in a “reduced” manner compared to other years, he said, adding that the merchants plan to decorate the square by wrapping all the light poles and installing 45 new wreaths on all the light poles in San Marco.

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Khan's donation to aid museum move to Northbank

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

With a little help from a \$5 million donation courtesy of Jaguars owner Shad Khan and his family, the Museum of Science and History has launched its new fundraising campaign to assist in funding the museum's move to the Northbank.

MOSH Genesis is the new name for the \$20 million capital campaign launched last year as MOSH 2.0.

In October, MOSH announced plans to build a new museum on the Shipyards property, where Khan is proposing to build a multi-use development.

Khan described MOSH's plans as "a spectacular addition to downtown Jacksonville."

"The best downtown districts in the United States include urban parkland and cultural destinations, and we can have that here in Jacksonville with the Museum of Science and History anchoring a new riverfront park," Khan said.

"I'm hoping my contribution to the capital campaign will spark additional commitment from throughout the region so we can get started on a new downtown. I am confident it will, because I know I'm not the only person in Jax who believes it's time to finally meet and even exceed our potential."

Earlier this year, MOSH received an undisclosed gift from the C. Herman and Mary Virginia Terry Foundation, a \$2.5 million pledge from VyStar Credit Union, and \$500,000 from PNC Bank.

MOSH CEO Bruce Fafard said the board of trustees had originally planned to

renovate and expand the existing museum on the Southbank.

"But there were a lot of things we wouldn't be able to do, and the donors were lukewarm to renovating here," Fafard said.

The board had a committee look at the options, including a marketing study.

"It became obvious that the Northbank, especially the Shipyards, was a very viable solution and the board voted to move in that direction," he said.

Fafard said the board likes the Shipyards because it is close to the city's Sports and Entertainment District.

"I can see visitors coming for several hours, having lunch on the lawn and going to see a baseball game," he said.

Fafard said he hopes to have chosen an architect by next summer so that the project can enter the design phase.

But the exact location of the museum remains uncertain.

The Shipyards, a 45-acre site between Metropolitan Park and Berkman II, is owned by the city.

The Downtown Investment Authority has asked the National Park Service if the Shipyards property can be swapped as public park space for Metropolitan Park. The city is prohibited from selling the 24-acre Metropolitan Park property as part of a 1981 federal grant. If the Park Service agrees to the swap, part of the Shipyards could be developed by Khan or another developer.

Another complication is that because the Shipyards was formerly an industrial site it is a brownfield, environmentally



A rendering of what the new Museum of Science and History might look like if it were built on the Shipyards property.

contaminated, and would have to be cleaned up under state and federal guidelines.

"We are working closely with DIA. The exact location won't be determined until we get a response back from the National Park Service," Fafard said. "Regardless of the decision, there will be a location and space at the Shipyards for us."

Fafard said the new Northbank location will allow the museum to pursue a "bolder vision."

"We're going to be 80 next year. If you look at our history, we've always been able to make bold moves."

The museum was founded in 1941 as the Jacksonville Children's Museum in Riverside.

It moved to the Southbank in 1969 and changed its name to the Museum of Arts and Sciences in 1977.

In 1988, it changed its name to the Museum of Science and History as part of an expansion that included the Alexander Brest Planetarium. It was renovated and expanded again in 1994.

"This is another bold move. We will stay true to our mission to inspire the joy of lifelong learning by bringing to life the sciences and regional history. This will allow us to start with a clean palette. We can design the museum to be more adaptable and create interactive and experiential exhibits," he said.

Sixth downtown sculpture is installed on Laura Street

The sixth and final sculptural masterpiece within the City of Jacksonville's Downtown Sculpture Initiative was installed on Laura Street Oct. 31.

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville in collaboration with Farah & Farah, a personal injury law firm revealed a 20-foot-tall sculpture called "Laura's Flower" positioned just outside of one of Farah & Farah's offices located at 100 North Laura Street (at the Northwest corner of Forsyth Street). The Downtown Sculpture Initiative, which partners with private companies to enhance Downtown, has brought more than \$400,000 worth of public art to Jacksonville's Urban Core.

The Laura's Flower sculpture is named after the daughter of Jacksonville founder Isaiah D. Hart, for whom Laura Street was also named. Farah & Farah and the Cultural Council funded the design and construction

of the artwork. Farah & Farah owns and will maintain the sculpture.

The sculpture was created by Gus and Lina Ocamposilva, a husband-and-wife team from Clearwater, Florida, who were the visionaries behind the project. Their work includes table-top size pieces - made of clay, cast stone, resin, and steel - and more than 60 public large-scale art sculptures in cities, such as Chicago, New York, Atlanta, Miami, and Las Vegas. In 2013, the City of New York invited them to exhibit three 13-foot-tall sculptures designed for the East River Park Promenade in Manhattan.

"Investing in Jacksonville is one of Farah & Farah's core pillars and greatest honors," said Eddie Farah, founder and managing partner at Farah & Farah. "Laura's Flower" is the second sculpture that our firm has backed in the last five years to support the beautification and development of

downtown Jacksonville. We're proud to be a part of this project and look forward to the enhancement it will bring to the downtown scenery!"

As a sculpture, Laura's Flower combines elements of abstract and figurative, classic and contemporary forms. The hand-textured aluminum material is configured to appear soft and fluid. The curved forms incorporate tubes, exposed bolts, and applied color, meant to enliven the sculpture and surrounding area.

David Engdahl, a sculptor from San Marco, has facilitated, coordinated, and managed the four of the six sculpture projects in the Cultural Council's Downtown Sculpture Initiative as a volunteer. Originally, the initiative planned to install 10 works of art throughout Jacksonville's urban core but at this time has no more projects in the pipeline, he said.



Laura's Flower was installed Downtown on Laura Street as part of Jacksonville's Downtown Sculpture Initiative



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Jaguars float possibility of building hotel on Metropolitan Park land

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

While the City Council is still debating Jaguars owner Shad Khan's proposed Lot J development deal, team President Mark Lamping unveiled a development plan for the downtown riverfront, which would feature a Four Seasons hotel.

Lamping made the presentation at Nov. 12 at the Downtown Investment Authority's Strategic Implementation Committee, which was considering incentives for the proposed Lot J project.

The new project would be developed on Metropolitan Park and the Shipyards and in addition to the hotel would have a medical complex, office space, 400 apartment units, parking garages, a marina and a Riverwalk extension.

Lamping said the project would be done at the same time as Lot J, which will require the city borrowing \$200 million. "The public involvement in that will be significantly less both from a dollar standpoint and from a percentage of project standpoint - because of Lot J," Lamping said.

The Four Seasons, which Khan would own, would have a 10,000-square-foot spa and 11,000 square feet of food and beverage. Khan already owns a Four Seasons hotel in Toronto. The nearest Four Seasons is in Orlando where rooms cost \$600 a night.

Lamping said the project could begin within six months of reaching an agreement with the city.

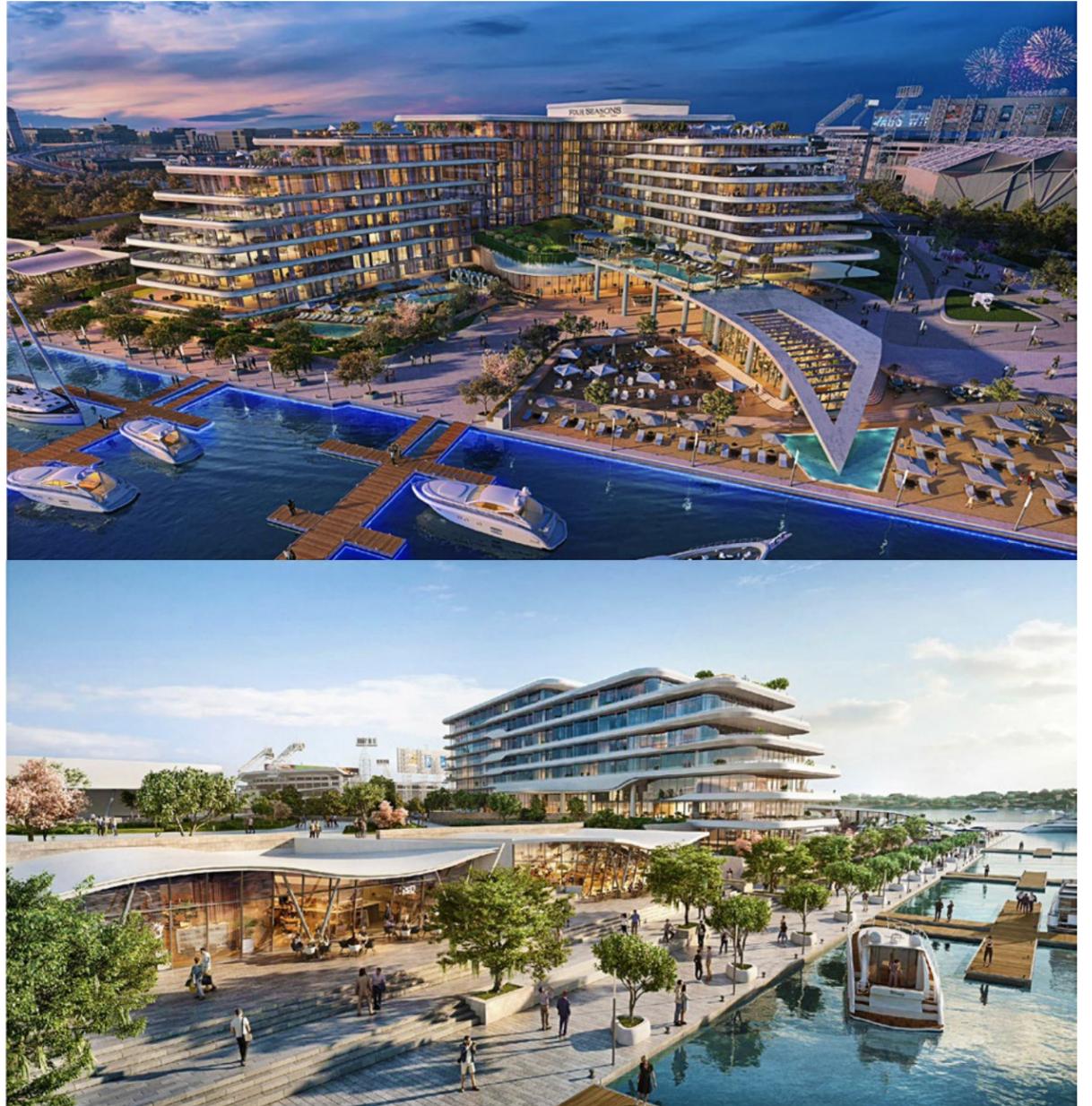
But before any construction can begin, two hurdles must be cleared:

The first, the Shipyards is a brownfield site, and Lamping said his team is waiting on an environmental status report from the state.

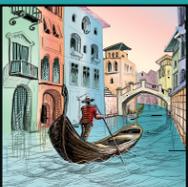
The second, Metropolitan Park cannot be developed until another site for a public park is found and approved by the National Park Service due to a clause in federal funding contract used to build the park in the 1980s.

The city has asked the federal agency whether it can swap Metropolitan Park for the Shipyards. Lamping said a portion of the Shipyards property could be set aside for the park.

The Museum of Science and History (MOSH) has also announced plans to relocate its museum facility onto property on the Shipyards site.



Renderings of a new Four Seasons Hotel Jaguars owner Shad Khan would like to build in land now part of Metropolitan Park and the Shipyards



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Questions arise on sustainability, financial feasibility of Lot J project

By Lilla Ross
Resident Community News

Mayor Lenny Curry's generous incentives for Shad Khan's \$450 million multi-use development of Lot J has stirred up city residents like nothing else since the controversy over the sale of JEA.

The legislation has had a bumpy ride in the City Council, where it is being challenged and at least two amendments are in the offing. But even as the bill is being revised, a decision of whether to give the project the go-ahead could be decided as early as Dec. 8.

Curry is proposing to give Khan's Gecko Investments and the Cordish Companies of Baltimore \$233 million in tax dollars for the development that would be one of the largest in the city's history. Among the details:

- Live! District would have 75,000 square feet of restaurant and retail space, 40,000 square feet of Class A office space, a 150- to 250-room hotel and two mid-rise apartments buildings with 400 units. The city would own Live! District and lease it to the Jaguars for 35 years with four 10-year extensions, and therefore, the property would not generate tax revenue.
- The city would build parking garages with 700 spaces and pay for infrastructure improvements that would include a 700-space surface parking lot built over an existing stormwater retention pond to the west of Lot J. The infrastructure improvements are estimated at \$77.4 million.



A rendering of the Live! District and other buildings planned for Lot J

- The city would be responsible for up to \$15.1 million in cost overruns for the publicly owned portions of the Lot J project and the developer would cover other project cost overruns.

In addition, the developer would receive incentives: a 75% Recapture Enhanced Value Grant for 20 years capped at \$12.5 million for the apartments, which has already been approved by DIA and a \$12.5 million grant upon completion of the hotel.

A financial analysis done for the Jaguars by Chicago-based C.H. Johnson Consulting Inc., estimates the Live! District would create 1,070 full-time equivalent jobs and create a \$456.6 million economic impact over 30 years beginning in 2022.

City Council Auditor Kim Taylor said the deal would only generate 44 cents in revenue for each \$1 spent by the city, although the City's Office of Economic Development put the figure at \$1.69.

No independent market analysis of the development has been done to determine if it is economically viable and sustainable.

Lamping has said if the City Council approves the legislation, construction could begin in the first half of 2021 and take three years to complete.

But Lot J, a former industrial site, is environmentally contaminated that would have to be cleaned up in accordance with federal environmental regulations before any construction could begin. The city,

which would pay for the cleanup, estimates it would cost \$77 million.

Correspondence between the Mayor's Office and the City Auditor's Office indicates the cleanup could take three years. And the auditor notes that the deal would give the developer seven years to get Live! District completed and up to 12 years to finish the hotel.

Khan, who donated \$150,000 to the mayor's re-election campaign, and Cordish have been negotiating the Lot J deal with Chief Administrative Office Brian Hughes in the Mayor's Office for more than two years, said Jaguars President Mark Lamping.

The deal, however, only became public Oct. 5 at a news conference held by Curry and Khan. Curry said he was sending the legislation to the City Council. It was the expectation that it would be approved before the end of the year. Meanwhile, six weeks later, Lamping unveiled yet another Khan development for Metropolitan Park and the Shipyards that would include a Four Seasons Hotel, a medical complex and residential.

The push back on Lot J was immediate. Why was the city giving so many incentives to a billionaire, while the city was covering half the cost of the project without getting incentives from Khan?

In particular, residents want some assurance that the team will stay in Jacksonville after its lease with the city expires in 10 years. Speculation is rampant that Khan could move the team to London, where he has already moved two home games.

District 14 City Council member Randy DeFoor, who represents Riverside, called it "a fat deal."

"Sweetheart deals are great, but we want a married deal, and the only way this project makes any sense at all is if the Jaguars stadium lease is extended for at least 25

Carlucci pushes to put Lot J negotiations in hands of DIA

At-Large City Council member Matt Carlucci thinks the Lot J deal has been negotiated backwards, and he's hoping to get it turned around.

"The mayor negotiated this deal with the Jaguars and Cordish. It's very lopsided. They've thrown it over to the City Council for us to review and pass," Carlucci said. "That's not how it works. The Downtown Investment Authority negotiates these contracts. They review the viability and sustainability and put together how project should be designed and what will work. They negotiate a lot of the incentives."

City Administrative Officer Brian Hughes said the city negotiated with Jaguars owner Shad Khan, his company Gecko Investments, and the Cordish Companies of Baltimore because the city has a long-term contract with Khan and owns the property.

But Carlucci said the DIA negotiated the development agreement for the District on the Southbank, which is to be built on land formerly owned by JEA, and it is currently

negotiating a development agreement for the River City Brewing Company, which also is leased by the restaurant from the city.

Carlucci said the last time the city handled the negotiations was for Daily's Place, an amphitheater built by Khan.

"DIA wasn't involved. They had beautiful renderings of the building but when it was built, it was nothing like the renderings," Carlucci said. "DIA would have made sure about the architecture."

Carlucci said the mayor has put the City Council in the position of doing the work of the DIA.

"The mayor's bill is full of waivers keeping DIA out of the project," Carlucci said. "We find ourselves as a council doing the work of DIA. That's why it's not working well. We're not subject-matter experts."

Carlucci has a substitute bill that would amend the Lot J legislation to remove the waivers that bypass DIA and require that the deal be negotiated by DIA.

City Council member LeAnna Cumber, who is the council's DIA liaison, has a

similar amendment that would send the legislation as it exists to DIA for review.

Cumber introduced her bill at the Nov. 19 Committee of the Whole meeting but it was deferred because there wasn't a quorum. Cumber didn't respond to a request for comment.

Carlucci said he has reached out to Cumber and hopes they can come up with a consensus bill after the Thanksgiving holidays.

"I haven't read her bill, and she hasn't read mine, but I think we're headed in the same direction. At the end of the day, DIA by code is to manage and have oversight of any of the contracts associated with Downtown development projects. The mayor wants the oversight. That's outside the purview of the city code.

"It's not a slight to the mayor. It doesn't mean we're against Lot J. I've voted for every Jaguars' bill going back to the beginning," Carlucci said. "Call me crazy. I'm just trying to follow the law."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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years and they commit to a certain number of home games,” DeFoor said.

At-large City Council member Matt Carlucci, a San Marco resident, said Khan was getting special treatment. He questioned why the deal was negotiated by the Mayor’s Office and not the Downtown Design Review Board and the Downtown Investment Authority, as required by city code.

Three civic groups also weighed in:

- The Urban Land Institute North Florida offered its expertise to analyze the deal, saying “any project of such magnitude – financially, catalytically, and optically – deserves sufficient time and transparency.”
- OurJax, a citizens watchdog formed after the JEA scandal, asked the City Council “to slow down the unnecessarily rushed and non-transparent process.

... It is not good enough for the mayor and the City Council to say, ‘trust us.’”

- The Jacksonville Civic Council, in a letter co-signed by former mayor John Delaney, also called for transparency, urging the release of all documents and calculations related to the project.

According to a survey by Barcelo & Company, 70% of the residents polled oppose the proposed deal, with 25% strongly opposing it. Only 17% favored the deal and only 6% strongly favor it.

Carlucci introduced a bill to hire a firm to take an independent look at the deal and another bill that would send the deal to DIA to be negotiated.

District 5 City Council member LeAnna Cumber, who represents San Marco, introduced a bill that would send the deal to DIA to be reviewed.

Carlucci and Cumber each convened Town Halls for the public to weigh in.

City Council President Tommy Hazouri took the unusual step of suspending the legislation’s usual review by council committees and instead convened a Committee of the Whole, so the entire council could review the legislation.

The second meeting of the Committee of the Whole on Nov. 19 revealed the true extent of the tensions generated by the Lot J deal, with sharp words exchanged among the City Council members, as well as between Hazouri, Lamping and Hughes.

Asked why the deal has numerous waivers that excluded DIA, Hughes said the city owns Lot J and already has a lease with the Jaguars and didn’t think it was necessary to go through the DIA.

But Hazouri said the Mayor’s Office “violated the spirit of what the DIA is supposed to be doing.”

Attorney Paul Harden, who is working on the Lot J deal, said they are making concessions to the city that will be reflected in the revised bill. These include giving the city 50% of the net revenue from the Live! District during the Florida/Georgia game. They also pledge not to sell Live! District until five years after its completion.

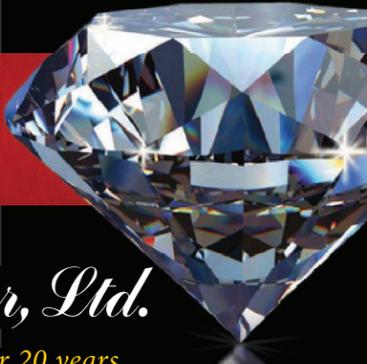
But the consensus of the City Council members was that there were too many questions yet and they need to see a final bill.

Hazouri has scheduled another meeting of the Committee of the Whole at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 3. If the committee is satisfied, it could vote and send its recommendations to the City Council, which could vote on the project as early as Tuesday, Dec. 8.

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Historic incentives breath life into urban development

By Lilla Ross, Resident Community News

Preserving historic buildings is a key element to the redevelopment of downtown and now there's a new tool available in the form of city incentives that will help cover some of the extra expenses that come with refurbishing an old building.

The incentives were approved by the City Council in October, and Lori Boyer, CEO of the Downtown Investment Authority, said she expects to see a number of development applications come in in the next few months.

"It will be transformative to old building stock. I think we're going to see a lot of them get off the ground," Boyer said. "By incentivizing, you can make something happen that is transformative or changes the value of downtown and the neighboring properties.

"It becomes a policy decision about how much you value historic building stock and the importance of that to the culture and identity of downtown. It creates an ambience," she said.

DIA already gives incentives to downtown developments both old and new, such as Recapture Enhanced Value (REV) Grants, which give developers a tax rebate on the value of the enhanced property for a set number of years.

"It allows a developer to ask for an amount that is necessary to bridge the financial gap when they are trying to restore a building, the difference between construction costs versus what they get in rents," Boyer said.

The Laura Street Trio for instance will only have 24 to 50 residential units. "That doesn't yield a lot of rent, or pay off a big loan, but it will make all the difference in downtown," Boyer said.

A company that brings jobs to the area can be eligible for other incentives.

In the last decade, DIA has given 16 downtown development projects various incentives. Here are some better known examples. The complete list accompanies this story.

- The District on the Southbank received a REV grant of 75% for 20 years, not to exceed \$56 million.
- The Cowford Chophouse received a \$500,000 Historic Preservation and Revitalization Trust Fund Grant
- 220 Riverside received a REV grant of 75% for 20 years not to exceed \$4.9 million with a \$30 million minimum capital investment requirement.

To qualify for the new historic incentives, buildings must be at least 50 years old and designated historic by the City Council and contribute to the Downtown Jacksonville Historic District.

The new incentives would include funding to offset the costs of upgrading fire and other systems required to meet building codes. The city also would cover some of the costs of exterior and interior renovations such as flooring and elevators.



Sweet Pete's sweet shop with its close proximity to City Hall, brings a historic ambience to James Weldon Johnson Park.

Smaller projects could be eligible for grants capped at 40% of the total cost of the project.

The DIA also could give forgivable loans of up to \$100,000 from the Downtown Historic Preservation and Revitalization Trust Fund without approval from the City Council. But there is currently no money in the fund.

Loans of more than \$100,000 would be available through the Downtown Preservation and Restoration Program that would require City Council approval.

The legislation also removes the \$1 million cap on historic incentives.

Jacques Klempf, who renovated the old Bostwick Building at 101 E. Bay St., into the Cowford Chophouse, said renovating an old building comes with special challenges.

The Bostwick building was in such poor condition, it was dismantled brick by brick and rebuilt.

"Nothing had been done to it for 80 years," Klempf said. "I would have been better off mowing it down and starting from scratch. But that building is the entrance to downtown, that was my main reason for purchasing it."

And it also yielded a cache of historic records and artifacts from its two vaults that contained 200 lock boxes that hadn't been opened since the bank closed in 1926.

"We were very fortunate. DIA was willing to help developers to keep the fabric of historic downtown," Klempf said. "We worked with the mayor and council. We shared with them our vision. Once we completed the project, they came through with incentives. It was a nice bonus."

Robert Pavelka didn't get incentives for his 2007 renovation of the Churchwell Lofts on Bay Street, but the project is a study in the complexity of renovating a historic building.

The building was constructed as a brick warehouse in 1904 and Pavelka's grandfather and great uncle bought it in 1922.

"It was beautifully built. It's a substantial building," he said.

The walls on the lower floors are 24 inches thick and the building has over 100 windows.

In renovating the building into luxury condos, Pavelka said they left much of the original building intact. Many of the windows are the originals with wavy glass, and the walls are exposed brick.

"All the columns were heart pine. We just refinished everything, left it natural. We sanded and polyurethaned the floors. We didn't stain them. I wanted it to be upscale, urban chic."

Pavelka, an Ortega resident, said he applied for incentives under the Peyton administration but didn't get them.

"A lot of it depends on who is running the city and how badly they want to work with you," he said. "It's great to have an incentive, but it doesn't make it profitable. You have to have the right market. It has to make economic sense. Incentives didn't work for us but hopefully it will work for other people."

For Alex Sifakis, president of JWB Real Estate Capital, incentives are critical and essential piece of historic preservation.

"You need incentives because the rent is not enough to make money off development. In other downtowns, the rents are high enough, you don't need incentives. If you incentivize development, eventually you will get enough residents and amenities that will make it more desirable and raise the rents.

"That new program is pretty great as far as enabling developers to save historic buildings," Sifakis said. "We think it's a great move and will make great impact on revitalization."

JWB recently bought two historic buildings: Federal Reserve Bank at 424 N. Hogan St., and the adjacent Baptist Convention building at 218 W. Church St.

The bank was designed by Henrietta Dozier, the first woman architect in Jacksonville; the Baptist building by famed architect Henry Klutho, who helped rebuild the city after the 1901 fire.

Sifakis said the buildings will be redeveloped as one project with the parking lot to be converted into an outdoor courtyard with seating for two to three restaurants. In addition, the Baptist building will have 24 residential units and the Federal Reserve will have event space on the upper floors.

JWB is in talks with DIA about incentives and plans to begin work by the middle of next year. Sifakis said they also will be pursuing a federal historic tax credit.

Sifakis said JWB did not get incentives for the shipping container apartments on Ashley Street, but in retrospect, wish they had because the project was more expensive than they had anticipated.

JWB also has acquired the Porter House mansion, 510 Julia St., another Klutho building catty corner to Federal Reserve and Baptist building that will be turned into office space and retail/restaurant.

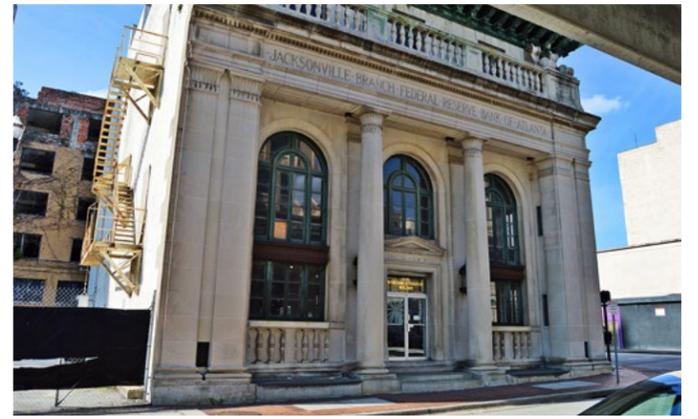
It also owns Klutho's Seminole building, 400 N. Hogan St., which is anchored by Sweet Pete's and has a vacant restaurant space.

The buildings are in close proximity to City Hall and James Weldon Johnson Park. In a few years, the Emerald Trail will run down Hogan Street from Springfield to the river.

"The Emerald Trail is a great amenity," Sifakis said. "Urban trails have proven to be a great catalyst for revitalization."

Boyer said she hopes the incentives will help boost the residential population downtown and the number of restaurants and retail shops to sustain them.

"We have a great quality of life for the beach lifestyle and the suburban lifestyle, but we're not as competitive with the urban lifestyle," she said. "By creating an urban lifestyle, we'll be catering to what millennials are looking for. It helps us compete for jobs and business recruiting."



JWB's plan for the Federal Reserve Building on North Hogan Street is to have event space on its upper floors.

Downtown Historic development projects

List of open projects approved in the last 10 years that are currently administered by the Downtown Investment Authority:

RIVERSIDE/BROOKLYN

220 Riverside

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: \$30,000,000
REV Grant: 75%/20 years, not to exceed \$4,905,980
Loan: None

200 Riverside

(a/k/a Vista Brooklyn)
Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: \$50,000,000
REV Grant: 62.5%/20 years, not to exceed \$9,000,000
Loan: None

Riverside Lodging (a/k/a Residence Inn)

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: \$17,500,000
REV Grant: 75%/20 years, not to exceed \$3,700,000
Loan: None

Lofts at Brooklyn

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: \$28,000,000
REV Grant: 75%/the earlier of 15 years or 2037, not to exceed \$3,380,000
Loan: \$625,750, 20 years at 0% interest

Brooklyn Riverside (BR Riverside, DST)

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: \$35,500,000
REV Grant: 75%/20 years, not to exceed \$5,154,000
Loan: None

Fidelity Information Services (d/b/a FIS)

Minimum Capital Investment: \$145,000,000
REV Grant: 75%/20 years, not to exceed \$23,400,000
Loan: None
Other: City QTI contribution of up to \$600,000 for 500 new jobs over ten (10) year period

LaVILLA

Lofts at LaVilla 2

(a/k/a Jefferson Station)
Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: \$26,000,000
REV Grant: 75%/15 years, not to exceed \$2,980,000
Loan: \$400,000, 20 years at 0% interest

Lofts at LaVilla on Monroe

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: None
REV Grant: None
Loan: \$303,750, 20 years at 0% interest

DOWNTOWN

ACE Jax, LLC (Jones Brothers)

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: None
REV Grant: None
Loan: None
Other: \$1,500,000 Historic Preservation and Revitalization Trust Fund Grant

AXIS Hotels, LC (Ambassador Hotel)

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: None
REV Grant: None
Loan: None
Other: \$1,500,000 Historic Preservation and Revitalization Trust Fund Grant

FOODONICS EQUITIES, LLC (Cowford Chophouse)

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: None
REV Grant: None
Loan: None
Other: \$500,000 Historic Preservation and Revitalization Trust Fund Grant

SOUTHBANK

Southbank Apartment Ventures

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: \$37,000,000
REV Grant: 75%/15 years, not to exceed \$7,810,000
Loan: None

CDP Home Street (SoBA)

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: \$21,000,000
REV Grant: 75%/15 years, not to exceed \$2,530,000
Loan: None

The District

Estimated Capital Investment: \$280,000,000
REV Grant: 75%/20 years, not to exceed \$56,025,000
Loan: None

GV-IP Jacksonville Owner, LLC (One Call)

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: None
REV Grant: None
Loan: None
Other: \$100,000 annual Commercial Revitalization Grant for creating/maintaining 900-1,175 jobs

SunGard Data Systems, Inc.

Minimum Capital Investment Requirement: \$1,235,000
REV Grant: 50%/10 years, not to exceed \$80,000
Loan: None
Other: Create/maintain 120-250 jobs

City's first Eco-Counter dedicated on Northbank Riverwalk

More than 30 guests gathered at Corkscrew Park on the Northbank Nov. 17, to dedicate Jacksonville's first Eco-Counter, a permanent bicycle and pedestrian tracker. Included among the crowd were representatives from Downtown Vision, the City of Jacksonville (COJ) Parks Recreation and Community Services, Downtown Investment Authority (DIA), JTC Running, Black Girls Do Bike, Major Taylor Cycling Club, and the North Florida Bicycle Club.

Located along the Northbank Riverwalk under the Acosta Bridge, the sleek 7.5-foot Eco-Counter kiosk displays daily and year-to-date pedestrian, runner, and bicycle use. Additional trackers are planned for the urban core and information collected will help the City and its partners in future recreational and transit planning. Having reliable data showing foot traffic is also valuable as the City and its partners seek outside grants to improve bike/ped infrastructure.

The Eco-Counter was made possible by a \$31,550 donation from JTC Running, the nonprofit organization that founded and hosts the annual Gate River Run, among other initiatives. "JTC's mission is to support health, outdoor recreation and running in Northeast Florida," said JTC Board President Larry



DIA CEO Lori Boyer speaks at the dedication of the Eco-Counter in Corkscrew Park Nov. 17.



A cyclist breezes past the new Eco-Counter in Corkscrew Park.

Roberts. "All proceeds from the Gate River Run stay local to support high school track, JTC-sponsored races and training classes, and major initiatives like the Eco-counter and the planned 30-mile Emerald Trail."

Also speaking at the event were San Marco's Lori Boyer, CEO of the DIA; Daryl

Joseph, Jacksonville director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services; Eric Miller, vice president of District Services for Downtown Vision and president of the Downtown Dwellers; and Karissa Moffett, Jacksonville Bicycle and Pedestrian coordinator.

"The Eco-Counter is a great tool for collecting valuable data that can help guide active infrastructure investments Downtown while also promoting and inspiring the community to take advantage of our 2.8 miles of Riverwalk promenade," said Boyer. "The St. Johns River is at the heart of Downtown's infrastructure, and we're grateful for JTC's generous donation that will encourage access to the river for locals and visitors alike as they walk, jog, bike, or simply stroll along the Riverwalk and take in the scenic views."

As of the event day, nearly 14,000 pedestrians and runners, and 2,500 cyclists have traversed through Corkscrew Park on their journey along the Northbank Riverwalk to and from Riverside since the Eco-counter was installed in late October.

Moffett said the Eco-Counter will help create a ridership baseline that can be used to assess future years, and ensure investments are moving the City toward its goal of increasing walking and bicycling trips by 10% by 2030. "Thank you to JTC for spearheading the first permanent counter in Jacksonville—this is the first of many to help us reach our goal of becoming a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community," said Moffett.

Park Place developer plans to transform San Marco bathhouse

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News

A men's bathhouse that for decades rested in the shadow of Southside Baptist Church is about to undergo a dramatic transformation.

Bill Ware, vice president of development for Harbert Realty of Birmingham, Ala., is in the process of personally purchasing 1939 Hendricks Avenue, where the former Club Jacksonville, an adult entertainment men's club, used to reside. He will own the property through an LLC. The derelict building was condemned by the City Municipal Code Compliance Division in 2019.

A San Marco resident, Ware, is best known as the representative for Harbert Realty, the developer of Park Place San Marco, a four-story apartment complex soon to be built on land previously owned by South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church. He said he has the property under contract and plans to renovate the building into a

two-story professional office building that will house two to three tenants.

It is Ware's plan to demolish the one-story, 2,000-square-foot rear wing of the building that formerly housed the men's club's indoor pool, jacuzzi, fitness equipment and other amenities, so that he can build an two-story elevator, welcome lobby, and public restrooms in that space. He has filed for a demolition permit and hopes to take the rear portion of the structure down in December. He hopes to begin construction early next year on the \$3 million project, which includes the purchase price.

The property is currently owned by the Estate of Raymond P. Diemer in care of Athletic Ventures of Florida and Joan Elizabeth Diemer and is listed for use as a club, lodge or union hall. In 2020 it had an assessed value of \$691,021, according to the Duval County property appraiser website.

The property includes 25 parking spaces, "which is a commodity in San Marco, as you know," Ware said.



The former Club Jacksonville is set to be transformed into a professional office building

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How to Succeed at Small Business Finances and Investing

By Peter E. Bower
President, CEO and founder
Riverplace Capital Management

Small businesses continue to be the engine that fuels the American economy. Succeeding in small business is undoubtedly one of the most challenging and gratifying experiences that a person can have. What are the key ingredients to success? How can you navigate the financial challenges that you face? My team and I have worked with small business owners and businesses for more than 40 years, and there are some key financial strategies that you want to consider for your small business to succeed.

Let us be clear, the number one financial concern for small businesspeople is generating **positive cash flow**. If expenses are not met with enough income to pay them, then not much else matters. Any business that endures for any length of time has managed this.

Next in importance is to try to develop **stable revenues** the owner can count on month in and month out. The nature of the business determines how easily this can be achieved, but it is always a consideration and a goal. One way to accomplish this is through diverse income sources. Relying too much on one or just a few sources is always uncomfortable and risky. When it

comes to valuing a business, those with the most stable revenues are always worth more than ones that do not have this.

The most important investment that a small business can make is back into the firm. Growing can take money. **Providing a cushion** for the surprise events and the inevitable needs that crop up is a priority too. Any responsible businessperson knows there are good years and bad ones. Not spending up to the limit during the good years allows the establishment of reserves to make it through the not so good ones.

Many business owners love the challenge, sense of independence, and opportunity involved in managing an enterprise. However, providing for ones' family is not to be ignored. This may be in fact, the most important reason for working. A good life, a better life, and a safe and **financially secure** one are what so many of us want for our loved ones. Success provides for all these and other aspirations.

Succession or cashing out becomes a very important consideration at some point. Planning for either of these must take place along the way. How will the business proceed if you are no longer there? Or, how will you create the greatest value and price for when you might want to sell it? There are many things that can be done for either possibility — knowing what to do and how to do it are important.



Some businesses may or may not provide much value when sold. Like everyone else, every business person needs to think about **providing for retirement**. This may seem like a luxury at times, but just remember how quickly events can change everything. For those who are able, making retirement investments separate from the business, may make all the difference in your financial security. There are many tax-efficient ways to do this. What's right depends on you.

Making investments separate from your business can provide invaluable security during challenging times. This may not be your highest priority when starting out, but will soon become one as success grows. If the worst happens and the business gets in trouble, having other **wealth** can be critical to you and your family's future. Just think

of the value of many hospitality and leisure businesses today compared to a year ago.

Working with a financial advisor like **Riverplace Capital** can help you better navigate the challenges involved with building, running, and perhaps selling a business. Doing this in a financially efficient and successful manner is the goal. Knowing what to do to sustain the business and create the most value is how we help you. If you would like to discuss your business plan, ideas or challenges, call us. We have helped many business owners secure their **financial independence** and create wealth for themselves and their families. We publish a weekly update on financial topics entitled, "Lonely Bull Blog". If you would like to receive this, please sign up contact us via email at info@riverplacecapital.com or via text (904) 614-8000.

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Subaru shares the love with \$115,500 donation to Wolfson Children's

To kick off the 13th-annual Share the Love campaign and celebrate the success of last year's philanthropic drive, Subaru of Jacksonville presented a check for \$115,500 to Wolfson Children's Hospital. The donation, which is the result of the 12th annual Share the Love campaign, is the largest to-date from the local dealership since pledging a five-year commitment to Wolfson Children's in 2016.

The gift will help fund care and advanced technology to treat critically ill and injured children at Wolfson Children's Hospital, along with child passenger safety education through THE PLAYERS Center for Child Health at Wolfson Children's. While the donation is usually announced and presented to Wolfson Children's Hospital in the spring, it was delayed so that it could coincide with the beginning of this year's campaign due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For this year's Share the Love campaign, Subaru will donate \$250 for every new

vehicle purchased or leased from Subaru of Jacksonville between November 19, 2020, and January 4, 2021. Customers may choose between four national charities for the \$250 donation – including ASPCA, Make a Wish Foundation, Meals on Wheels, and the National Park Foundation – or Subaru of Jacksonville's hometown charity, Wolfson Children's Hospital. Subaru of Jacksonville matches every \$250 donation, regardless of the charity chosen by the customer, with all matching funds benefitting Wolfson Children's Hospital. Additionally, Subaru of America and Subaru of Jacksonville donate \$2 and \$3, respectively, to Wolfson Children's for every Subaru oil change at the dealership.

Subaru of Jacksonville has donated \$476,448 to Wolfson Children's Hospital since the partnership began in 2016. This year's event is the final of a five-year pledge to support Wolfson Children's.

The Jacksonville dealership was the first corporate partner to support trauma services



Wolfson Children's Hospital President Michael Aubin, Jessica Winberry of THE PLAYERS Center for Child Health at Wolfson, with Roxanne Porter and Phil Porter, owners of Subaru of Jacksonville

at Wolfson Children's and established the "Subaru of Jacksonville Porter Family Trauma Services Endowment," creating a legacy of support for generations to come.

"We are proud of the results and partnership with Wolfson Children's Hospital. Everyone in our community has known someone or

has personally benefited from the amazing care at Wolfson Children's Hospital. Jacksonville is so fortunate to have such outstanding care available for our children, and we consider it an honor to support the hospital and its remarkable staff," said Phil Porter, owner of the dealership.

Donors furnish Clara White rec room for homeless vets

Homeless Veterans in reemployment programs at the Jacksonville Clara White Mission were honored with the first recreation room at the facility. Donors rallied from the three surrounding counties to furnish the room with a foosball table, indoor basketball, magnetic dart board, board games, masks, furniture, military service wall hangings, supplies, and the services of a professional painter.

The Clara White Mission was designated by the We Can Be Heroes Foundation for delivery of food and goods. The male Veterans Dormitory and the female Veterans Boulevard House at the mission provide a



The new Clara White Mission Rec Room

welcoming place for veterans in need of a place to live while they work toward independent living.

Donors from Clay, Duval and St. Johns Counties included Community Presbyterian Church in Atlantic Beach, the American Legion Auxiliary 233 of Ponte Vedra, the Women's Tuesday Mah Jongg Group of Fleming Island, and anonymous veterans and volunteers with We Can Be Heroes.

Fundraising campaign to make magic for Theatre Jacksonville

As 2020 draws to a close, Theatre Jacksonville is ready to make some magic happen! With the help of a matching grant initiative through the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, donations from Dec. 1 - 31 will do just that. Any gift of up to \$500 given to Theatre Jacksonville's Make Magic in 2020 campaign by December 31 will "magically" double – and 10% of the gift amount will also be donated to one of three local charities if the giver specifies as such.

"We have been able to keep operations going this year, during exceptionally difficult times, in part due to the generosity of our donors. Our Make Magic in 2020 program is a fantastic way for operating funds to get a much-needed boost during these final months and for your donations to pack an extra punch," said Theatre Jacksonville Executive Director Sarah Boone.

The three charities Theatre Jacksonville has selected to assist are Clara White Mission, JASMYN, and Mental Health America of Northeast Florida. Clara White Mission offers a variety of programs to chronically homeless and low-income clients, particularly veterans. JASMYN supports and empowers LGBTQ young people through health and wholeness services and youth development opportunities. Mental Health America raises awareness of mental health and wellness, provides training, and works to impact policy and legislation. Each giver may designate and name one if they wish to help a charity in addition to Theatre Jacksonville.

Donations to the Make Magic in 2020 campaign can be made by visiting www.theatrejax.com.

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Pajcic and Pajcic continues tradition of giving back

When Seth Pajcic of The Law Firm of Pajcic and Pajcic handed Ju'Coby Pittman, CEO and president of Clara White Mission, a check for \$100,000 Nov. 16, it was to continue the Pajcic tradition of giving back to the community.

"Ever since my dad and uncle started the firm, they thought about how they could give back to the community. With this check we are trying to continue a tradition of giving back, especially to important charities like Clara White and what they do, feeding people, providing

housing (for veterans), and job training," said Seth Pajcic. "People that can, this is our time to step up and do a little extra and that's what we're doing. We are fortunate to have the means to donate and give to a mission like Clara White and make our community a better place."

Pittman said the donation would be a game-changer for her nonprofit. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Clara White has been struggling as many charitable organizations have been, lacking volunteers and resources to feed hundreds of individuals



Ju'Coby Pittman speaks to media about the gift of \$100,000 dollars given to the Clara White Mission on Nov. 16. Clara White board chair Michelle Paul, veteran client Russell Graney, Seth Pajcic of Pajcic and Pajcic, veteran client Wayne Stephens and Clara White president and CEO Ju'Coby Pittman gathered to announce the gift during the check presentation.

and families every day. The money will help the mission stay open and continue to feed people and provide packaged goods to families who have come to depend on it,

she said. "We are a safety net. We've been around 117 years," she said. "Today I didn't expect this check, but I can tell you we need it more now than ever."

Genealogical society names new president

James W. Preston, governor, Florida State Society of Mayflower Descendants, installed new officers of the Richard Warren colony during a Zoom meeting Nov. 7.

A resident of Brandon, Fla, Preston presides over 1,411 Florida members in 17 local colonies in Florida, including the Richard Warren Colony, which includes members in Northeast Florida. The Florida Society is one of the largest state organizations of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Richard Warren Colony was established in 1957 at Ponte Vedra, and serves Jacksonville, St. Augustine, and Florida's First Coast.

Members installed for three-year terms included:

Governor, Dr. William P. Cheshire; Deputy Governor and Treasurer, Donna Webb; Secretary, Carolyn Gentry; Elder, Jan Davis, and Captain, Audie Boggs.

Cheshire, professor of Neurology at the Mayo Clinic, is a 10th great-grandson of William Bradford, an English Puritan separatist. "At this time when America is struggling with political divisions, our Mayflower heritage reminds us of the principles of freedom, equality, justice, and



James W. Preston



William P. Cheshire

humanity that, in the Mayflower Compact written 400 years ago, bound our forebears together in common purpose. As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, may we all come together again as a nation," said Cheshire.

Outgoing governor, Mere Schwartz, highlighted the historic opportunity this year to commemorate Plymouth's 400th anniversary of the Mayflower voyage and the founding of Plymouth Colony in 1620. "Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Plymouth conducted inspirational and educational events to celebrate, especially the relaunch of the Mayflower II after extensive restoration," she said.

Anyone who can offer proof of lineage from one of the passengers who traveled to America on the Mayflower in 1620 is welcome to apply for membership in the Florida Mayflower Society. For more information, visit Richardwarrencolony.com.

Community Foundation adds two to board of trustees

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida elected Carol J. Alexander and Velma Monteiro-Tribble to its Board of Trustees for three-year terms, starting in January 2021. Also, in January, current trustee and U.S. District Court Judge Brian J. Davis will become chairman-elect of the Board, in anticipation of his becoming chairman in January 2022.

"We are delighted to welcome Carol and Velma to the Board of Trustees—they each have extensive experience in the corporate, philanthropic, and nonprofit arenas and will bring new perspectives to our governing body," said Martha Frye Baker, the current chair of The Community Foundation's Board of Trustees. "And we are particularly gratified that Judge Davis has agreed to lead the Board starting in 2022."

Carol J. Alexander is president and chief creative officer of MaBu: A Cultural Resource. An arts management executive, producer, storyteller, and educator, her work has taken her around the world including her oversight of the reopening of the National Museum of Liberia in 2017, following a 14-year civil war there. She has been the driving force behind two local museums. She serves as the Founding Executive Director of Jacksonville's prestigious Ritz Theatre and LaVilla Museum, and she founded and has



Carol J. Alexander



Velma Monteiro-Tribble

directed the artistic and educational operations at the American Beach Museum on Amelia Island since it opened in 2014.

Velma Monteiro-Tribble is director, Grants and Programs for the Florida Blue Foundation. Prior to joining the Florida Blue Foundation, she served as executive officer and assistant treasurer of the Alcoa Foundation, a worldwide \$500 million foundation based in Pittsburgh and New York City. She also spent five years at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. She has served in executive roles at the National Association for Community Leadership and at American College Testing (ACT). Monteiro-Tribble has served on the Program and Initiatives Committee at The Community Foundation since 2018.



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Barnwell named Duval County Principal of Year

Marilyn Barnwell of Alfred I duPont Middle School in San Jose has been named Duval County's Principal of the Year. Prior to receiving the top honor, Barnwell had been named Duval's Middle School Principal of the year and was among three other finalists from throughout the county vying for the top honor.

"DuPont's story is America's story in that it is a tale of self-will and self-determination characterized by a burning desire to do and be better," said Barnwell. "At duPont Middle School, community is everything and is the bedrock of all that is good and pure as seen through the eyes of our children."

Also competing for the top honors were Kimberly Dennis of Fishweir Elementary School, who was named the county's Elementary School Principal of the Year, James Ledford, principal of Duncan U. Fletcher High School in Neptune Beach, who was named the county's High School Principal of the Year, and Shirley Winfrey, principal of Hyde Park Elementary, who was named Principal of the Year for the county's Innovation and School Improvement Region.

Barnwell is head of one of the most diverse schools in Duval County with English language learners making up about



Marilyn Barnwell

20% of its student body and representing more than 20 languages.

As principal of duPont Middle School since 2012, Barnwell helped launch her school's Dual Spanish Language program and its designation as an International Business and World Language Academy Magnet Program. Under her leadership, her school also has the distinction of being the first middle school in Duval County to adopt the Global Scholars Program,

which promotes cross-cultural understanding by engaging youth in collective problem solving about common issues shared around the world.

"I recognize that as a school leader my most important role is that of life-long learner," she said. "I have a moral and ethical responsibility to stay abreast of the changing trends as it relates to best teaching practices. My primary goal is to turn-key this learning with teachers, thereby leading to increased student performance. I'm excited about the opportunity to learn and put into practice winning strategies for ensuring that our most vulnerable students, including our students with disabilities and English language learners, are given all of the tools necessary to achieve proficiency in all content areas."

For Barnwell, raising student achievement has been her primary focus, she said. During the 2017-2018 the school passed the 400-point threshold (out of 900 points) according to state accountability reports and remained above the 400-point threshold the following year as well. In 2020, duPont was recognized via the Best and Brightest Program and received the Retention and Principal Awards for its performance from 2016-2019.



The Rev. Adam Anderson with wife, Lindsey, and their children, Frankie and Abe.

South Jacksonville Presbyterian welcomes new pastor

South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church (SJPC) has welcomed The Reverend Adam Anderson to serve as pastor and head of staff for the San Marco church.

A native of Ohio, Anderson earned a marketing degree from Grove City College in Pennsylvania as well as master's degrees from Ohio State University in both City & Regional Planning and Public Administration. He spent time working in the field of public policy specializing in affordable housing and helping people with mental health issues live sustainably as part of the community before following the call to ministry.

"Ultimately, I felt called to take my public policy background into the church setting and use ministry as the tool to engage the broader community," Anderson explained. "My time in campus ministry left me with a desire to do more than lead mission work, to dig deeper and try to help fix the root of these issues."

Anderson attended Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, Texas. He then served as head pastor for Old Stone Presbyterian Church in Delaware, Ohio, before being called to SJPC.

"I am so happy to be here," said Anderson. "SJPC already feels like home, and I see so much potential in the church's future — I think we've only begun to scratch the surface of how we can impact this community together."

Anderson's wife, Lindsey, has a background in pediatric home health services and directing rehab in nursing facilities. The family is settling into the Miramar neighborhood and their children are excited to be attending Hendricks Avenue Elementary.

Landon teacher named semifinalist for Duval County Teacher of Year

Mathew Schemer, a native and resident of San Jose, who teaches seventh-grade civics at Julia Landon College Preparatory and Leadership Development School, was named as one of 15 semifinalists to compete for the Jacksonville Public Education Fund's 2021 VyStar Duval County Teacher of the Year.

One of four middle school teachers who was selected as a semifinalist, Schemer is a graduate of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and has nine years of teaching experience at Landon Middle School. In the classroom he created his own fictional nation, Schemerica, to serve as an educational aid to help students understand what it means to be an active and engaged citizen. "The invention of Schemerica revolves around the idea that any student can succeed when provided with a learning environment they enjoy and feel comfortable in," he said. As a result of this work, he has been asked to develop a gifted curriculum in civics.

Also selected as semifinalists for county Teacher of the Year honors were: Christine Bell, Chets Creek Elementary; Maryjane



Mathew Schemer

Cassette, Sabal Palm Elementary; Kenneth Ford, Carter G. Woodson Elementary; Jemee Jackson-Gaines, Richard Lewis Brown Gifted and Academically Talented Academy; Kimberly Parker, Lake Lucina Elementary; Margaret Rogero-Hastings, Mandarin Oakes Elementary; Kayla Santiago, Cedar Hills Elementary; Leslie Wilkinson, Garden City Elementary; Nadine Ebri, Southside Middle School; Katie Kiefaber, Matthew Gilbert Middle School; Charlotte Wintz, James Weldon Johnson College Preparatory Middle School; Sharmariton

Ashley, Andrew Jackson High School of Advanced Technology; Shayla Baylock, William M. Raines High School; and Jim Schmitt, Mandarin High School.

The teachers will go on to be considered as finalists for the county's top teaching honor and all 15 will participate in JPEF's Teacher Leadership Initiative, a professional learning community that connects teacher leaders with best practices in equity and school quality.

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Wolfson graduate serves aboard USS Ronald Reagan

Petty Officer First Class Cedric Brown, a Samuel W. Wolfson High School graduate, served on board the Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) during exercise Keen Sword (KS21), which took place between Oct. 26 and Nov. 5.

Directed by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, KS21 is a biennial, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command-scheduled, and U.S. Pacific Fleet-sponsored field-training exercise that is designed to enhance Japan-U.S. combat readiness and interoperability.

An estimated 9,000 personnel from the U.S. Navy, Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps are participating in the exercise, including ships from the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group and more than 100 aircraft from Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5, USS Ashland (LSD 48), HMCS Winnipeg (FFH 338), Commander Task Force 72 and 5th Air Force.

Brown is a master-at-arms responsible for being a small arms instructor who qualifies both new and experienced shooters assigned to the USS Ronald Reagan.

"It feels good to not only be supporting the operation but also supporting my fellow sailors," said Brown. "Times get hard out here, and I'm glad that I can rely on my shipmates through both good and bad times."

The exercise helps strengthen bilateral relationships and demonstrates U.S. resolve to support the security interests of allies and partners in the region.

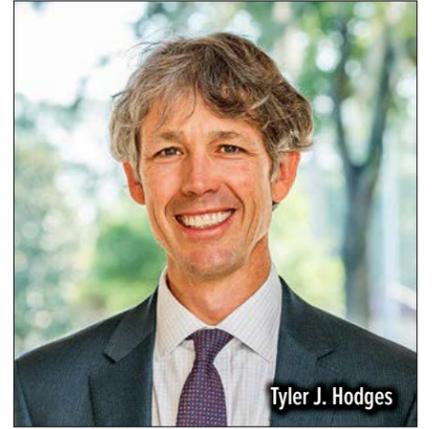
Keen Sword is an example of the strength of U.S.-Japan Alliance, the foundation of peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region for more than 60 years. The relationships built and maintained



Petty Officer First Class Cedric Brown

during these events are critical to Japan-U.S. shared capability to respond to contingencies at a moment's notice.

Since Ronald Reagan's Yokosuka departure in June 2020, the ship continues to operate in the Indo-Pacific alongside allies and partners to demonstrate the United States of America's commitment to defense agreements, as well as promote peace and prosperity by supporting international norms.



Tyler J. Hodges

Bolles president elected to FCIS Board

The Florida Council of Independent Schools has elected Bolles President and Head of School Tyler J. Hodges of San Jose to its board of directors.

Hodges joins a board of five officers and 12 directors who are elected by their peers. FCIS membership includes 145 schools serving more than 72,000 students around Florida – from Pensacola to Key Largo. The board elected Hodges to the group during the organization's virtual annual meeting on Nov. 5.

"We are fortunate to have Tyler Hodges as a member of our board," said FCIS Executive Director Barbara H. Hodges Ed.D. "This confirms his standing as a valued member of the Florida family of independent school leaders, and we look forward to working with him."

Hodges' first official FCIS board meeting will be Sept. 23-24, 2021 in Tampa. As part of his new leadership responsibilities, Hodges will serve on accreditation visitation teams during the school year and participate on board committees.

Realtors named as October top producers for Berkshire Hathaway

Anita Vining and Beth Chesak were among the top producing agents named by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty in October.

Working from Berkshire Hathaway's San Marco office, Vining received recognition as the top listings, sales, and transactions agent. Chesak was the agent recognized for top production.

"Congratulations to our top producers, each of you have risen to the top of your profession," said Christy Budnick, president and CEO.

Company Founder and Chairman Linda Sherrer also praised her top agents. "You have consistently set a high standard in both professionalism and within the industry with performance and knowledge," she said.



Anita Vining



Beth Chesak



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Cultural Council and PNC Foundation team up to support new Jax Arts Project

Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville and the PNC Foundation have joined forces to support the JAX Arts Project, a new program for individual artists living in Northeast Florida working on community-based projects resulting in pieces of art that reflect the unprecedented current social environment.

"The JAX Arts Project will take into account the challenges of creating and presenting art works in the time of COVID-19," said Jannet Walker-Ford, chair of the Cultural Council's board of directors. "The Cultural Council is thrilled to work with PNC on this new grant-making program for our local artists."

Grant submissions must take place in Greater Jacksonville between Dec. 15, 2020, and June 30, 2021, and must incorporate social-distancing measures to view or experience the artwork due to COVID-19.

"By funding quality arts programming, we help to showcase the artistic talent and creativity of the next generation, while contributing to the \$4 billion arts and culture industry in Florida," said Brian Bucher, PNC regional president for Port Cities. "We also know how critical economic support is to local artists during these exceptional times."

For more information, including detailed grant guidelines, visit the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville website.

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Jaguars donate \$58,000 to local nonprofits serving military and veterans

Jaguars President Mark Lamping joined Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry at a press conference inside City Hall Oct. 28 to announce the 2020 recipients of the Jacksonville Resource and Reintegration Center community grants. The Jaguars Foundation and the City of Jacksonville's Military Affairs and Veterans Department awarded \$57,500 to military and veteran-serving organizations throughout the community.

"Today's grant recipients play a key role in keeping our nation strong by caring for its greatest defenders," said Jaguars President Mark Lamping. "The Jaguars are honored to support these organizations and their programming, be it residential services, financial assistance, mental health, and even canine outreach. Their hard work is key to caring for our military, veterans, and their families across the First Coast."

Grants were provided to nine organizations: Five Star Veterans Center, that provides residential services for veterans; Florida National Guard Foundation that offers financial assistance for Guard members and their families; K9s for Warriors that supports the expansion of a warrior and service dog training program; Northeast Florida Women Veterans that provides emergency services to women veterans; Operation New Uniform that provides training for transitioning veterans; Operation Barnabas that offers hardship fund support for veterans; Veterans Council of St. Johns County that provides emergency assistance to veterans; United Way that supports operating expenses for the Mission United Launch; and Yoga 4



Jaguars President Mark Lamping addresses the crowd during press conference where his team bestowed \$58,000 in grants to local nonprofits that provide services to the military and veterans

Change that provides trauma-informed yoga for veterans.

"The Jacksonville Jaguars have been amazing partners in our efforts to support military service members and veterans in our city," said Curry. "I am grateful to the team for their continued contributions to our community. These grants to veteran-serving organizations further enhance Jacksonville's well-earned reputation as the most military- and veteran-friendly city in the nation."

Since 2013, the Jaguars have provided over \$1.5 million to help fund the Veterans Resource and Reintegration Center at City Hall. Including today's announcement, the team has also given nearly \$360,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations during that same time.

The Jaguars held their annual Salute to Service game Nov. 8 at TIAA Bank Field. CSX served as presenting sponsor for the Salute to Service activities, which included events and programming for military members, spouses, and families on local bases and at TIAA Bank Field throughout November.

Historian at-large launches new book

Jacksonville Historical Society announces publication of *LIFE: The Untold Story of Charles Adrian Pillars* by Wayne W. Wood

The 2020 holiday season's best gift will be the latest engaging masterpiece by Riverside resident Wayne W. Wood, the Jacksonville Historical Society's Historian At-Large and former longtime board member.

"*LIFE: The Untold Story of Charles Adrian Pillars*," is the culmination of 10 years of visioning, research, and wordsmithing about the sculptor behind Jacksonville's most iconic piece of art, prominently placed in Memorial Park since 1924.

Wood skillfully combines his passion for history, his love of art and architecture, and his knowledge of Jacksonville to dig deep into the life of a somewhat obscure artist whose only goal was to be known as Florida's most famous sculptor. With more than 200 photos of historic people, places and events, "*LIFE*" provides the backstory behind Memorial Park's sculpture, "*Life*," in riveting detail.

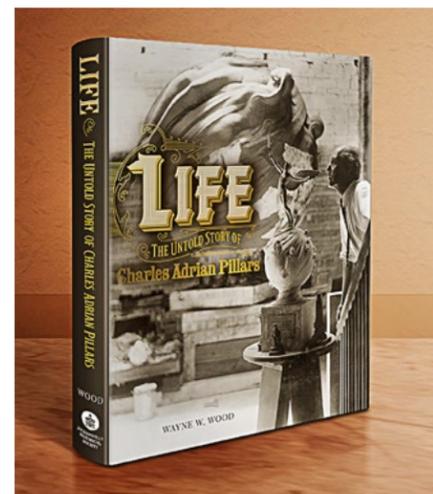


Right, Wayne W. Wood, author of "*LIFE: The Untold Story of Charles Adrian Pillars*," presents a copy of the book to Michael Pajcic, representing The Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic and the Pajcic family, whose grants helped underwrite publication, in Memorial Park in front of the namesake sculpture, "*Life*."

Published by the Jacksonville Historical Society through grants from Steve and Anne Pajcic and the Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic, the hardcover book retails at \$49.95.

To purchase this exquisite 400-page volume, which weaves art, architecture, and significant historical events around one man, visit jaxhistory.org and click on "Shop."

Just in time for the holidays, the book is also available at San Marco Books and More, Chamblin's Uptown, Chamblin's Bookmine, and at the 18th Annual Gingerbread Extravaganza at Old St. Andrews Church (book signing Saturday Dec. 5, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. and Saturday Dec. 12, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.). The book will also be on sale at a special book signing in Memorial Park on Saturday, Dec. 5, 10:30 a.m. – noon, to benefit Memorial Park Association.



"*LIFE: The Untold Story of Charles Adrian Pillars*" by Wayne W. Wood

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SUMC women serve community and world children

The women of Southside United Methodist Church hosted a service day on Nov. 9, serving around the community and children throughout the world.

The women planted irises and spread pine straw to beautify the entrance of Hendricks Avenue Elementary, and they prepared a Christmas surprise for the Hendricks Avenue teachers.

Annually, the members of Southside collect items for "Thanksgiving Bags" and donate them to UCOM to give to local families. The bags include everything for a Thanksgiving feast including a grocery gift card for a turkey and other items. This year the church collected over 50 bags and over \$800 in gift cards. During the service day, volunteers checked and sorted the bags at UCOM to prepare them for delivery to the families.

The Operation Christmas Child mission overseen by Samaritan's Purse collects shoeboxes filled with toys and necessities for children around the world. In 2019, more than 10.5 million shoebox gifts were collected. At the service day, the women filled 34 boxes and collected the funds to ship the boxes.



Chip Cosper, Marina Caro, Leslie DeVooght, Carlton DeVooght

The women also filled one-gallon bags and gently used purses with necessity items to hand out to people on the street that the church members might meet. Each bag contained toiletry items, snacks, bottles of water, socks, along with a variety of other items. The bags were passed out to the congregation following church services in November and December. Southside UMC has three services every Sunday at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., and 11 a.m.

Kairos Outside is a mission to support and encourage the family members of incarcerated people. Volunteers wrote encouraging notes and made Christmas sachets for program participants.

Every year, Southside hosts a mission brunch to raise money for local and international missions. Next year's brunch will be held on Saturday, April 24. In preparation for the brunch, the volunteers made decorations. At the 2020 Brunch, over \$7,000 was raised.

Southside United Methodist Church is currently preparing for an Angel Tree to support the students of Hendricks Avenue Elementary. For more information on the church's service opportunities go to SUMCJAX.com or follow Southside United Methodist Church on social media.



Carlie Peyton, Pat La Mountain, Liz Morgan

Friday Musicale seeks new supporters with Harvest Festival



The Ancient City Brass Band performs at Friday Musicale's Harvest Festival Nov. 15.

It wasn't so much about raising money as making new friends when Friday Musicale held its annual Harvest Festival in Riverside Nov. 15.

With the goal to bring awareness to the musical nonprofit and its programs, the "friendraiser" event partnered with Feeding Northeast Florida, Mars Hill Church in Riverside, Central Riverside Elementary, Ancient City Brass Band, River City Rhythm Kings, and Oceanway School of Dance, successfully drawing many of their supporters to the festival for the first time.

With entertainment from the Ancient City Brass Band, the River City Rhythm Kings, and dance performances from the Oceanway School of Dance, the festival offered food, games, and 16 vendors selling arts and crafts and other items. Food donations were collected for Feeding Northeast Florida.

"Our barometer for success is to cultivate new audiences and to partner for community outreach," said Janet Withers, stewardship coordinator for Friday Musicale.



Debbie Cain, Phyllis Cain, Joann Kuhns and Rick Dorn enjoy the music at Friday Musicale's Harvest Festival Nov. 15.



Maia Arnold, Willow Gann and Lindsey Nichole Smith have fun at Friday Musicale's Harvest Festival Nov. 15.

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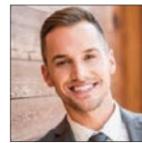
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Devin Dawson with Leah Sykes, Ben and Rachel Sykes, Quinn Rozycki, Samson, Isaac (with Dad), Levi, Silas, Vicki and Brad Sykes, Jacob Sykes and Meredith Edwards



The Hughes family representing The Will King (Hughes) Foundation is Will's father Taylor Hughes, sister Emma Grace, sister Caroline, mother Courtney and brother Joshua.



Nick and Angela Chandler with Jaclyn holding Andy Corr, Candy Corr, Chris and Thomas Corr

Kickin' it at Keeler with the Will King Foundation

It was an afternoon full of fun and fundraising as children's activities and live musical performances, tasty eats from Mayday Ice Cream, food trucks and bar-b-que were served at Gather + Give on behalf of the Will King Foundation. Passionate supporters of the foundation also enjoyed live music by Nashville performing artists Devin Dawson and Jacksonville native, Leah Sykes. The event took place Nov. 7 at the Keeler Property on the Westside.

The foundation was established to honor the memory of Will King Hughes, a twin born to Courtney and Taylor Hughes, who went to be with his Lord and Savior after a long and harrowing battle with

complications and infections following an early-term birth, complicated by a series of seizures and kidney failure, among other fatal difficulties.

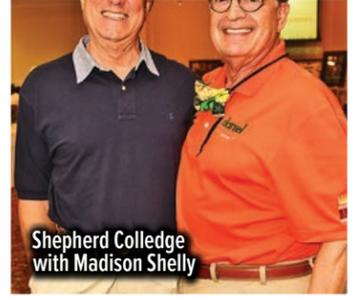
The foundation's primary mission is to raise funds to help support lifesaving heart treatment and surgical care for children visiting internationally to receive treatment in Jacksonville hospital systems. The foundation is now a partner with Patrons of the Heart, the organization founded to help make medical care available to children throughout the world who would otherwise go without. To learn more about how you can show your support, visit www.willkingfoundation.com.

20th annual golf tournament on par, raised funds for Daniel

The 20th annual Hank Haynes golf tournament was a socially distant hit for Daniel, one of the area's longest functioning nonprofits that fights for children. The goal of the organization is to raise funds for vulnerable children and families in need of financial aid and resources to better their circumstances.

On Dec. 9, the Timuquana Country Club played host for the socially distant outing, as guests mingled and enjoyed the banquet, complete with a silent auction, live auction and a speech by former Daniel kid, Aramis Johnson, who is now a preacher raising up other children and families after overcoming great odds stacked against him.

Presenting sponsor Enterprise Integration, along with countless supporters from Weather Engineers, GHG Insurance, Miller Electric, Duval Motor Company, Brumos Collection, Swisher International and many more joined the ranks to support the organization that helps to "improve the odds for kids since 1884". For more about Daniel, visit danielkids.org.



Shepherd Colledge with Madison Shelly



Low net winners, representing the Haskell Foundation: Allan Iosue, Alan Verlander, David Auchter and



The PLAYERS Red Coats presented a check for \$10,000 dollars, surprising Rethreaded founder and president Kristin Keen, who was in shock upon the unveiling of the surprise gift, one that will be matched by top donors.



Libi Halperin with Ellen Cottrill



Rethreaded founder and president Kristin Keen with first lady Molly Curry and Shannon Italia



Olivia Scaturro with Michele McManamon

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Christine Sweet with Emily Pepper, Vaughan Lee Griffin, Jackie Cook, Jeanine Fickling and Jim Griffin



Justin Nicholson with Jill Gayton, Roger Bowen, Ryan Hufstetler and David Hensley



Good works get noticed for Rethreaded, benefit survivors

Rethreaded is a local organization changing the lives of women who were abused, trafficked, and downtrodden by providing a new lease on life through the empowerment of other women. Through the creation of garments and socially conscious gifts, the company offers employment programs and counseling to help better lives and better our world.

During a recent fundraiser titled Gather + Give on Nov. 18, the PLAYERS and the philanthropic arm of past chairmen, the "Red Coats," gifted the mission a \$10,000 surprise donation that will be matched, yet fulfilled the goal of the nonprofit's holiday events in a moment. The gift will forever be etched in the minds of the leadership of Rethreaded and its support system of faithful givers.

Patrons and supporters were on hand to shop and celebrate the momentous occasion, all while helping to elevate the conversation for the latest program titled - Shop with a Purpose. For more about Rethreaded and the mission to renew hope, reignite dreams and release potential, visit www.rethreaded.com.

Seeing girls for who they are and who they might become

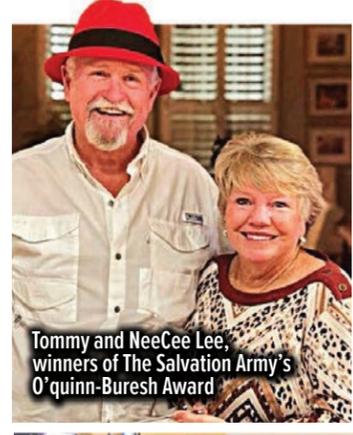
The Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center hosted Manifest Change & See the Girl, its first open-invite virtual fundraising event Nov. 18. Many supporters of the policy center affectionately referred to it as "see the girl," which is the tagline manifested from a girl asking adults to "See me for who I am, not for who you think I am. See me for who I am and who I can become." During the event, the policy center partnered with Manifest Distilling to offer guests the option to purchase a signature event glass and cocktail kit. At least 140 guests from across the United States tuned in to learn more about the agency's mission to lead policy and practice reform for girls in the juvenile justice system. To view the event on YouTube tune into: <https://youtu.be/mJtIXuuBk>.



See the Girl participants Photo courtesy of Andrea Bottin



See the Girl glass that was purchased by guests tuning into the Manifest Change & See the Girl virtual event Nov. 18.



Tommy and NeeCee Lee, winners of The Salvation Army's O'Quinn-Buresh Award



Guests of The Salvation Army's Red Shield Ball snacked on cheese and charcuterie during the virtual event.



Majors Keath and Candice Biggers speak during The Salvation Army's virtual Red Shield Ball Nov. 21.

Tommy and NeeCee Lee honored at virtual Red Shield Ball

Tommy and NeeCee Lee were the 2020 recipients of the O'Quinn-Buresh Award, which was bestowed on the couple, who have served the Army's Advisory Board and Women's Auxiliary for 18 years, during a virtual rendition of The Salvation Army's Red Shield Ball Nov. 21. Chaired by Lauren Scheible, Courtney Taylor, and Christine Carter, the virtual ball featured a curated cheese tasting for two or more with thoughtful charcuterie and libation pairings catered by Biscottis, which were delivered to guests' doors, as well as entertainment and a live auction. All funds support the Army's Red Shield Lodge and Carpenter Family Marketplace, a client-choice pantry that gives clients the opportunity to select foods that are best for their household in an environment that preserves dignity. The marketplace was created from funds raised by the friends of Pete and Marilyn Carpenter and 2019 Red Shield Ball Fund-a-Need donations.

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‘Food for their bellies, books for their brains’

Hunger Fight celebrated its eighth anniversary, Nov. 8, doing what it does best – packing nutritious meals for hungry children and families in Northeast Florida.

“We started fundraising Nov. 8, 2012 and began packing meals in June 2013 and this Sunday we will surpass 10 million meals,” said Dean Porter who serves the nonprofit alongside his wife, Sherri, Hunger Fight’s founder.

Hunger Fight held its 7th Thanksgiving Community Outreach event Nov. 1-8 at its San Marco warehouse. Normally a two-day event, the Porters decided to stretch the packing activity over seven days to accommodate COVID-19 guidelines. “We stretched it out so we could have smaller groups and do social distancing,” Dean Porter said. “We wanted to make everybody feel more comfortable and still be able to make our goal of packing 400,000 to

500,000 meals to distribute to the children and families we service on a regular basis.”

During the week-long event, more than 600 volunteers participated in the packing activity.

Along with packing meals, the nonprofit also started its “Feed the Need to Read” program more than a year ago. “We started collaborating with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and have since started our own homegrown program, where we can be more targeted to the children we are trying to reach and work directly with daycare centers to get books in their hands so we can get the children better prepared for school before they go to kindergarten,” said Porter, adding that 46% of children in Northeast Florida are not reading on grade level. “We don’t want to change just the child’s life, we want to change the family unit, so



Emily Dearing, Josh Slocum, Bella Willard, McKenzie Parish and Abigail Harrison of Holiday Hill Baptist Church pack meals on Nov. 7.

that we can really make a difference in those communities that have a high drop-out rate.”

Since the program started, Hunger Fight has passed out 88,000 books and serves 2,800 preschoolers with reading material each month throughout the First Coast.



Lisa Wright places four of the nine justices at the bench.



Nora Lee carefully cuts pieces of gingerbread for “Justice for All.”

San Marco gingerbread display honors late Supreme Court justice

Despite concerns about the pandemic, the 18th Annual Gingerbread Extravaganza will be every bit as magical as in prior years. More than two-thirds of the gingerbread builders this year are new to the show and every display will be brand-new. While the month-long event will again feature a holiday gift and bake shop, this year the Jacksonville Historical Society has added a quilt raffle, an online silent auction with prizes unique to the society, and contests for Best Displays and Best Tree.

Gingerbread Extravaganza takes place Dec. 1-27 (closed Mondays) at Old St. Andrew’s Church, 317 A. Philip Randolph Blvd. Visit jaxhistory.org for all the details about times, how to reserve your visit and the measures the society is taking to ensure health safety, including reserving Tuesdays for seniors and those with compromised health.

Each year several families from the historic neighborhoods participate in the event with a gingerbread creation and this year is no different.

From the heart of San Marco, friends and family gathered at Lisa Wright’s home on Felch Avenue to construct a display that nearly defied categorizing. It wasn’t fantasy, and certainly was not a traditional gingerbread display nor was it religious, so in the end “Justice for All” was deemed to be “landmark.”

“This year we started off with a theme, but we changed it as we went into September,” said Wright. “The death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg in September led us in a new direction. As we studied her life, we came to better understand the importance of ‘Justice for All.’ That explains our title.”

Lisa Wright, Linda Ellis, Nancy Balch, Becky Hilbert, John Wright joined two children, sixth grader Ava Ruth Lee and fourth grader Nora Lee to make up “GG’s Family and Friends” team, which was motivated to enter again after their first attempt in 2019. “We found the experience to be more involved and complicated than

we originally thought, but we were hooked,” said Wright.

With a Ping-Pong table in the living room as a gingerbread workstation, Wright said “heaven only knows how many hours we put into it, but it was there for seven weeks!”

In addition to the traditional gingerbread and royal icing, GG’s team used various candies, such as gummy bears, red Twizzlers, black licorice, Life Savers and sprinkles, as well as cereal, pretzels, pasta, quinoa, black pepper and black rice.

The creative and architectural aspects of this project were easier than the engineering aspect, Wright said. “The adults in the group wished on numerous occasions they had taken Shop in high school, but we prevailed! Dealing with humidity proved to be our biggest headache.”

Wright reported no major mishaps during the creative process but said they would have a glue gun handy and their fingers crossed during set-up at Old St. Andrew’s Church.

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5 IMPORTANT REASONS TO Support Local Businesses

- 1 Farm-to-table foods help improve health**
Buying foods grown locally allows access to fruits and vegetables that are chemical free such as grass-fed meats, fresh eggs, and dairy from cows cared for locally. Local farmers are more likely to utilize sustainable practices and not "factory farming practices," which line the pockets of faceless corporations.
- 2 Small businesses elevate the local economy**
A 2003 study done by the Institute for Local Self-Reliance illustrated the local multiplier effect supporting small businesses can have in the community. It showed that a portion of each dollar spent at local independent stores is re-circulated in the community as payroll, goods/services purchased from local businesses, profits spent locally by owners, and charitable donations. According to the study, for each \$100 spent locally, \$45 went to secondary local spending as opposed to only \$14 which might be spent locally by a large chain store.
- 3 Shopping locally builds personal connections**
Small business owners often know customers by name and offer a personal friendly connection to the customers they serve. Customers celebrate when their favorite local businesses succeed or mourn when they are forced to shut their doors. Local entrepreneurs have an investment in their enterprises and are often happier and have a sincere attitude toward clients.
- 4 Quality customer service**
Personalized customer service from local establishments is preferable to the service received from large chain stores that view clients as nameless customers with bank accounts. Directly connected to every employee in their store, local business owners offer personalized service by taking customers' suggestions or issues more seriously. Local shopkeepers understand customer preferences. They tailor their services to individual needs and offer professional advice to make the shopping experience better.
- 5 Small businesses are unique and add character to the neighborhood**
One-of-a-kind boutiques and restaurants offer the community a unique flavor and play a big role in the neighborhood identity. The attention to detail their enterprises provide as well as the unique architecture of their shops' facades can be a selling point and provide a quaint and appealing visual appearance to the community.



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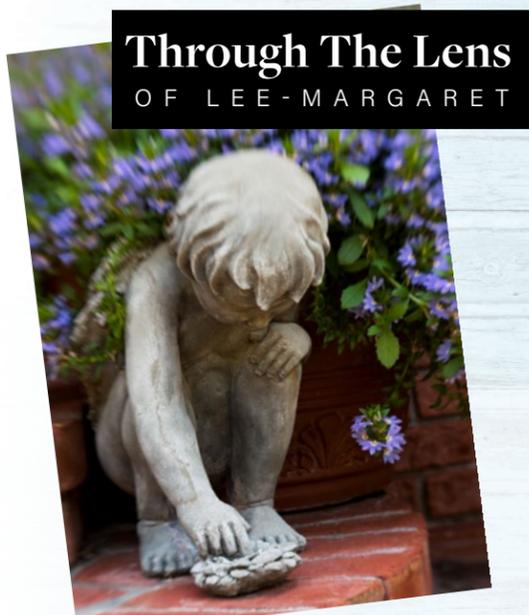
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Equal Justice for All Legal Expense Insurance Corporation provides affordable legal services to North Florida residents



Equal Justice's attorneys are available to handle many legal matters for their clients for one low monthly fee.

Every citizen should have access to the legal system, and a person's ability to have access is greatly enhanced with the assistance of a licensed attorney. The concept of affordable legal representation might seem out of reach to many. However, local attorney Fred C. Isaac, founder of Equal Justice For All Legal Expense Insurance Corporation, has made this concept his mission - successfully providing affordable legal services in Jacksonville for the over 30 years.

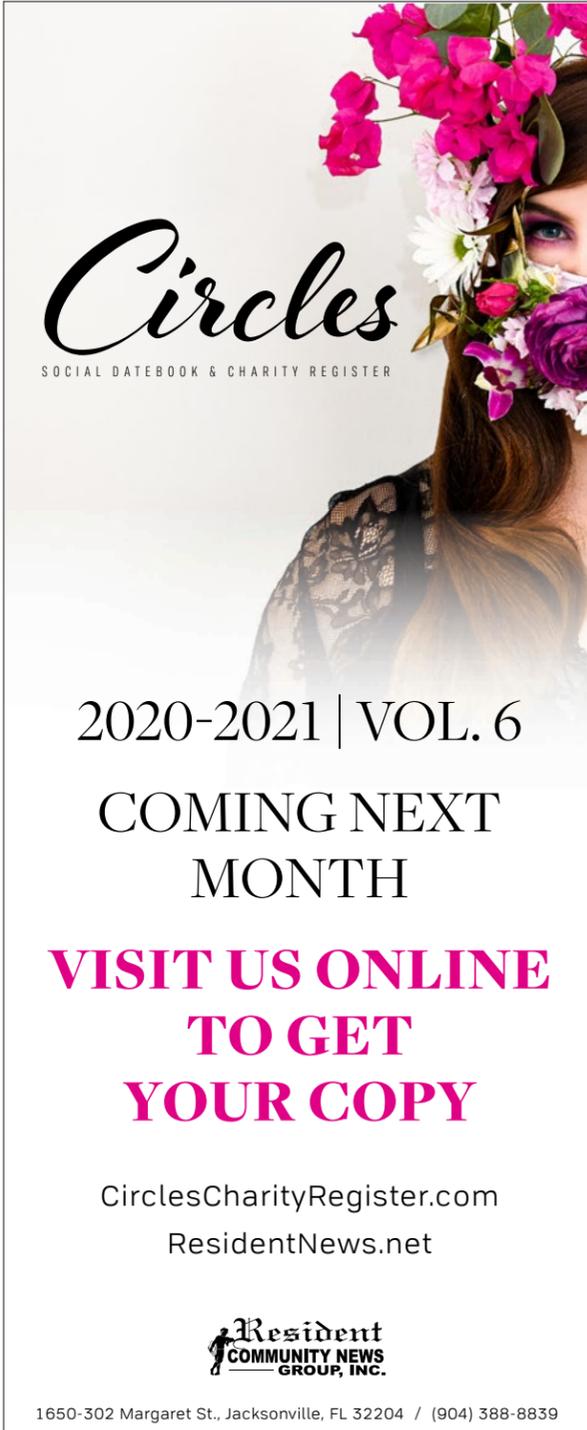
"The concept is simple – Equal Justice provides an insurance policy for legal matters," said Isaac, who started Equal Justice with David R. Lewis and Herman S. Paul in 1989 to provide access to legal representation at a fair price.

Equal Justice's attorneys are available to handle many legal matters for their clients. For a monthly fee, a variety of legal issues

can be taken care of by the plan's attorneys, who have expertise in family law issues, misdemeanor criminal violations, real estate transactions, and personal injury matters. The plan provides members the power to manage their legal matters simply and effectively. A group policy through Equal Justice is available to all employees of a participating company. Employees typically pay through monthly payroll deductions or bank draft programs. For \$20 a month, members and their families are entitled to a variety of legal services.

Rebecca Schriver, chief financial officer of Equal Justice, often hears clients say that the access to the legal services has been immeasurable. "Employers like the fact that their employees no longer have to worry

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



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“The goal of our company has been to find an expeditious way for an individual to have the advantages of ongoing legal representation just like large corporations have.”

— Rebecca Schriver
chief financial officer of Equal Justice



about their legal issues because they have an attorney representing them,” Schriver said. “Statistics indicate that seven out of 10 people experience some type of legal issue in any 12-month period, and most of them do not hire an attorney because they cannot afford to do so. Approximately 30% of employees miss work due to a legal issue. The employees save precious hours at work and have peace of mind because they have a lawyer who is able to handle issues that they would have had to take time off from work to deal with themselves - such as traffic violations or family law matters.” Employers are able to provide a fringe benefit to their employees at no cost to them. The employees basically have an attorney on retainer.

“They know exactly with whom they’ll be dealing when they pick up the phone and call us,” Schriver said. Not to mention, employers and employees don’t have to

mind the clock when they are dealing with their attorney. The monthly fee ensures relief from expensive, hourly rates.

Don’t work for a company? In business for yourself? Or maybe you’re an individual who wants the peace of mind that a lawyer is available anytime you need one. Equal Justice also features opportunities for individual policies at the cost of \$25 per month. The plan offers unlimited phone and office consultations, contract review and preparation, and many other services. The pressure of having to monitor the hours spent talking to your attorney is removed and there are no exorbitant legal bills to pay. Schriver boils the opportunity down to numbers and cost savings. A simple will, living will and power of attorney for a husband and wife, for example, typically costs between \$1,500 and \$2,500, which are covered under the plan.

“The annual fee of \$240 a year to participate in Equal Justice seems almost too good to be true,” Schriver said. “The goal of our company has been to find an expeditious way for an individual to have the advantages of ongoing legal representation just like large corporations have.” Equal Justice, based in Jacksonville, employs attorneys throughout North Florida. The Florida Bar supports the concept of legal service plans as a means of increasing a citizen’s ability to obtain legal services at an affordable cost. Equal Justice For All Legal Expense Insurance Corporation provides insured clients with access to the legal system as well as access to preventative legal services so they can find resolution early on the “small” issues before they become “major” legal problems. Fred Isaac has been practicing law in Jacksonville since 1969. For more information, call (904) 399-3313 or visit our website at www.equal-justiceforall.com.

Fred C. Issac



As managing partner of the law firm of Foerster, Isaac and Yerkes, P.A., Fred C. Isaac holds an AV rating by the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, the

highest rating that can be determined by his peers. He is a graduate of Jacksonville University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and holds a Juris Doctorate from Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University. Isaac is licensed with the Supreme Court of both the State of Florida and the United States of America as well as the United States Middle District of the State of Florida and all appellate courts in Florida.

Rebecca Schriver



Rebecca Schriver has long tenure with Foerster, Isaac & Yerkes, P.A. having worked for the firm 34 years. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in

Business Administration from the University of Alabama and is a graduate of the American Institute for Paralegal Studies. Schriver is a Florida Registered Paralegal and is a member of The Florida Bar’s Florida Registered Paralegal Enrichment Committee.

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The Forbes ranking of America's Top 1000 Women Wealth Advisors, developed by SHOOK Research, is based on an algorithm of qualitative and quantitative data, rating thousands of wealth advisors with a minimum of 7 years of experience and weighing factors like revenue trends, AUM, compliance records, industry experience and best practices learned through telephone and in-person interviews. Portfolio performance is not a criteria due to varying client objectives and lack of audited data. Research Summary (as of April 2019): 32,000 nominations were received based on thresholds (9,264 women) and 1,000 won. This ranking is not indicative of advisor's future performance; is not an endorsement, and may not be representative of individual clients' experience. Neither Forbes nor SHOOK receive a fee in exchange for rankings. Raymond James is not affiliated with Forbes or Shook Research, LLC. Please visit <https://www.forbes.com/top-women-advisors/#28abc5bd51f4> for more info.

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Resident Community News Publisher Seth Williams with JSO Assistant Chief Jimmy Judge and his wife, Shannon

H O M E T O W N H E R O E S

The Resident congratulates heroes the entire community is proud of

Resident Community News Publisher Seth Williams personally congratulated Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office Assistant Chief Jimmy Judge, the winner of his newspaper’s Hometown Hero contest, and his wife, Shannon, during a special presentation at The Peninsula on the Southbank Nov. 16. Judge, who is assistant chief of JSO’s Zone One, was nominated for the contest by the Downtown Dwellers, a community organization whose members live in Jacksonville’s urban core on both sides of the river. He was presented with a framed copy of the article, which ran in the November edition of *The Resident*, and gift certificates for dinner for two at Bellwether Restaurant. *The Resident* also congratulates Light it Forward award winner Nancy Chamblin for her invaluable work with the Downtown Ecumenical Services Council. Periodically throughout next year, *The Resident* will be featuring stories on hometown heroes who are making a difference in Jacksonville’s historic neighborhoods. Stay tuned next month when we feature Carolyn Baggett of Baptist MD Anderson and Kristen Zumwalt of Bishop Kenny High School. If you would like to suggest a neighborhood hero to be featured in the newspaper, please contact Marcia Hodgson at marcia@residentnews.net.

H O M E T O W N H E R O

Nancy Chamblin

To low-income people in need in Jacksonville’s urban core, Nancy Chamblin is the kind of hero that lights up a room.

A San Marco resident, Chamblin, who serves as a financial assistance program coordinator for the Downtown Ecumenical Services Council (DESC), was one of three human-services advocates honored by the Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) with the utility’s fourth annual Light it Forward Awards Oct. 23. The awards are presented to representatives known for their dedication and commitment to serving Jacksonville residents in need.

Each year, nonprofits such as DESC provide millions of dollars in utility bill assistance to JEA customers in need. JEA created the awards to recognize some of the people behind the scenes who go above and beyond to help low-income customers in the community who are seeking utility bill assistance.

“You represent the best there is in servant leadership. Your work in helping those most in need is truly the work of angels,” said JEA Interim CEO and Managing Director Paul McElroy during the virtual event.

Sheila Pressley, director of JEA Customer Revenue Services and Elizabeth Paulson, manager of JEA Customer Assistance Programs went a step further in a letter to Chamblin.

“When the community had a need over the past year, you did more than just see the need — you met it. Thank you for assisting JEA limited-income customers and answering their call for help,” wrote Pressley and Paulson. “You are part of the greater good and a shining example of what care-in-action looks like.”



Nancy Chamblin

In a phone interview, Chamblin said the award was unexpected and she was honored to receive it. “It was just delightful that JEA recognized me for this award,” said Chamblin. “I feel really like its an award for DESC. I got it because I’ve just been there the longest. I did not expect it at all because at DESC we all just share our work and our joys and our struggles. The thanks we get goes to everyone. I feel it is the team that earned this honor. It really was wonderful that out of all the agencies and the people in Jacksonville, who are helpers, that DESC would be singled out this way to receive this honor,” she said.

“The thing I’ve found that is so good is that all the agencies are cooperating and helping each other take care of people who are common to all of our agencies. We coordinate with JEA and different landlords and apartment complexes. Often when landlords learn that we are going to help, they stop the eviction or drop the late fees. Everybody just seems to be pulling together so nicely to help people in need right now.”



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In Memoriam

John Reilly Schultz

September 30, 1963 – November 5, 2020

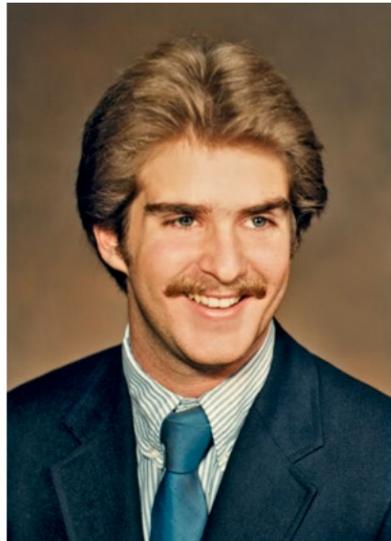
By Frederick Schultz Jr.

On November 5 John Schultz died of heart failure at his home in Ortega Forest. In addition to his twin children, Rick and Reilly, John leaves behind his mother, Nancy, sister, Catherine, and brothers Frederick and Clifford. His father, Governor Frederick H. Schultz, predeceased him.

For 35 years John worked in real estate development, management, construction, and brokerage, both commercial and residential. Together with many partners, he built numerous shopping centers and some six hundred houses. He also managed the extended family's investments.

John attended The Bolles School and the University of Florida. He served as a director of Jacksonville Bancorp, Metro YMCA, the Daniel Companies, the Museum of Science and History, St. Vincent's Foundation, Junior Achievement of Jacksonville, Jacksonville Museum of Modern Art, Intrepid Capital Corp., Bolles School Alumni Board, and Southeast Atlantic Corp. He was a board member of our local NAACP chapter, the Trust for Public Land, the National Association of the Remodeling Industry, and was a founding member of the Ribault Group. He was voted one of 20 outstanding young men in Jacksonville.

Unusual for a real estate developer, for decades he was active in conservation. In particular, he championed St. Johns Riverkeeper, the Nature Conservancy, and Jacksonville University Marine Science Research Institute.



“John knew every street and block in Jacksonville and seemed to be on a first-name basis with a thousand friends and colleagues. He sincerely loved the people of Jacksonville and took every opportunity to expand his circle of friends.”

John knew every street and block in Jacksonville and seemed to be on a first-name basis with a thousand friends and colleagues. He sincerely loved the people of Jacksonville and took every opportunity to expand his circle of friends. Those who enjoyed his friendship knew that if they needed help, they could call John night or day.

His devotion was legendary. When Stella Lodesky, the family babysitter, fell victim to dementia, John visited her bedside every day for years. With his Uncle Jack who was mentally handicapped, he arranged "vacations" — trips taken together to Disney World, Las Vegas, sea cruises, and other colorful destinations.

He adored his twins and rarely missed their performances or games. Nearly every day he stopped by to see his mother. He helped to raise five step-children.

From kindergarten friends to fraternity brothers (SAE) to fellow Rotarians, once he made connections he held onto them. A friend wrote to us this week saying "John had the biggest heart of anyone I ever knew." To that must be added his keen wit, rousing sense of fun, and a remarkable memory for personal details. He leaves behind dozens who counted him as their best friend in the world.

In lieu of flowers, his family asks that donations be sent to Riverside Presbyterian Day School, 830 Oak St., Jacksonville, FL 32204.

A memorial service will be scheduled post-pandemic.



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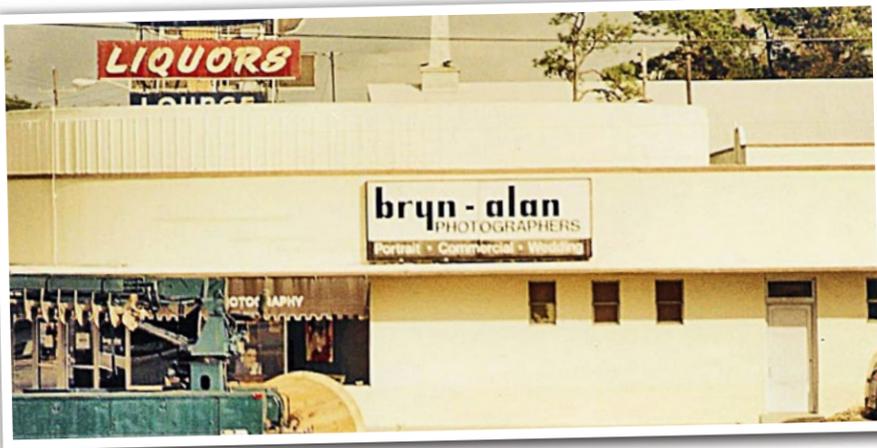
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THE WAY WE WERE: JOE JOSEPH

BY MARY WANSER
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS



Bryn-Alan Studios 1980, currently Mudville Grille

“I’ve seen Jacksonville change over the past 70 years,” said Joe Joseph.

Joe is the first generation of the Joseph family to be born in America, in Jacksonville’s St. Vincent’s Hospital in 1947. His family established themselves in Florida in stages. His great-grandfather immigrated to Tarpon Springs on Florida’s west coast in the late 1890s from Syria; his grandfather did the same in the 1930s. Joseph’s father immigrated at the age of 13 and became a naturalized citizen in the 1940s before serving in WWII.

Joseph is the eldest of six, with three brothers and two sisters. He grew up surrounded by several relatives on Belmont Terrace in San Marco until 1963, at which time his growing family moved to the Arlingwood neighborhood of Arlington. He started school downtown at Immaculate Conception for first, second, and third grades. He remembers riding with a brother one year his junior on the 31 Colonial Manor bus to and from. By fourth grade, Joseph had transferred to Assumption where he wore a uniform of blue pants and a white shirt with a capital “A” patch sewn on his pocket. He then went on to Bishop Kenny High School, uniformed in a choice of blue or grey pants, white shirt, and a red and blue tie around his neck. After graduation, Joseph spent a year at JU as an engineering major before getting married and becoming an entrepreneur.

When Joseph was a child, he spent a great deal of time at Central Park, now known as Southside Park, on Hendricks Avenue behind

Southside Branch Library. “Every afternoon after school, we’d go up there and play ball,” he said. The park ranger maintained a large cabinet there that contained equipment for the children to use—items like mitts, nets, gloves, and a tetherball set. “He had everything! You could come there with nothing, and he would have it all there for you to play with,” Joseph said with a voice still filled with excitement. “When I was growing up, we didn’t even think about crime,” said Joseph noting that, today, a supply cabinet in a public park sounds preposterous. There was a swimming pool on the park’s site as well, next to the library where the tennis courts are now, he remembered.

Joseph also recalled people all used party lines, now obsolete, when they used a telephone. They were phone circuits shared with other customers that saved on the cost of phone service. Each party sharing the line had a distinct ring, so that those within the household would know whether to answer or not. Sometimes, if attempting to make an outgoing call, one would hear the other party using the service and would have to wait until the line was available. “To go from a party line to a cell phone in your pocket to call anywhere in the world is amazing,” he said.

Joseph knows quite a bit about the Jacksonville that used to be that is no more. He recalls that five grocery stores had been within a walkable one-mile radius between San Marco and St. Nicholas: Setzer’s on the Square, Banner at the corner of Atlantic

and Hendricks, Daylight on the corner of Atlantic and Kings, Winn-Dixie where Dr. Rene Pulido’s medical center now stands, and A&P at the St. Nicholas Shopping Center. There were five gas stations, too, in that same vicinity: a Stoke’s in San Marco, a second across from the fire station, a third at Hendricks and Atlantic, a fourth past the overpass on Atlantic, and a fifth farther down on the right. Joseph’s reminiscing in fives continued as he recounted restaurants. New South was on Hendricks and Atlantic, a little Chinese restaurant stood across from where Wells Fargo bank is now, Pizza Joe’s was just past the overpass on the right, an Italian restaurant was in the same shopping center where Winn-Dixie used to be, and Old South sat caddy-corner from the St. Nicholas Shopping Center.

According to Joseph, prior to consolidation in 1968, the Jacksonville city limits used to run down the center of the St. Johns River. South of the river was called South Jacksonville and to the east was Arlington, each with its own post office. Outlying towns, too, like Orange Park and Marietta had their own postal identities.

Everything north of the invisible line was considered Downtown, and it was booming. “Jacksonville was the insurance capital of the South,” Joseph said. “There were tons of insurance companies here.” Downtown Jacksonville had been a major banking city, too. It was bustling with department stores, restaurants, theatres, and hotels. This was before strip malls and shopping centers, at a time when traveling salesmen would market their wares door-to-door. Those selling belts and suspenders would go to the clothing stores. Those selling pens and pencils would visit the office supply houses. Shoppers crowded the streets in daytime and the restaurants by lunch. Businessmen coming to town would see a movie in evening and lodge in a hotel at night—one like the Seminole, the George Washington, or the Florida. But then the suburbs came. Malls were built. And Downtown began closing



Donna and Joe Joseph, December 2019

down. “It will never be what it once was,” Joseph said.

There were only two bridges that spanned the river back then, and both began in Southside. The Acosta Bridge of 1921 led to Downtown, and the Main Street Bridge of 1941 went to Riverside. As the suburbs grew, so did the number of bridges—seven stand today, and two others have come and gone—to accommodate the increased traffic, which then led to the expressway and interstate systems to supplement two-lane roads like Atlantic Boulevard out to the beach had been. “From St. Johns Bluff all the way to the beach, there was nothing,” Joseph said.

Joseph has witnessed a multitude of changes in Jacksonville over time, and the greatest of all has been the growth and consolidation, which made Jacksonville the largest city by area nationwide. But there’s also the addition, at last, of an NFL team—the Jaguars. “Though they don’t have a very good record, and they haven’t been here very long, they are still our team,” he said.

And yet, for all that has changed in Jacksonville, there’s at least one landmark that has remained the same. That’s the river. It’s an identifying feature of the area that hasn’t changed much. Joseph believes the river is underutilized and thinks that more events and attractions on the St. Johns would serve the city well.

Joe Joseph lives in Arlington today with his wife of 51 years, Donna Ferguson-Joseph. They have three children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.



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River Garden Foundation chief development officer to retire

Kathy Osterer, a 22-year veteran of River Garden, has announced her plans to retire at the end of 2020, after a rewarding and fulfilling career.



Kathy Osterer

“River Garden will always be so important to me, and I am very proud of all that we have accomplished together. I could not have asked for finer people to have worked with,” Osterer said in a letter to past Gala chairs. “This will give me the opportunity to work on my mental health, improve on my physical health, and to take time to count the many blessings that I have in my life.”

Osterer has been involved with the River Garden Foundation since 1993, when she joined the first Gala committee. In 1995, Osterer chaired the Foundation Gala that brought the late comedian Alan King to town. In 1998, she formally accepted the position as foundation

director, and later advanced to chief development officer. Due to her leadership, the impact of the foundation has grown significantly over the years. Notwithstanding a monumental capital campaign in 2010, golf tournaments and galas, the foundation has raised millions of dollars and made thousands of friends in support of River Garden and its mission to the community during Osterer’s tenure.

“It has been a privilege working with Kathy over these last 22 years,” said River Garden CEO Martin Goetz. “Kathy is a passionate advocate for River Garden’s mission, vision and values, and we are now a better and more financially secure care community because of her.”

Foundation Board Chairman Jeanine Rogozinski also praised Osterer. “In 2007, Kathy called me to chair the annual Foundation Gala. I had only been a member of the committee a short time, but she had faith and confidence in my abilities. That was the beginning of our beautiful

friendship. Kathy is a tremendous and dynamic leader, one who never meets a stranger and always finds a way to make River Garden important to everyone. My working with Kathy and the leadership at River Garden developed into a passion and a necessary purpose in my life that I didn’t even know existed. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with Kathy and her legacy and presence will have a lasting impact upon the organization.”

Foundation Board President Sandy Zimmerman added, “I have worked closely with Kathy over the past 22 years, first as a donor, then as co-chair of the capital campaign in 2010, and now as President of the River Garden Foundation board. There is no person more dedicated and capable as Kathy. It has been my pleasure to work with her, and I am excited for Kathy to move into the next phase of life, enjoying more time relaxing with her family and friends.”

River Garden has begun a search for Osterer’s successor.

Baptist Health to partner with BAYADA

Baptist Health, the largest health care provider in greater Jacksonville, has announced a joint venture with BAYADA Home Health Care to expand upon the services provided to the community by Baptist Home Health for more than 25 years. The combined organization, Baptist Home Health Care by BAYADA, will have the capabilities to serve more patients at home, where they can recover and thrive best.

“This partnership enables Baptist Health to provide a wider array of in-home services to help people with multiple chronic conditions as well as patients recovering from an illness, injury, or recent hospitalization,”

said Joe Mitrick, FACHE, president of Transitional Care for Baptist Health and hospital president of Baptist Beaches. “The demand for high-quality home health care services is rising, and there has never been a better time to build on our legacy of care for the community.”

Baptist Home Health Care by BAYADA will begin operations in early 2021, pending licensing and regulatory approvals. BAYADA Home Health Care is a leading national nonprofit provider of in-home care and post-acute care services headquartered in Moorestown, N.J. It is the largest nonprofit home health care company in the United States.

Mitch Hunt named vice chair of local Alzheimer’s Association board

The Central and North Florida Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association named Mitch Hunt, Jacksonville community president of CenterState Bank, to serve as the vice chair of its board of directors.



Mitch Hunt

Hunt, a resident of Atlantic Beach, has been volunteering with the Alzheimer’s Association since 2014.

He started volunteering after becoming a secondary care provider for his mother when her Alzheimer’s began limiting her ability to live a normal life. Hunt’s father was her primary caregiver. His father’s dementia manifested a couple of years after his mother died. Since his father died in 2019, Hunt has served on the board of directors, made personal financial contributions, and raised funds as a team member at CenterState Bank.

“My first-hand experience, as well as my observations of other families who are dealing with the impacts of Alzheimer’s disease, compels me to do whatever I can to spare future generations of the physical, emotional, and financial tolls that this disease inflicts,” Hunt said.

On Hunt’s selection, Alzheimer’s Association Central and North Florida Chapter Board Chair Steve Waterhouse said, “I am honored to have Mitch as our vice chair. His board and business experience combined with his passion for eliminating Alzheimer’s will be valuable as we move forward with our important role in realizing a world without Alzheimer’s and all other dementias.”



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Safely tucked away on 40 acres in Mandarin is a special place that many people call home, including Betty & Ernest Barnes. The couple have not been apart since their first grade class nearly 82 years ago. The latest chapter in their life story is set at The Coves on River Garden’s highly-rated campus. Here, they can access a continuum of care befitting their lifetime of love.



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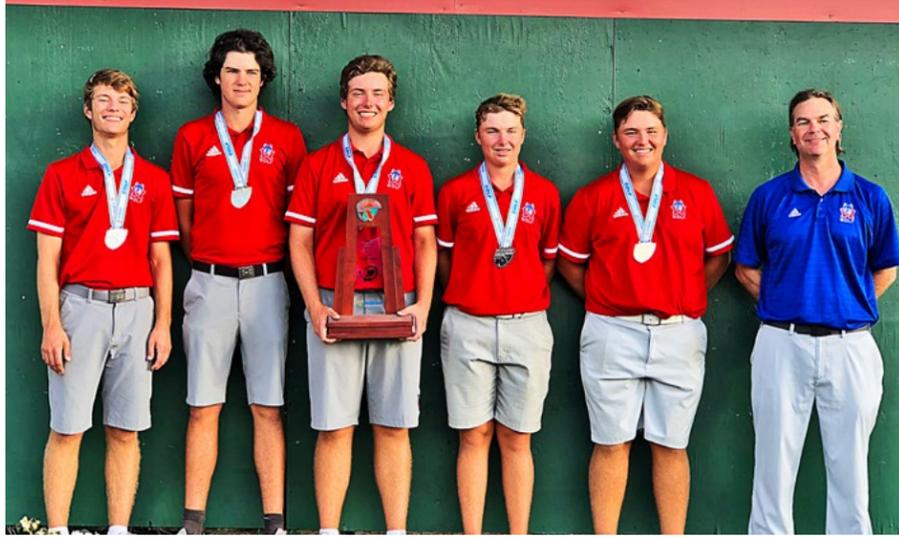
PRESS PAUSE

Wolfson Boys' Golf takes second in state championship

The Samuel Wolfson High School boys' golf team capped off its historic season by tying for second place at the Boys State Class 1A golf tournament at Mission Inn Golf Resort in Howey-in-the-Hills on Nov. 3-4. The team shot a combined 620 over the two days to tie for runner-up laurels with First Academy and Windemere Prep. Lake Mary Prep won the state championship with a team score of 597.

Junior Adam Vermut shot the low score for the Pack with a 153 (71-82), followed by senior Will Davis who shot 155 (84-71). Alexander Waller shot 157, Adam Waller shot a 175, and Sam Davis shot 158 to also put in strong performances for the Pack.

As a team this season, the Wolfpack won the Gateway Conference, District 4 Class 1A, and Region 1 Class 1A championships.



Sam Davis, Adam Vermut, Will Davis, Adam Waller, Alexander Waller, Coach Timothy Yost

San Jose Episcopal students celebrate the spirit of voting

To get in the spirit of the election season, fourth grade students in Megan Trumpler's class at San Jose Episcopal Day School recently read a play titled, "Let Us Vote". It described the trials and tribulations that women went through to achieve the right to vote. After reading this play, the students partnered up and researched a woman that was an integral part of the Women's Suffrage Movement. After completing their research, they created Instagram profile pages outlining their research and pictures. Students enjoyed the project and learned a lot about an important event in history.



Noah S. and Kellan T. hold up their project on Women's Suffragist Ida B. Wells



Cars in Assumption's All Saints Trunk of Treat celebration Oct. 29



Vice Principal Jennifer Churchill and Principal Maryann Jimenez dressed for the occasion when Assumption Catholic School celebrated All Saints Day Oct. 29.

Assumption celebrates All Saints Day with trunk or treat

COVID-19 changed things up a little bit when Assumption Catholic School celebrated All Saints' Day Oct. 29. Historically, the school hosts a parade of students in their Saints costumes that ends in Mass. This year the school added a Trunk or Treat with trunks decorated in Sainly themes and prayer in the Sisters' chapel since the school body could not gather as a group.

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Wolfson debuts new College Resource Center

All over the Wolfson High School campus, the Pack is on the move. This fall, Wolfson opened an updated College Resource Center (CRC) to assist students with the college planning process, college applications, scholarship research, and financial aid. The CRC is open to all students during lunch periods and by appointment. The vision behind the center is to create a space that meets the growing demands of Wolfson's college-bound student body. Students can meet with the Wolfson college liaison, research different college programs and scholarships, learn about SAT & ACT test prep, and have a quiet space to work on their college applications.

The CRC has been used to host over 75 virtual admission counselor visits with universities across the country. "Having a dedicated space for all things college has been such a gift to the Wolfson students. Being able to use the technology in the CRC to gather students together and meet virtually



A special center to help students apply for college has opened at Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies and Leadership

with colleges has kept the Pack engaged and informed about all the college options available to them," said Jane Courtney Davis, the school's college liaison.

In addition, the CRC has recently been used for activities during the Duval County Public Schools' "Jax goes to college" week and the Wolfson BEACON day where seniors registered for Bright Futures and Florida Financial Aid. The CRC will also host upcoming signing days for Wolfson seniors who have received academic and athletic scholarships to colleges and universities.

Landon students learn the angles thanks to PTSA teacher grant

Thanks to the generosity of the Julia Landon College Preparatory School Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) the students in Kristie Putnal's eighth grade geometry class were able to use Anglegs to work out math problems in school. Each month the PTSA offers a \$50 grant to a Landon teacher, who was selected through a random drawing. Putnal was the winner in October.



Students at Landon Middle School work hard on a triangle congruence lesson using Anglegs in Kristie Putnal's eighth grade geometry class.

Smith wins state title, Kelly sets school record in FHSAA championship



Mary Kate Kelly of Episcopal (middle) places third in the 100 butterfly in the FHSAA championship meet.



Julian Smith of Episcopal (middle) wins the state title in the 50 freestyle at the FHSAA state championship

Episcopal's girls' and boys' swim teams participated in the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) state championship held in Stuart Nov. 15. Senior Mary Kate Kelly of Avondale took third in the 100 butterfly posting a time of 54.92. Her time set a new school record previously held by Olympian Nancy Hogshead, who graduated from Episcopal in 1980. Kelly has committed to swim at the University of Florida next year.

Meanwhile, senior Julian Smith claimed a state championship in the 50 freestyle with a time of 20.56.

Beach volleyball comes to Episcopal



Episcopal Head of School Rev. Adam Greene with Stephanie Chesser, Caelan Chesser, Adam Kidd and Mark Chesser with the school volleyball team

Beach volleyball has come to Episcopal School of Jacksonville.

Episcopal celebrated the groundbreaking of its new six-court beach volleyball complex Nov. 3 at the Knight Sports Campus. Shovels were put in the ground and The Rev. Adam Greene, head of school, and Andy Kidd, director of athletics, thanked donors Stephanie and Mark Chesser and Matt and Shannon Connell of Conser Moving and Storage for providing the lead gift for the project. The facility will be named Conser Beach Volleyball Center.

"We feel very blessed to be able to do this," said Mark Chesser. "All of us are blessed to have the opportunity to be at Episcopal, and we are grateful to the administration for supporting beach volleyball."

Kidd praised the committee which formed over the summer with the vision for beach volleyball. "In a time of unprecedented challenges brought by the pandemic, it's an amazing feat that a conversation we started in the summer has resulted in adding a new sport and this new facility in time to open for play in January. It would not be possible

without the work of the committee and the support of all of the donors.

"Beach Volleyball is one of the fastest growing sports in the country," Kidd continued. "Our new facility will allow our volleyball players the opportunity to train and compete at one of the finest facilities in Northeast Florida."

Mark and Tyra Tutor named one of the six courts in honor of their daughters, Thea, who graduated from Episcopal in 2018, and Zoe, a junior who will graduate in 2022. Parents Dwight and Christine Cooper asked their daughter, Jordan, an Episcopal senior, to identify two Episcopal employees to recognize who have made a positive impact on the school community. Tonya Carter, Episcopal's school nurse, and Deborah Harvey, Episcopal's security guard, were both present as Greene announced the courts that were named for them.

The site for Conser Beach Volleyball Center is opposite the Knight Field House. The courts will be open for the spring season and the team will have its first contest on Feb. 22.



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Thanks to SJEDS, Christmas comes early to St. Mary's food pantry

St. Mary's Food Pantry located in downtown Jacksonville serves nearly 1,000 individuals and families each month who find themselves in need of food. With recent COVID relief no longer available, St. Mary's food pantry put out an urgent request for food items, and San Jose Episcopal Day School (SJEDS) answered in a major way!

Sixth grade teacher Katie Foster quickly organized a friendly collection competition among homerooms in grades PreK 3 - 6 and the generosity of the SJEDS families began pouring in. SJEDS families understand the joy of making a difference for others through service learning and let their hearts for Christian service shine during this time of Thanksgiving.

After collecting mountains of food – 1,430 items to be exact – SJEDS sixth



A San Jose Episcopal student loads food into the trunk of a car headed for St. Mary's food pantry.

graders created an impressive display in the form of a sizable mountain range, complete with twinkling lights for the other SJEDS students to view. Then parent volunteers loaded up their vehicles and delivered the items to St. Mary's.



Mountains of canned goods are donated for St. Mary's Food Pantry by San Jose Episcopal students

State titles roll on for Bolles swimming, diving

The Bolles boys' and girls' swimming and diving teams continued their state title streaks, winning team titles at the 2020 Class 1A meet in Stuart on Nov. 15. The boys won the program's 33rd consecutive state title, extending the national record for straight titles, and 42nd overall. The girls won the program's 30th consecutive state title and 34th overall.

Along with a state title in girls' cross country on the same day, the Bolles athletic program has now won 144 state titles. The Bulldogs won eight events and recorded numerous automatic and provisional All-American times.

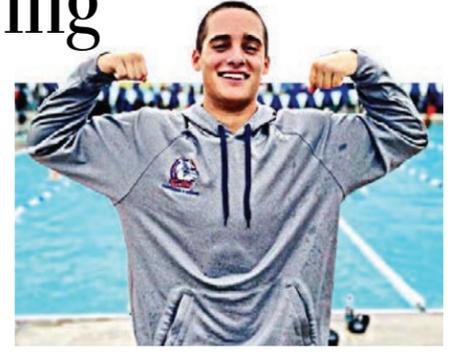
The boys' 200 medley relay that included David Walton of San Jose, William Heck of Avondale, Martin Espenberger of San Jose, and Ansen Meyer of San Jose won in an All-American time of 1:30.72.

Andres Dupont Cabrera of San Jose won the 200 free and 100 free, both in All-American times of 1:35.60/44.09. He also broke the school record in the 200 free.

The girls' 200 free relay comprised of Fresh Sathianchokwisan of San Jose, Emily MacDonald of San Jose, Katherine Meyers-Labenz, Sasha Ramey of San Marco won in an All-American time of 1:33.01.

The boys' 200 free relay comprised of Dupont Cabrera, Meyer, Heck, Adnan Atwan of San Jose won in an All-American time of 1:21.96. Heck won the boys' 100 breast, breaking the state record in an All-American time of 53.73 in the prelims.

The girls' 400 free relay (MacDonald, Ramey, Megan McGrath, and Sathianchokwisan) won in an All-American



William Heck of Bolles won the boy's 100 breaststroke and set a new the state record of 53.73 in the prelims, which was also an All American time.

time of 3:23.19, while the boys' 400 free relay – Dupont Cabrera, Seth Tolentino, Atwan, and Tomohiro Nozaki of San Jose – won in an All-American time of 3:02.73.

In addition to the swimmers, Bolles had two divers contribute to the girls' team score.

Additional automatic All-American times included: Sathianchokwisan, girls' 50 free second place, 22.85; Espenberger, boys' 100 fly second place, 47.82; Meyer, boys' 100 breast, second place, 55.39; Harry Herrera of San Jose, boys' 100 breast, third place, 55.79.

Additional All-American consideration times included: Girls' 200 Medley Relay (Meyers-Labenz, Jessica Strong of San Jose, MacDonald, Julia Murphy); McGrath, girls' 200 free, third place, 1:49.31 and girls' 100 fly, fifth place, 55.06; Ramey, girls' 200 IM, second place, 2:02.90; Nozaki, boys' 200 IM, third place, 1:51.47 and boys' 100 breast, sixth place, 56.36; Meyer, boys' 50 free, prelims, 20.92; Kaan Orhan of San Jose, boys' 100 fly, sixth place, 49.70; Sathianchokwisan, girls' 100 free; second place, 50.21.98; and Strong, girls' 100 breast, third place, 1:03.11.



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Longtime kindergarten teachers make learning fun

Kathy Stokowski, Janice Davis, Barbara Leshner, and Rayya Ossi have been educators for 73 years collectively and 64 of those years have been at Assumption Catholic School.



Jennifer Soulby, Barbara Leshner, Janice Davis, Rayya Ossi and Kathy Stokowski of Assumption Catholic School

Stokowski has been teaching at Assumption for 30 years. She has taught both preschool and kindergarten. Stokowski said she loves the family atmosphere that surrounds her at Assumption. She is now teaching children whose parents she once taught. “I love kindergarten because the students are so excited to come in and learn. We have a lot of fun incorporating music and movement into our learning activities!”

Davis has been teaching at Assumption for 13 years. Her experience also includes teaching the first- and third-grade levels. She said she loves teaching at Assumption because it gives her a sense of being at home. She said she enjoys working with children and seeing the excitement on their faces as they learn new things. “I love to create a loving, caring environment in my classroom where every child can become what God has planned for them and prepare them for the world that we live in.”

Leshner has been an educator for 21 years and has been teaching at Assumption for 12 years. She has taught Pre-K, first, second and third grade. Leshner said she is inspired

by the faith-based approach that is instilled at the school. “Teaching at Assumption Catholic School provides me with the opportunity to serve God by helping and encouraging young children to build a close relationship with Jesus and know that they are truly loved.”

Meanwhile, Ossi assists the kindergarten teachers. She has worked as a teaching assistant for nine years at Assumption in Pre-K2 through PK4 grade levels. “I love teaching at Assumption because it gives me the joy of watching the kids grow in faith and I love working with younger children.”

With these four women on the staff, kindergarten is a happy place full of learning, faith, and fun. Eddie Greaves, Dover Caro, Julia Foster, and Olivia Baker from Leshner’s class enjoyed painting pumpkins as part of their fall lesson.



Julia Foster



Dover Caro



Olivia Baker

Wolfson National Honor Society inducts 43 new members



Three seniors and 40 juniors from Wolfson High School were inducted into the National Honor Society Nov. 9.

Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies inducted three seniors and 40 juniors as new members into its chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) Nov. 9.

The ceremony was led by NHS President Ashley Shakib, Vice President Augustina Cole, Secretary Priscilla Osburn, Co-Treasurers Grace Whipple and Kathy Salazar, and Historian Jose Bonnyuet.

Wolfson High School Principal Chris Begley delivered an inspiring message about “Big Heads, Big Muscles, and Big Hearts” that underscored NHS virtues of character, scholarship, leadership, and service. To achieve membership in NHS, students must maintain a cumulative, unweighted GPA of 3.5 or higher. In December, Wolfson NHS members will be volunteering with Humble Harvest and the Salvation Army.

Members of the senior class who were inducted included: Chris Angjo, Carie Compton, Matt May. Members of the junior class who were inducted were CeCe Bailey, Sean Bailey, Amari Blake, Will Brandler, Benjamin Brown, Rynna Burgbacher, McKinley Cheshire, Ryan Ciampitti, Sam Davis, Robert Grant, Kaitlyn Hancock, Andrew Harbin, Teague Helton, Mason Hicks, Naya Hudson, Tabitha Hung, Yaroslava Isotova, Jaden Jenkins, Chase Kerner, Kelsey Kettel, Max Lewallen, Jefferson Li, Jack Lunitz, Chapman Maxwell, Hunter McCoy, Kyan Paton, Anthony Patrick, Andrew Pearson, Joey Perry, Kaden Powell, Kaylee Priest, Dabrian Stanley, Steven Toney, Leah Troup, Mary Verlander, Johnny Vodenicker, Abigail Whitcomb, Sam Whorton, Mayson Wilkins, Sheridan Yoder

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Bishop Kenny NJROTC wins Cairo triathlon challenge and drone competition

The Bishop Kenny Navy Junior ROTC team took home much of the hardware when it defeated teams from nine high schools in the 7th Annual Cairo Triathlon Challenge and Drone Competition Oct. 24 in Cairo, Georgia. The competition was an Area 12 NJROTC event.

The Crusaders triathlon team consisting of Sarah Roberts, Tony Castelo-Galliano, Katherine Capra, Luke Gould, Maya Balolong and Isaac Salcedo-Sotelo won the overall championship placing first in the Brain Brawl and Athletics and seventh place in the Air Rifle competition.

“The Triathlon Challenge is a competition format that combines Air Rifle, Brain Brawl,

and Athletics into a challenging test of physical fitness, academics, and rifle skill in one competitive meet,” said Master Chief Kevin Harris, USN (Ret.)

In the drone competition, which consisted of four events – Obstacle Course, Naval Flight Officer (NFO) challenge, Flight Deck Landing Challenge and Rotor Head Challenge – Bishop Kenny was declared the overall champ by winning the Obstacle Course and Rotor Head Race and placing second in NFO and the Flight Deck Landing challenge.

Competing for the Crusaders in the drone competition were Matthew Slade, Sean Limbaga, Ryan Soroka, and David Portbury.



Ryan Soroka, Luke Gould, Maya Balolong, Matthew Slade, David Portbury, Katherine Capra, Sarah Roberts, Tony Castelo-Galliano, Sean Limbaga and Isaac Salcedo-Sotelo

JCDS third graders combine art with science

Third graders at Jacksonville Country Day School recently studied landscapes and weaving as a part of their art curriculum. To combine the two, Alli Flores, the school’s art specialist, had the students create a tree-weaving project. This project required focus, persistence, and patience. As with each project in the JCDS art curriculum, the process that a student uses is a teaching moment. With weaving, the children are working on their fine motor skills, working on the concept of patterning, all while concentrating on their hand-eye coordination.

While in science class, the third graders dissected owl pellets as part of their studies about predator/prey relationships. Owl pellets are regurgitated remains of an owl’s



Knox Frykberg weaves a tree

meal after digestion. The pellets contain bones and fur of the animals the owl has consumed, notably rodents. Using a chart, the students identified the bones and other structures they uncovered.

RPDS students visit virtually with children’s book author

Peter Brown, author-in-residence at Riverside Presbyterian Day School this year, paid a virtual visit with the students Oct. 14.

An author and illustrator of over a dozen books, Brown’s work has been recognized in a variety of prestigious ways. In 2013, he received a Caldecott Honor Award for his illustration of the book *Creepy Carrots* by Aaron Reynolds. His illustrations in that book have been described as “gripping” and “cinematic,” in the most fun kind of ways. Brown’s talents, however, extend beyond illustration. His novel, “The Wild Robot,” has been honored with starred reviews in multiple literary journals and inclusion in many state-award reading lists, including our own Sunshine State Young Readers’ Award List. Readers breathlessly awaited the conclusion of the story in *The Wild Robot Escapes*, which did not disappoint. Brown’s work addresses themes of individuality, independent thinking, inclusion, and



Kindergartener Beatrice Sherman tries her hand at illustration.

community through the actions of his skillfully crafted characters.

Brown appeared virtually in three presentations to the students in grades, K through 6. Prior to the visit, students read several of his books during library time, and had coordinating activities in other areas of the curriculum, including art and social studies.



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Florida Secretary of Education Richard Corcoran, Ambassador John Rood, Governor Ron DeSantis, Kiersten Chism, sixth-grade scholar of the month, Head of School Dr. David Withum, and Kelly Chufo, Jacksonville Classical Academy operations manager

Florida governor visits Jacksonville Classical Academy

Governor Ron DeSantis toured Jacksonville Classical Academy Oct. 20, to observe classes and to discuss transitioning students from distance learning back to in-person instruction. The governor was joined by Richard Corcoran, Florida Secretary of Education; Ambassador John Rood, Jacksonville Classical Academy school board chair; and Dr. David Withum, Jacksonville Classical Academy head of school.

DeSantis visited classrooms and observed JXC's American classical education that emphasizes human virtue, moral character, and responsible citizenship through content-rich curriculum and teacher-led classrooms. During his visit, DeSantis observed classical education in a Latin lesson in a sixth-grade classroom and in a phonics lesson in a first-grade classroom. He also visited with students during their lunch periods.

After the tour, several teachers joined the governor and the tour group for a press briefing. Hattie Anthony, a kindergarten teacher, and Nick Barker, a fifth-grade teacher, joined the governor and shared their observations on American classical education and its impact in their classrooms.

"The most important thing that's happening in this building is happening in the classrooms," said Withum during the briefing. "It's important that they have the opportunity to teach students in the least restrictive environment possible, and to teach them in person. There's nothing that can replicate the relationship between students and teachers in a classroom. We are doing it in a way that is both reasonable and safe and meets the needs of all of our students."

San Jose Episcopal sixth graders serve the community

San Jose Episcopal Day School works hard to instill a heart for Christian service in its students and families. This light shines brightly in the sixth grade, where students organize several outreach programs each year.

Recently, the sixth graders hosted a friendly food collection competition in all homerooms. The goal was to bring in 500 canned food items.

Another altruistic activity that the sixth graders are dedicated to is helping "Dreams Come True." This organization is dedicated to fulfilling the dreams of children with life-threatening illnesses.

"We sell candy grams twice per year, and all of the proceeds benefit "Dreams Come True," said Katie Foster, a sixth-grade teacher.

Although it has been a little more challenging with COVID-19, adjustments have



San Jose Episcopal sixth-grade students Libby J., Sloane J. and Georgia L.

been made to keep all activities at the school safe. The mission of San Jose Cares includes reaching out to others in need, and this is evident each day.

Costumed students celebrate DA's Spirit Week

COVID has not stopped some of the traditions at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. During Spirit week, a DA tradition held during the last week of October, students and faculty go all out by wearing costumes. Not only do the students on campus dress up, but students who are learning virtually also participated in the fun.

Also, in November, in-person performances started up at DA with the Winter Jazz Band Concert on Nov. 17. Capacity was limited to 100 people in the DuBow Theatre to ensure social distancing, and masks were worn at all times. Visit the school's website www.da-arts.org for the complete performance calendar.



Rori Links, an 11th grade cinema arts student, dressed as Dali's Lobster phone



Erin Flowe, a junior vocal student came to school as Flo from Progressive Insurance



Aiden Coots, a sophomore theatre student showed off his dragon costume

DA musicians honored with All-State recognition

The Florida Music Education Association All-State Results have been released and once again musicians from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts have had a strong showing. Thirty students from Douglas Anderson were recognized on All-State ensembles. "Auditioning and making a Florida all-state ensemble is one of the most competitive and highest honors a Florida music student can earn," said DA Principal Melanie Hammer. Receiving All-State honors were:

Vocal: Olivia Davis, AJ DePetris, Katie Farmer-Diaz, Yuki Frampton, Trevor Hawthorne, Landon Jin, Brett Ochoa, Carter Pike.

Orchestra: Valeria Aviles, Violin; Max Griffin, Violin; Isaac Lopez, Viola; Daniel Pernar, Violin; Eden Rewa, Violin; Evan Thornton, Violin.

Band: Selected to the All-State Concert Band: Jacob Dern, Clarinet; Grant Gatto, Trombone; Jeriah Howard, Bass Clarinet; Luke Malobay, Percussion; Giovanni Martinez, Trumpet; Charlie Nelson, Tuba; Sophia Parra, Flute; TJ Shistle, Trombone.

Selected to the All State Symphonic Band: Carson Dell'Alba, Trombone; Caroline Dunham, Flute; Abby Francis, Euphonium; Ethan Halligan, Euphonium; Mackenzie Powell, Contra-Alto Clarinet; Skye Sisco, Bassoon.

Guitar: Maurice Chakour, Dominic George.



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Wolfson swimmers compete in regional championship

The swim and dive team from Samuel Wolfson School for Advanced Studies has had an impressive season, with 26 students competing in the regional championship on Nov. 4.

The Wolfpack swimmers were led by Nic Parnell, a sophomore, and Jonah McCarthy, a senior for the boys and Leah Troup, a junior, and Cecelia Bailey, a junior, for the girls.

At the end of October, Wolfson's swim and dive team competed in the District Meet, where the girls' team placed second overall and the boys' team placed third. Wolfson has had swimmers compete at the State championship for the past 15 years and is looking forward to an impressive turn out in the relays at the 2020 events.



Swimming for Wolfson High School this year are: Cecelia Bailey, Fiona Bailey, Mayson Wilkins, Scarlett Humphreys, Bella Kennedy, Tucker Ryan, Aubrey Owens, Sam Brinkley, Ty Oliver, Aakash Thornton, Fabian Quintana, Will Brandler, Augustina Cole, Abby Tucker, Ryan Vogel, Leah Troup, Thomas Brandler, Andrew McCarthy, Jadon Cleary, Jackson Berzsenyi, McKenzie Heideman, Jonah McCarthy, Charlotte Caccam, Nic Parnell

Bolles athletes sign to play in college



Ansen Meyer signs with Georgetown University



Sasha Ramey signs with Louisiana State University

Sasha Ramey of San Marco and Ansen Meyer of San Jose were among eight Bolles student-athletes honored on Nov. 11 for committing to a particular college or university to continue their athletic and academic careers.

Family, friends, classmates, coaches, and faculty gathered in Davis Gymnasium on the Bolles San Jose Campus to celebrate the students' achievements. Athletic Director Matt Morris welcomed everyone, and several coaches introduced their respective athletes. It was the first of three college commitment ceremonies planned at Bolles this school year to recognize student-athletes when they commit to colleges.

As swimmers, Ramey signed on to compete next year at Louisiana State University, while Meyer will swim for Georgetown University.

Also honored at the ceremony were athletes from Bolles' baseball, cross country and track, and swim teams. Among the baseball players who signed were Matthew Anderson (University of Richmond), Jackson Baumeister (Florida State University), Gunner Boree (Brown University) and Jackson Mayo (University of South Florida). Maxine Montoya agreed to run for Brown University and Emily MacDonald agreed to swim at Columbia University.

Hundreds of students named to Landon honor roll

Over 500 students were named to the honor roll at Julia Landon College Preparatory School during the first nine weeks of this year. The students celebrated by eating lunch outdoors with their friends. The Landon Parents Teachers Students Association (PTSA) provided each honor-roll student with a Landon face mask to congratulate them.



Landon honor roll students enjoyed an al fresco lunch with their friends in early November.



Coach Mike Pickett joins the Drumm family – Lexi, Ethan, Allison and Rob – during a special school celebration that honored players from the senior class Nov. 13. Photo courtesy of Julia Nichols

St. Johns celebrates soccer seniors

St. John's Country Day School celebrated the seniors on its varsity soccer teams Nov. 13, including Maddie Moody of Avondale and Lexi Drumm of San Jose.

Maddie was accompanied by her mother, Dr. Laura Grippa, and siblings, Grayson and Juliet Moody. Joining Drumm at the festivities were her parents, Rob and Allison Drumm and her brother, Ethan. Also enjoying the celebration was Mike Pickett, who coaches girls' varsity soccer.

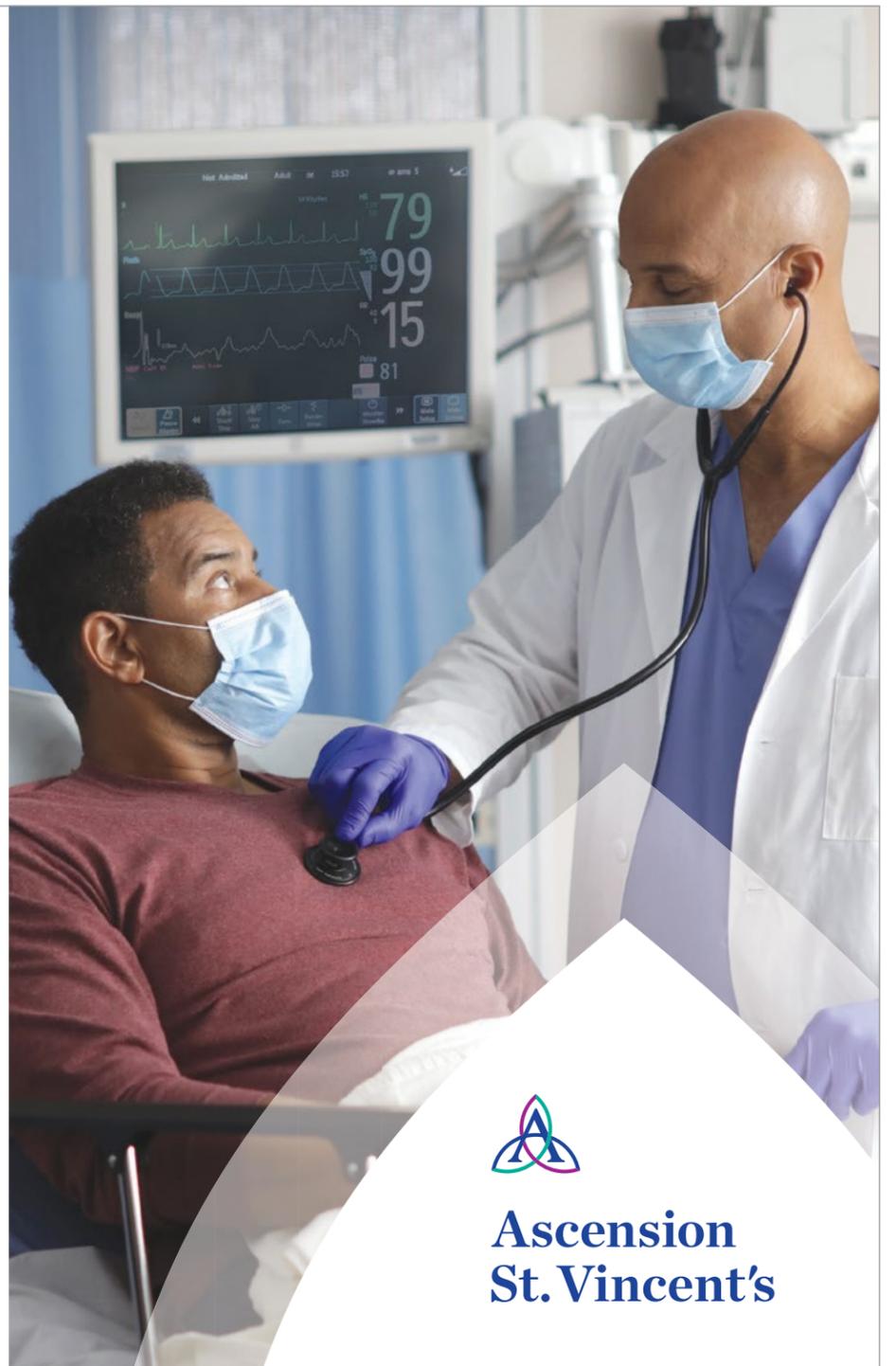
Julia Nichols of Ortega, a senior from Ortega, served as team photographer. She is a journalism fellow at the school and has done a summer internship at *The Resident* in the past.

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