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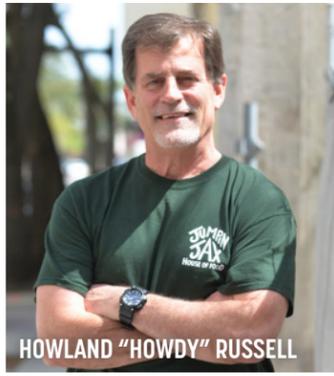
Four Candidates Seeking To Replace Hazouri On City Council



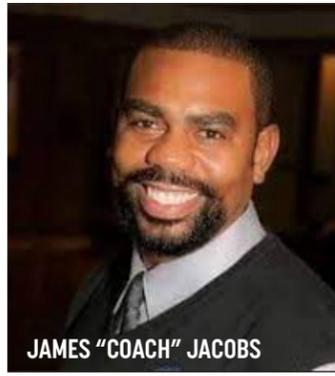
TRAYCE POLSON



NICK HOWLAND



HOWLAND "HOWDY" RUSSELL



JAMES "COACH" JACOBS

BY KEVIN MEERCHAERT
Resident Community News

The first Election to replace the late Tommy Hazouri on the Jacksonville City Council is set for Tuesday, December 7. It's the At-Large Group 3 seat but all registered voters in Jacksonville are eligible to cast ballots.

Democrats Trayce Polson and James "Coach" Jacobs are running along with Republicans Nick Howland and Howland Russell. All four appear on the same ballot.

Jacobs did not respond for an interview. Polson is a licensed clinical social worker and was a candidate for the State House in 2018.

She said her years helping others in need gives her a unique perspective as a potential council member.

"I'm a professional listener," she said. "I have been trained to listen very carefully and thoughtfully. The questions that I ask typically provide a deeper way of thinking about something...that will be useful working with people all across the city."

Polson said one of the key issues facing Jacksonville is the effects of climate change and sea-level rise.

"We are surrounded by water in terms of the St. Johns River and the Atlantic Ocean,"

she said. "We also have a Navy Station that's predicted to be underwater in the future."

Polson said that makes it both a national security threat and will impact the people of Jacksonville in food, clean water, pollution, and housing.

She proposes more conversations with communities much like other cities in Florida have done to address the problem on a long-term basis.

Howland is a longtime Jacksonville businessman and Navy veteran who was also a member of the city's Charter Revision Commission and the Environmental Protection Board. He is currently the executive director of Fire Watch and has the endorsement of JaxBiz. He previously ran for School Board in 2018.

He said his dozen years of civic involvement provide him with the leadership skills needed on Council.

"I believe that's what the City Council needs," Howland said. "(The Council) is at a pivotal point in its history and what we do over the next ten years will now and in the next ten years will determine where we'll be as a city."

Howland said Jacksonville's population is increasing at a rapid pace and is now probably over one million. (The 2020 U.S. census placed the population at over 995,000.)

"Growth is our biggest priority. How we handle it. How we manage it," he said.

"We need to focus on safer streets. Right now, we are about 300 (police) officers short of where we need to be and that's only going to worsen if we don't focus on public safety over the next decade."

"Howdy" Russell is a local restaurateur, best known as the owner of Jumpin' Jax House of Food. This is his first run for public office.

Russell said he can bring a new perspective to the City Council.

"I've been consistently successful in the Jacksonville business scene," he said. "I don't pretend you can run a government like a business but the same kind of decision-making that you have to utilize in business I can bring to the table."

Russell said the biggest issue Jacksonville is currently facing is trust in government.

"A lot of people are doing the best they can, but I see a lot of people who are making decisions because they are trying to move up (politically) and in some cases, they are making decisions based on their own economic advancement," he said.

All the candidates support additional economic growth in the city, particularly in the downtown area, and promise to maintain the character of Jacksonville's neighborhoods.

The candidates' opinions differ regarding the future of Jacksonville's Confederate monuments. The City Council withdrew Mayor Lenny Curry's proposal to allocate \$1.3 million to remove the Women of the Southern Confederacy monument from

Springfield Park, but the controversy over Confederate monuments remains with no signs of abating anytime soon.

Russell said the job of the City Council is not to establish a "city statement."

"I firmly believe the Jacksonville community can determine how closely we label our historic monuments," he said. "I think the Mayor was moving too fast to spend \$1.3 million before examining if Jacksonville wants that money to be reserved for that purpose. Truly, we need conversation across the city. We need to unify and work toward the best answer."

Polson said she would have voted against the withdrawal.

"I firmly believe the confederate monument in Springfield Park should be removed," she said. "It should have been removed already as the mayor promised the removal of these monuments and markers more than a year ago."

Polson said the cost of the removal should have been included in the mayor's budget. She said any additional cost can hopefully be avoided by finding a museum or association to pay for its relocation.

Howland said he wants to explore other opportunities regarding Confederate monuments. "I think the quickest way to repeat an ugly past is to erase an ugly past," he said.

Howland said there hasn't been enough of a discussion regarding contextualizing the monuments as opposed to moving them or leaving them as they are.

"Contextualization can come in many forms," Howland said. "(We can) explain how this monument was put up during a time that is different from today and this is how people were thinking when they put it up or put up a monument to efforts by Springfield's African American community through the nineteenth century."

If none of the four candidates earn over 50-percent of the vote, the top two candidates will meet in the General Election, February 22.

Work Progressing at Old Florida Baptist Convention Site

BY KEVIN MEERCHAERT
Resident Community News

Work continues on The 1230 Hendricks project. The new apartment complex in San Marco will feature 345 multi-family units ranging from studio to two-bedroom apartments. Sizes will range from 557 to 1,414 square feet.

Sitting on the site of the old Florida Baptist Convention Center, the complex will include 5,000 feet of retail space. The five-story complex on 3.3 acres next to I-95 will begin pre-leasing in 2022. Construction is expected to be completed in 2023.

One unique feature of the site will be a rooftop pool and lounge for residents on the sixth level of its parking garage. Other amenities include a fitness center, bike storage, a pet spa, a clubhouse, remote work areas, and a courtyard.

The rents are expected to run between about \$1100 to \$2800 a month.

Trevato Development Group is behind the project with its affiliate Block One Ventures. In a release, the developers said, "The property will bring a community-focused combination of residential and retail to the Jacksonville area, with easy access to downtown."

The property was sold in 2017 by Florida Baptist Convention for \$6.5 million.



Renderings of The 1230 Hendricks complex currently under construction in San Marco.

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EMAIL US AT editor@residentnews.net
Phone: (904) 388-8839 • Fax: (904) 423-1183
1650-302 Margaret St. #310 • Jacksonville, FL 32204

PUBLISHERS
Seth Williams
Pamela B. Williams
DIRECTOR OF SALES
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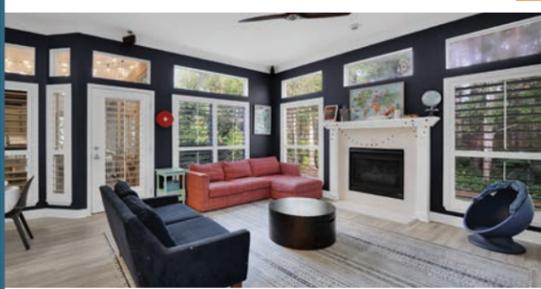
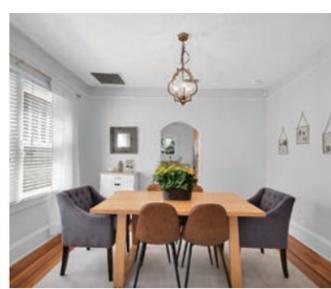
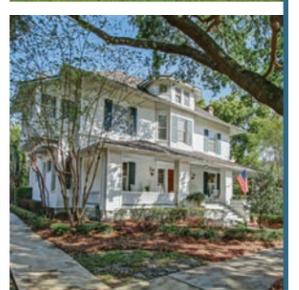
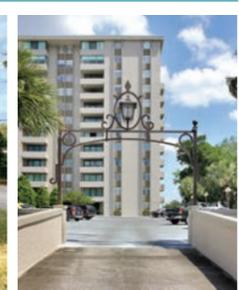
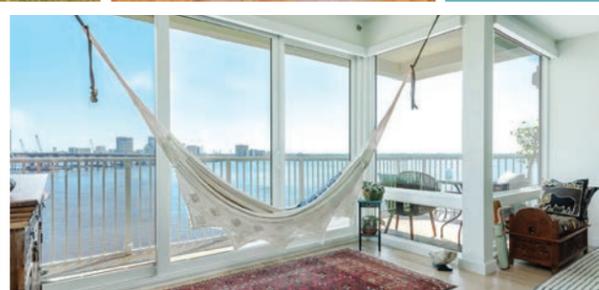
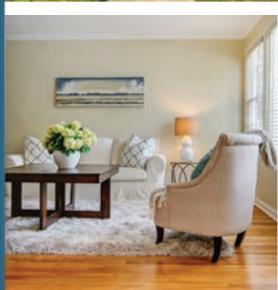
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Joel Addington
Susan Brandenburg
Julie Kerns Garmendia
Peggy Harrell Jennings
Kevin Meerschaert
Susannah Parmenter
Karen Rieley
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SouthEast Development Group Proposes New Plan For Riverfront

BY KEVIN MEERCHAERT
Resident Community News

SouthEast Development Group has plans for a \$2 billion project to revitalize Jacksonville's downtown riverfront. The proposal called "Riverfront Jacksonville" was recently delivered to the Downtown Investment Authority, the City Council, and the mayor's office.

The plans include fifteen acres of riverfront public park space, over 1,000 multi-family apartments and condominiums, a 208-room hotel, a 280,000 square foot exhibition center, and retail, restaurant, and office space.

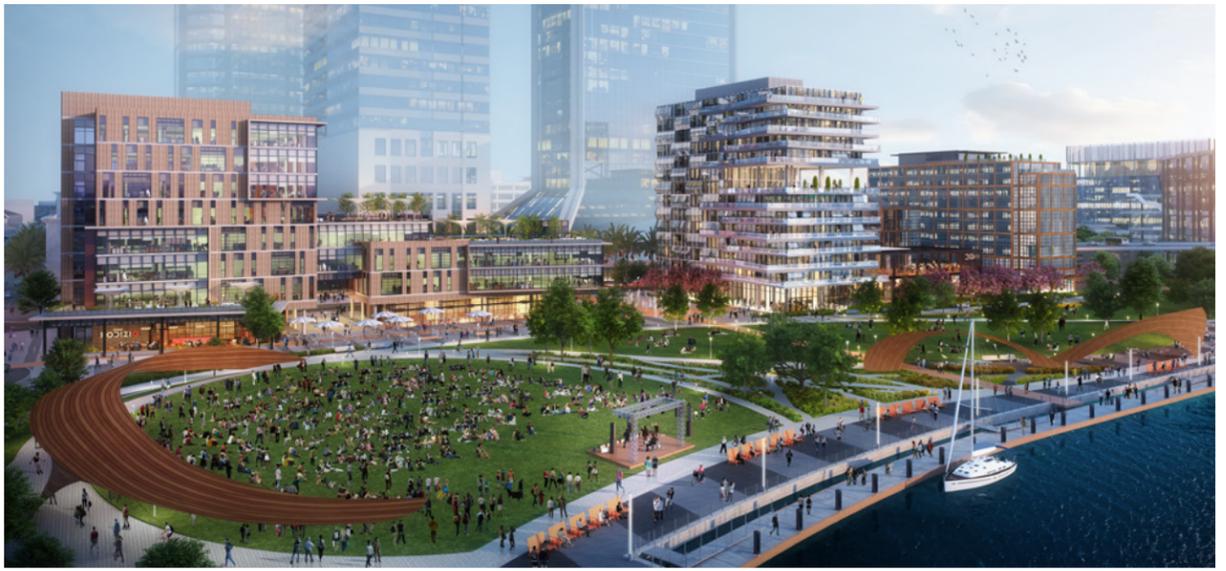
It would also include five parking garages containing about 4,500 spaces and an expanded pier with retail and entertainment venues. Plans also include a hydrokinetic green energy facility.

SouthEast Principal Steve Adkins said the new plan is an expansion of what they had previously proposed earlier this year.

"Since we released our original vision plan, we have received overwhelmingly positive feedback," he said. "At the encouragement of our peers, we have expanded our concept as a master plan, reflecting all of the programming that is currently being considered along the Northbank of the St. Johns River.

Adkins said the plan creates an opportunity to pump billions of dollars of outside capital into Jacksonville.

The plan includes Veterans Memorial Park and the relocation of the Veterans Wall. Adkins said the design integrates with other projects already planned for the riverfront including One Park Jax, the USS Orleck, the relocated Museum of Science and History, and Iguana Investments' plans for the Shipyards and Sports Performance Center.



Rendering of Riverfront Jacksonville from the southwest perspective.



Rendering of Riverfront Jacksonville Northbank Riverwalk and park view.

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DDRB Approves Site Plan For One Riverside

BY KEVIN J. MEERSCHAERT
Resident Community News

The Jacksonville Downtown Development Review Board has approved the site plan for the One Riverside Development. The 18.84-acre mixed-use development will be on the old site of the Times-Union Building.

The plans by Fuqua Development include a grocer, retail shops, a restaurant accessible from the Riverwalk, an initial 271 residential housing units, and a parking garage. It also reroutes and daylights McCoy's Creek and builds a public park between the creek and the CSX railroad tracks. The width of the creek will also be expanded from 40-feet to 80-feet.

The projected cost of the project is about \$182.2 million.

Easy public access to the park and Riverwalk have been primary stipulations by the DDRB and the Downtown Investment Authority. The park will also be accessible from the Riverwalk.

The project is planned to be constructed in two phases with a second residential complex coming after the creek has been

rerouted. Plans include several pedestrian areas and public art.

The pedestrian-friendly planning is in conjunction with the construction of Jacksonville's Emerald Trail.

DDRB Board member Matt Brockelman said he thought the site plan was a good balance in combining what's desired with what is practical.

"Sometimes it's a little too easy for us to get stuck in the weeds," he said. "I think we've reached a pretty good balance. I don't think we can overstate enough the importance of this project to the riverfront activation effort."

Board members did ask for a few minor adjustments making sure the pedestrian areas and walkways were wide enough for what is expected to be a lot of traffic.

Fuqua spokesperson Cyndy Trimmer said that would not be a problem and that they wanted to make One Riverside as pedestrian friendly as possible.

The project includes about \$31.5 million in proposed incentives from the city. That bill is currently in the hands of the city council. If all is approved, groundbreaking could take place early next year after the old Times-Union Building is demolished in April. The second phase could begin around 2025.

New downtown advocacy group formed



Build Up Downtown wants to bring developers' voice into downtown projects and preservation.

BY KEVIN J. MEERSCHAERT
Resident Community News

Some of Jacksonville's major developers are teaming up to advocate for bringing more development to downtown.

Build Up Jacksonville has been organizing for a couple of months as it prepares for an official launch later this month. Its initial funding is coming from JAX Chamber and developers Iguana Investments, Corner Lot Development, and JWB Real Estate.

Executive Director Allan DeVault said the idea came from the developers and the Chamber after the rejection of the original Lot J proposal. The group wanted to find a medium to advocate for downtown projects and educate the public on ways they can show support for the projects they want. "They're a lot of cases where those who are against a project have the loudest voices," he said. "There was a desire for the pro-business and stakeholder group to amplify the positives."

DeVault said they have been working to diversify the backers of the project to bring in more voices and capital for their vision. He said Iberia Bank has also come on board and they are reaching out to others.

DeVault said they want to support the Downtown Investment Authority and groups like Downtown Vision while giving the development community a voice in the future of downtown Jacksonville. "Not trying to outdo them or think that we can do a better job but to support them," he said. Build Up Downtown will advocate for smart development and the preservation of older buildings. He credits the work of the DIA in getting some of the older buildings downtown redeveloped.

"This development around historic buildings is just not coincidentally happening," he said. "A lot of it is because of the incentives that DIA has put in place."

DeVault said the long-term goals of Build Up Downtown include supporting downtown without having to incentivize development.

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JESSIE BALL DUPONT FUND UNVEILS RIVERFRONT PLAN

BY KEVIN J. MEERSCHAERT
Resident Community News

After months of meetings and public input, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund has presented its proposal to revitalize Jacksonville's riverfront.

The Fund was tasked to bring together stakeholders to find out what Jacksonville residents wanted done to ensure there was enough public access to the river that would provide the greatest benefit with public spaces that are inclusive for all people on both the Northbank and the Southbank. It's hoped a revitalized riverfront will lead to more economic development.

The Activating Jacksonville's Riverfront Plan was presented to the public on October 19.

New York City-based cultural forecasting company DVDL is leading the development. Principal David van der Leer said the riverfront can be a key unit in the quality of life for all residents of Jacksonville, not just those who live or work downtown.

He said the five key elements for activating the riverfront include public park space, exercise and sports, arts and culture, commercial and retail, and community services.

"The question is how could you set up for those weird interactions? People bumping into each other unexpectedly, learning from each other," van der Leer said. "Things will need to be programmed side-by-side. What if you put Pet Adoption Day next to Chess on the River? So many interesting things could happen."

Stakeholders could develop hundreds of programs according to van der Leer that would bring people of all interests to the river.

He said that would require bringing logistical order to the programs. Van der Leer said one

way to approach that would be to establish two-year themes to tie certain programs together ranging from bridges to roots.

"Roots could be so interesting," van der Leer said. "You could be talking about ecological roots to social roots."

Another way to organize the activities would be to establish programs for specific days during the week. Mondays could focus on health and wellness and Tuesdays could be game night, for example.

The plan calls for a focus on incentivizing partnerships and community ownership.

Project Leader Claire Weisz said infrastructure improvements will be needed to make any reactivation of the riverfront a success.

It would range from seating, shade areas, signs, banners, and information stations directing people to where to go, to hubs where smaller activities can take place. Weisz said they could range from children's activities to concerts.

JLP+D is a New York-based planning and development business partner for the plan. Director Yuxiang Luo said the governance of the project needs to be a public-private partnership to be successful.

The proposal is winning praise. Downtown Vision CEO Jake Gordon said it has the potential to change the perception of the waterfront. "I think a lot of people believe the riverfront is nice but still is undervalued regarding all the great things it can be," he said.

The organizers say there is still a great deal of work to do if the plan has any shot of becoming a reality.

Jessie Ball duPont Fund President Mari Kuraishi said it will take a community effort to see this plan become a reality.

"The great plans we've come up with are going to take commitment, political, funding, and the right governance to make it happen," she said.



Rendering of public activity in Brooklyn area.



Rendering on potential public activity on Southbank.

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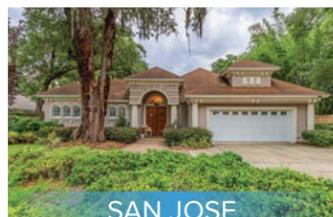
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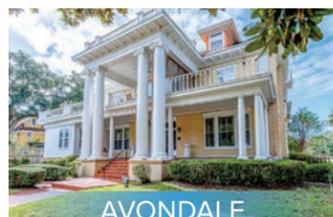


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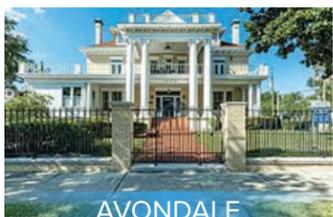
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Confederate Monument Staying For Now

The Jacksonville City Council voted to withdraw Mayor Lenny Curry's bill asking for \$1.3 million to remove the Women of the Southern Confederacy Monument from Springfield Park.

The monument will, for now, remain in the park covered with a tarp.

The 12-6 vote came after a long debate that included Council President Sam Newby clearing the public from the council chamber due to numerous disruptions.

The council also debated postponing a vote until either March or May. Supporters including the Civic Council said that would give the city more time to create a better solution including the possibility of selling the monument to a private collector.

That proposal was rejected.

Supporters of the withdrawal said it gives the Council and administration a chance to start over and develop a plan of what to do with the monument and other Confederate memorials in Jacksonville.

Councilman Ron Salem said the city needs to start over and suggested finding a strong mediator to bring all parties together and come up with a plan.

"We are doing a lot of great things and I think we should do more," he said. "I think part of the discussion we should have is to look at the

monuments, look at our African American history and put a process in place to bring all this together."

Those opposed to the withdrawal said they wanted an up or down vote now and so no need to start the process over again.

Voting for withdrawal were President Sam Newby, along with Councilmembers Reggie Gaffney, Aaron Bowman, Michael Boylan, LeAnna Cumber, Randy DeFoor, Terrance Freeman, Joyce Morgan, Ju'Coby Pittman, Brenda Priestly Jackson, Randy White, and Kevin Carrico.

Voting against withdrawal were Danny Becton, Matt Carlucci, Garrett Dennis, Rory Diamond, Al Ferraro, and Kevin Carrico.

Dennis said the withdrawal only delays a decision that will eventually have to be made.

"But we're taking the easy route and I think the cowardly way out in kicking the can down the road," he said.

Mayor Curry quickly let his displeasure with the Council known by Tweeting after the vote, "Tonight the City Council disappointingly denied a step toward real progress in Our City by refusing to vote on the removal of a divisive monument from public land," he wrote.

Chief Administrative Officer Brian Hughes said the mayor made it clear last year he intends to remove

Confederate statues from publicly owned spaces and that policy hasn't changed.

"The mayor made a very clear policy statement, gave (the council) a very clear pathway to get to the fastest possible resolution that ends this divisiveness and removes from city property that some in our community see as an expression of racial hatred," he said. "Council chose not to do that."

Hughes said some private property owners have contemplated taking possession of the monument to place it on private property, but no one has come forward offering to pay the expense of removal.

He said if the council wants to "kick the can down the road... we anticipate Council would take over the policy and do whatever they think they want to do."

After the meeting Newby said he voted to withdraw because he thought it would be best for the city to start the process over again. He said doesn't know what will come next, but that he was sure they would produce a plan to deal with Confederate monuments.

"I want to see a recommendation one way or the other," Newby said.

Newby said he did not know how such a recommendation would come about or if he would establish another special committee to review the issue.

Environmental Protection Board Hands Out Annual Awards

Jacksonville's Environmental Protection Board handed out its annual Environmental Achievement Awards to eleven people and organizations. The recipients were recognized at a ceremony November 17 at the UNF Adam W. Herbert University Center.

Established in 1975, the JEPB has presented the awards to recognize winners for their innovation, commitment, and expertise in protecting the environment in Duval County.

The Charles E. Bennett Champion of the Environment Award was presented to Dr. Lucinda Sonnenberg for her longtime commitment to environmental issues in Jacksonville, particularly in the St. Johns River. Sonnenberg is the Director of the Millar Wilson Lab at Jacksonville University.

The Christi P. Veleta Award, which recognizes an individual who has exhibited a long-term environmental initiative and outreach was presented to recently retired Executive Director of Greenscape of Jacksonville, Anna Dooley.

Government and Institutional awards were given to the City of Atlantic Beach for addressing the challenges of climate change and the St. Johns Water Management District's Blue Schools Grant Program for helping middle and high school students learn about how to protect Florida's water resources.

Community and Civic groups awards were presented to Beaches Go Green for education efforts regarding waste and its impact on the environment and Riverfront Parks Now for their drive to protect public access to the St. Johns River while still addressing resiliency and supporting private development.

Individual and business recipients Dr. Joshua Gellers, Brooks Andrews, Sean Lahov and Coke Florida were honored for their achievements in education and environmental public awareness.

Dr. Gerry Pinto was given the Environmental Award of Merit for significant impact to the community as a scientist, educator, and advocate.



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- Rick Whitney, *Hittin' the Note*, Issue 26, 2000



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About me...

A Jacksonville Native, I was born and raised in St. Nicholas. I am a fan of all things art and communication. If there is a local neighborhood event, I will be there! "Entertainer" is my middle name!

What's your favorite part about being a Realtor?

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What's your favorite room in a house?

Has to be the kitchen, am I right? The place for food, friends, and family? Let's be honest, gatherings always flock to the kitchen!

What's your favorite Jax spot?

Born and raised in the 32207! I am a San Marco neighborhood kind of person! But don't think I don't love Murray Hill, Riverside and the rest of the Urban Core! Where there are unique local businesses, you will likely find me!

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Local Leaders Launch Project Opioid JAX

BY KEVIN J. MEERSCHAERT
Resident Community News



Project Opioid North Florida Director of Advocacy (left) T.J. Ward, speaks with Covis General Counsel, Sheryl Johnson and Danis Construction President, Steve Betz, about how opioid addiction and overdose death has affected their families.

About 200 area Jacksonville health and business leaders recently gathered for the kickoff of Project Opioid JAX. While the COVID pandemic has pushed opioids off the front pages, the number of drug overdose deaths in Jacksonville continues to rise.

Florida Blue CEO Pat Geraghty said the COVID epidemic has been a setback for the Opioid death prevention projects across the state. He said the number of people who have overdosed from Opioids greatly increased during the pandemic.

Geraghty said the loss of work and isolation has increased the stress and anxiety among many and has helped lead to a reported increase in drug use.

He said 585 people in Duval County died of a drug overdose in 2020, a 40% increase from 2019 and a 182% increase from 2015. "That's heading in the wrong direction," Geraghty said. "The collision of the pandemic and this Opioid epidemic are creating tremendous stress in our community."

The epidemic continues to hit people from all levels of society.

Danis Construction President Steve Betz lost his son, Tony, and Covis General Counsel Sheryl Johnson her son Alex to an Opioid overdose. Both told about their son's struggles and those of their families before and after the tragedies.

Betz said there is still a major difficulty getting over the stigmatism addiction entails. He said it can happen to any family. "This disease does not discriminate," he said. "I think I have a very tight-knit family, a very faith-based family." But that didn't prevent drug addiction from happening. Betz also said it's impossible to fight alone.

Johnson has founded the organization Hearts 4 Minds to help break the stigma of mental illness. She said her family wanted to see what they could do to help others avoid the tragedy they had to face.

"We didn't have all the tools in our toolbox that we could have used to make different decisions and try different courses of treatment that could have helped (Alex)," she said. "This can happen to anybody."

Geraghty said some progress has been made with Oxycontin, the most addictive of the Opioids. Often a patient would be prescribed a 30-day supply of Oxycontin when they would only really be needed for a few days. Now three to five days is the standard prescription.

Geraghty said, "When people use one or two (pills), what do they do with the rest?"

He says medical professionals have done a decent job on the prescription side of the crisis, but a bigger problem is the increase in the use of Fentanyl.

Fentanyl is similar to morphine but according to the Centers for Disease Control is 50 to 100 times more potent.

Florida Blue and JAX Chamber spearheading a collaborative effort.

JAX Chamber President and CEO Daniel Davis said they got involved because the epidemic is more than a health crisis but also an economic one for the community.

"Every family in our community is connected to this one way or the other," he said. "We need to do everything we can to eliminate it and help our community heal."

T.J. Ward is the North Florida Director of Advocacy for Project Opioid. He said the problem could get much worse if the community doesn't take aggressive action.

"The one thing that each of these statistics has in common, the one thing we cannot ignore, that we must not forget is that each number represents a human life," Ward said.

Five similar Project Opioid collaborations have been launched around Florida.



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300 West Adams Street in the Downtown Core sells for \$2,550,000



NAI Hallmark, a leading commercial real estate brokerage and property management firm in Jacksonville, announces the sale of 300 West Adams Street. Managing Partner Keith Goldfaden and Senior Vice President Daniel Burkhardt, SIOR, CCIM, MSRE, represented the seller, Hildebrandt Owner, LLC. The buyer, Urban Investments Group, purchased the Property for \$2,550,000.

300 West Adams Street, located within walking distance to the County and Federal Courthouses and City Hall, is a six story, multi-tenant historic office building containing 34,781 square feet built in 1927.

“The resurgence of Downtown Jacksonville continues to gain momentum, as evident by the strong buyer demand we had for

this Property,” said Daniel Burkhardt, Senior Vice President of NAI Hallmark. “We look forward to seeing the completion of the exciting improvements Urban Investments Group has planned for the Property, which will attract new tenancy to 300 West Adams and continue to improve the submarket.”

Dror Zanani, manager of Urban Investments Group, stated, “We’re planning on giving the building a major interior facelift with a \$1 million budget. We also intend to develop and convert the parking lot adjacent to the building into a residential tower. With Downtown Jacksonville growing and evolving, it’s the perfect time to revitalize 300 West Adams Street.”

David and Linda Stein give naming gift for River Garden Campus



David and Linda Stein cutting the ribbon.

David and Linda Stein made a significant gift to the River Garden Foundation earlier this year that both names the campus and endows its medical program. Their generous commitment continues their family’s legacy at River Garden. David’s grandmother, Rose Stein, was a member of the Ladies Hebrew Sheltering Aid Society currently known as the River Garden Auxiliary. The auxiliary set a goal to establish an exceptional, caring nursing home for the city of Jacksonville.

On Oct. 29, River Garden board leadership, staff and friends and family of the Steins gathered at the campus to reveal the new sign and celebrate the family’s legacy.

“Over the years our family has been privileged to be a part of River Garden and to help it grow into the outstanding facility it is today. I am especially proud of my grandmother, Rose Stein, whose goal to create a Jewish home providing loving care for seniors in our city has been achieved and continues to thrive today,” David Stein remarked.

“There is nothing more impactful than multigenerational philanthropy, and David and Linda’s generous gift to name the campus and endow the medical program is a testament to this,” Mauri Mizrahi, River Garden CEO, said.

JIA Recognized For Riverplace Redesign

Jacksonville’s Downtown Investment Authority has earned statewide recognition for the Riverplace Blvd. street enhancement project.

The Florida Redevelopment Association’s Capital Project Infrastructure Awards are given out annually recognizing cultural enhancements in the state.

The FRA is a not-for-profit organization that focuses on assisting communities in revitalization efforts.

“We’re immensely honored to receive this award,” said Lori Boyer, DIA CEO. “This project was a great way to bring Mayor Curry’s focus on Downtown development and healthy lifestyles to fruition.”

The redesigned street eliminated two automobile lanes in favor of enhanced pedestrian amenities. It also includes protected bicycle lanes, improved on-street parking, and stormwater rain gardens.

The plan also includes enhanced bus transit and service from JTA, and utility enhancement provided by JEA.

Community Redevelopment sources were used for the project. The DIA collaborated with GAI Community Solutions Group which led the landscape architecture and civil engineering for its implementation.

GAI Vice President and Community Solutions Director Pete Sechler said it was a pleasure collaborating with the DIA and residents and property owners to bring the plans to fruition.

“The process of looking at the past, present, and future of Southbank was revealing for all of us and will serve as a positive example for other community planning and livable infrastructure design efforts,” he said.

The original urban planning and community workshops were held in 2015-2016. Final construction was completed in 2020.

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens celebrates 60th



Woodward Studio, *Ninah Cummer in the English Garden*. C. 1929, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens Archives

Over Veterans Day weekend, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens kicked off a yearlong celebration of its 60th anniversary with music, dance, arts, activities, and more. Food and fun, the galleries and gardens were enjoyed by families and friends of all ages. Admission was free thanks to support from VyStar Credit Union and PNC Bank.

The Museum was founded on November 11, 1961. Today, it serves as one of Northeast Florida's premier cultural and educational resources. It holds over 5,000 works of art in its collection, spanning from 2100 B.C. through the 21st century, as well as 2.5 acres of historic gardens established by the Museum's founder, Ninah Cummer.

"For 60 years, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens has served as a vital source of inspiration and a place of reflection for our community—a role that has taken on even greater significance during the pandemic," said Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, Ph.D., George W. and Kathleen I. Gibbs Director and CEO of the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens.

Through 2022, the Museum will honor this special occasion. A variety of programs and events designed to celebrate its legacy of community impact and signal its future growth are planned. For details, visit www.CummerMuseum.org.



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River Garden receives grant for Adult Day Program

River Garden has received a first-time grant of \$10,000 from the Grace H. Osborn Endowment at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida to assist with the reopening of its Adult Day Program (ADP) and specifically address challenges caused by COVID-19 isolation. ADP was closed from March 2020 until it reopened on July 19, 2021.

"As we prepared to reopen our Adult Day Program, families shared how the isolation due to COVID-19 wreaked havoc with their loved ones physical and mental abilities. Caregivers have also experienced increased stress levels throughout the pandemic. ADP is a much-needed solution," said Billye Sullivan, River Garden's director of Home and Community Based Services.

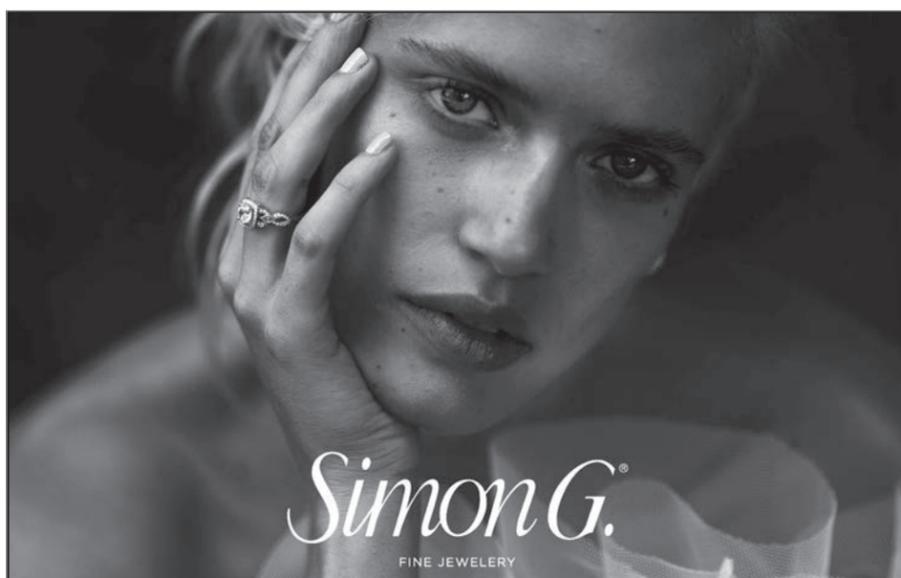
The plans to reinvigorate the program involve a focused and holistic approach to activity programming, evaluating all current activities against the six dimensions of Hettler's Model of Wellness, as well as considering the functional capacity of the participant. Funding from the grant will



River Garden's Adult Day Program enables seniors to live at home longer by providing activities, meals and supportive personal care services for individuals with dementia and other chronic illnesses.

enhance the Frisch Family Pavilion and the wander walk area with more outdoor seating and shade, purchase equipment to upgrade interaction with more hands-on activities and provide extra educational opportunities for staff through the Teepa Snow Positive Approach to Care Organization.

"Families are counting on us to assist them in their quest to improve their loved ones' quality of life. We are grateful to The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida for investing in ADP and supporting our philosophy of continual evaluation and improvement towards excellence," Sullivan said.



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Coker Law ranked among “Best Law Firms”



For the 12th consecutive year, Coker Law has made the U.S. News - Best Lawyers® “Best Law Firms” list for their professional excellence with consistently impressive ratings from clients and peers. For 2022, the Jacksonville-based firm earned Metropolitan Tier 1 recognitions for Medical Malpractice Law and for Personal Injury Litigation. Coker was also recognized in the Metropolitan Tier 2 category for Litigation-Insurance and Product Liability Litigation.

Achieving a tiered ranking in U.S. News – Best Lawyers® “Best Law Firms” signals a unique combination of quality law practice and breadth of legal expertise. Ranked firms, presented in three tiers, are recognized on a national and regional-based scale. Firms that received a tier designation reflect the highest level of respect a firm can earn among other leading lawyers and clients from the same communities and practice areas.

To be eligible for a ranking, a firm must first have a lawyer recognized in The Best Lawyers in America®, which recognizes 6% of lawyers practicing in the United States. Coker Law has ten attorneys who have received the recognition for 2022: Howard Coker, Dan Iracki, Matthew Posgay, Jake Schickel, Steve Watrel, Rufus Pennington III, Fraz Ahmed, Chelsea Harris, David Thompson, and Lindsay Tygart.

“Coker Law continues to recognize the need for experienced, professional, and ethical services for our clients and the community we serve,” said Matthew Posgay, shareholder at Coker Law. “This recognition, particularly after the challenges COVID-19 presented to the legal field and our court systems, is affirmation of Coker Law’s commitment to integrity and justice.”

Nutcrackers on display for Christmas

A longstanding holiday tradition welcomes visitors to Historic Avondale



It is always a sign of the holiday times when the glowing faces of Nutcrackers arrive at Hooshang Oriental Rug Gallery, carefully curated and designed to display in the shop’s front window. For over 40 of the 44 years he has been in business, Hooshang Harvesf, Ph.D. has been displaying the holiday scene as a tradition in the neighborhood, one that brings back loyal fans year over year.

The seasonal holiday display wouldn’t be complete without the design aesthetic and assistance of his loyal designer, Carolyn Patterson, who helps Mr. Hooshang set the scene for area visitors. The Nutcrackers on display are part of a collection that highlights pieces from all over the globe, bringing holiday cheer to local families and visitors to the shopping district from the furthest reaches of the world.



Juliana Catlin in the library of Catlin Design where clients can see examples of possible materials to be used.

Catlin Design Moves To Herschel Street

Catlin Design recently moved its office from the Southbank to Herschel Street. President Juliana Catlin said she moved her office with her eight-member team to be closer to her home. “When I get in my car my (navigation) system tells me I’m four minutes from home which is a pretty nice thing to know,” she said. Catlin is a native of Jacksonville native and a graduate of the University of Florida.

Catlin Design has provided services for homeowners and local businesses since 1984. It specializes in turnkey projects that offer a broad spectrum of services for clients.

Catlin said they try to get involved at the beginning of a project to provide space planning to prevent functional problems clients could face at home or work.

“We love working with the architects...going through everyday life and how (the clients) are going to live in a residential (space) or how they are going to work in a commercial space,” she said. “It’s just a really fun thing to solve problems that people may have.”

Catlin said they collaborate with their clients to not only make sure their spaces are functional but aesthetically pleasing as to their wishes.

Baptist Health heart specialist performs groundbreaking procedure

New stent eliminates blockage of the heart, major arteries



Baptist Health medical team is first in the region to use Synergy Megatron stent for High-risk heart procedures.

Cardiologist Salil Patel has performed the first procedure in Northeast Florida using Boston Scientific’s Synergy Megatron stent during a recent coronary procedure to eliminate blockages in patient Sandra Martin’s heart.

The Synergy Megatron stent is the first to be purpose-built for large, proximal vessels – those that are closest to the aorta, the main artery that carries blood away from your heart to the rest of the body. In the past, patients with blocked arteries might need bypass surgery, which is more invasive and requires more recovery time. Cardiologists are now able to use stents in some of these patients.

Martin first came to Baptist Medical Center Beaches with shortness of breath and heart pain, and while there she had a small heart attack. Further diagnosis showed severe blockage in the main artery and the two major arteries branching from the main artery. Her heart function was declining rapidly, and she reached a point where she was no longer a candidate for heart surgery. Dr. Patel felt the team at Baptist Heart Hospital could safely treat her with a complex stent procedure, and with this new stent, the outcome would be positive.

“Mrs. Martin was out of options. She was declining fast,” said Dr. Patel. “We reviewed all the treatment options available and felt we could be successful [with this stent].”

He chose to use the Synergy Megatron because of its design, which makes it stronger and allows it to adjust to the varied sizes within the artery. In addition, its material is a proprietary platinum aluminum chromium alloy that makes it more visible on angiography, which is a type of X-ray used to check blood vessels.

Martin’s procedure went well, and she has returned to her normal activities such as walking, playing Bingo and visiting with her grandchildren.

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Zimmer Promoted To Director Of Intergovernmental Affairs

Mayor Lenny Curry and incoming Chief of Staff, Leeann Krieg, announced the promotion of Rachel Zimmer to Director of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Zimmer is currently the Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for Mayor Lenny Curry and has served in his administration since 2019. Prior to her role of Deputy Director, Zimmer served as Intergovernmental Affairs Liaison where she worked to support the administration's legislative agenda and was responsible for mayoral appointments to boards and commissions.

"Rachel's dedication to the citizens of Jacksonville is second to none," incoming Chief of Staff Leeann Krieg said. "Rachel has risen through the ranks of local government and it's with great pleasure that we announce her expanded role. I'm extremely confident in her continued success and there is no one better to fill this position."



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Sharon Y. Cobb receives Jacksonville Film & Television Industry Achievement Award



SHARON COBB

Riverside resident Sharon Y. Cobb was presented with the 2021 Jacksonville Film & Television Industry Achievement Award at the 20th Annual Jacksonville Film & Television

Industry Reception on Oct. 21 at the WJCT Studios. Cobb is a member of Writers Guild of America and has written numerous works throughout her career. The award recognizes her creativity in the industry.

Her works include dozens of short films for filmmakers participating in competitions worldwide, as well as a dozen projects that have been sold to Hollywood and others that have been released on DVD, shown at film festivals, and broadcasted. She has written books including two novels and Secrets to Writing A Killer 48 Hour Film Project Screenplay. Sharon is co-writer of The Man in the White Van, a film that is currently in production. She is a former publisher, editor, journalist, rock musician and race car driver.

Cobb is a nearly lifelong Jacksonville resident except for some early years in Macclenny, and "a six-year escape to Key West and eight long years in Hollywood," she said.

"If I hadn't left West Riverside Elementary the first day of school to follow a dog down the sidewalk, I would've grown up in Riverside," said Cobb. "Before dark, a policeman found me and brought me home

to a very relieved mom. That night, we moved to Macclenny where my grandparents lived."

She began fiction writing after meeting Tennessee Williams while she lived in Key West. Cobb returned to Jacksonville in the 70s and opened an ad agency and a shop called Woolworks.

"When my late husband, Robert Ward, and I moved from L.A. to Jacksonville, we landed in Atlantic Beach. After years of renting and looking for a house to buy at the Beaches, we decided a more affordable and happier place for us would be Riverside/Avondale," Cobb said. "I absolutely love the neighborhood, and I have the best neighbors."

Cobb writes short films for local filmmakers and feature films for L.A. producers.

"I'm the first writer to win the Achievement Award, and I'm delighted to represent my fellow writers," said Cobb.

She has just finished working on a new thriller, The Man in the White Van, with the Jacksonville director Warren Skeels and his producing team.

"I'm considering other projects, including the distinct possibility of co-writing with Warren again on a film he will direct," she said.

Also recognized at the reception were the 2021 Rising Star Award winners, Keagan Anuso, Sophie Grace and Alex Willemin. This award is given to remarkable individuals under 35 in the local film and television industry to recognize excellence in their specific craft, progressive advancement in their careers, their service as role models and their potential as stars of the future.

Susan Remmer Ryzewic receives 2021 Junior Achievement Girl\$ Legacy Award



Shannon Italia, president of Junior Achievement of North Florida, presents Susan Remmer Ryzewic, treasurer and girls' committee chair for the Remmer Family Foundation (RFF), with the agency's 2021 JA Girl\$ Legacy Award.

Susan Remmer Ryzewic, treasurer and girls' committee chair for the Remmer Family Foundation (RFF), was honored during Junior Achievement of North Florida's Smart Women Make Change event on Oct. 19 at the Garden Club of Jacksonville. JA of North Florida President Shannon Italia presented Ryzewic with the 2021 JA Girl\$ Legacy Award that is given each year to a woman who has contributed greatly to the success of the JA Girl\$ initiative.

In addition to her work with the Remmer Family Foundation, Ryzewic has a career in business that has spanned more than 30 years. She currently serves as president and CEO of HER Investments, INC.

The JA Girl\$ Legacy Award recognizes her commitment to advancing programs for woman including the JA Girl\$'s program, "It's Her Future," which prepares girls to be effective in high-need STEM fields where women are underrepresented.

The Remmer Foundation has committed support to help Junior Achievement offer the program to 150 middle and high school low- to moderate-income students through Waverly Academy and PACE Center for Girls.

"Susan is such an inspiration for women and girls, and she has given selflessly over the years to help give girls a leg up for a better future," said Italia. "We thought she was the perfect person to receive this year's award."

Ryzewic supports girl-serving organizations and projects through RFF and has also served as chair of Voices for Florida Girls and Voices for Florida. She has also been involved in the University of North Florida Foundation Board, the Investment Committee of The Community Foundation of Northeast Florida and the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center.

"When we started the foundation, we decided to focus on girls where intervention could make a difference in their lives and influence their decisions in positive ways," said Ryzewic. "We were introduced to the PACE Center for Girls which led to the creation of the First Coast Girls Initiative where we help provide training, networking and professional development to volunteer organizations to help them make an impact."

This is the sixth year the JA Girl\$ Legacy Award has been presented to a woman who has contributed greatly to the success of the JA Girl\$ initiative. Ryzewic joins Latoya Freeman, Susan Towler, Lisa O'Neill, Elizabeth Paulson and Coleen Logan as recipients of the award.



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Falafel X Bar Brings Unique Fare To Avondale

The idea was to bring a restaurant concept to Jacksonville it hadn't seen before. Falafel X Bar owners Jason Bajalia and Sandy Saoud and their partners opened their restaurant on Herschel Street in Avondale in the former site of Chomp, Chomp in July.

They serve a variety of Mediterranean food featuring a toppings bar so customers can choose what to put on their falafel orders.

"Everything on the bar is made in-house," Bajalia said. "All of it's vegan except the feta cheese."

Bajalia said the primary focus was to provide a place where people could relax and take their time enjoying a meal and having a conversation with friends

"We don't want to be that kind of place where you go in, you order, you eat real quick and then you leave," he said. "We want people to linger."

Part of that experience Falafel X Bar wants to encourage involves a retail priced wine bar, so people can share a bottle while enjoying their meal and engaging in conversation.

"We even considered not providing Wi-Fi," Bajalia said.

One popular menu item is the patio snacks which are encouraged to be shared.

Falafel X Bar is open Monday through Saturday from 11 am to 9 pm.



Mary Leen promoted at BPP

Mary Leen, DNP, ARNP has been promoted to vice president of clinical operations for Baptist Physician Partners (BPP). As a top leader of Baptist's clinically integrated network, Leen will have greater scope of responsibility for population health in the community.

In her new role, Leen will lead teams to work closely with physicians and other care providers to achieve BPP's "triple aim" objectives of improving quality, safety, efficiency, and outcomes for patients in the clinically integrated network.

"Dr. Leen is a highly effective and well-respected leader," said Scott Wooten, FACHE, EVP and CFO at Baptist Health.

Leen began her career at Baptist Health as a critical care staff nurse over 40 years ago and has served in numerous leadership positions within the organization. Since 2014, she has served as director and then executive director of care coordination for BPP. She has evolved BPP's care coordination strategies in response to its value-based contracts, reduced hospital readmissions, decreased utilization of skilled nursing facilities, and created an Enhanced Home Support Model for patients with chronic conditions. She earned her advanced degrees at FSU, UF, and JU.

"It is an honor to be able to serve our patients, as well as the broader community," said Leen. "Baptist Health continues to be a leader in Northeast Florida as we strive for the highest quality care and equitable access to care in our region."

Daniel Welcomes David Cognetta as Director of Development

Daniel has named David Cognetta as its new director of development. As part of his duties, Cognetta will support major fundraising initiatives for programs, including foster care, community services, adoption and more.

Cognetta joins Daniel – the state's oldest child-serving agency – after three years with Children's Home Society of Florida, where he was senior manager of distinguished gifts. He was also recently named incoming president of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), First Coast Chapter, where he oversees the association's programs, events, and development.

Cognetta earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and a graduate certificate in nonprofit management from the University of North Florida and is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE). Before his role at the Children's Home Society of Florida, he served as development manager of corporate engagement at United Way of Northeast Florida.

Lesley Wells, CEO at Daniel, said Cognetta's extensive experience in nonprofit management makes him a perfect fit for the role.

"We're thrilled to have David on our team to lead our development initiatives," said Wells. "His passion for the work we do at Daniel shines through in his work with donors and the community, and we look forward to continued success with him on board."

Daniel strives to improve the lives of children and families through a diverse range of nationally recognized programs. For more information, visit DanielKids.org.



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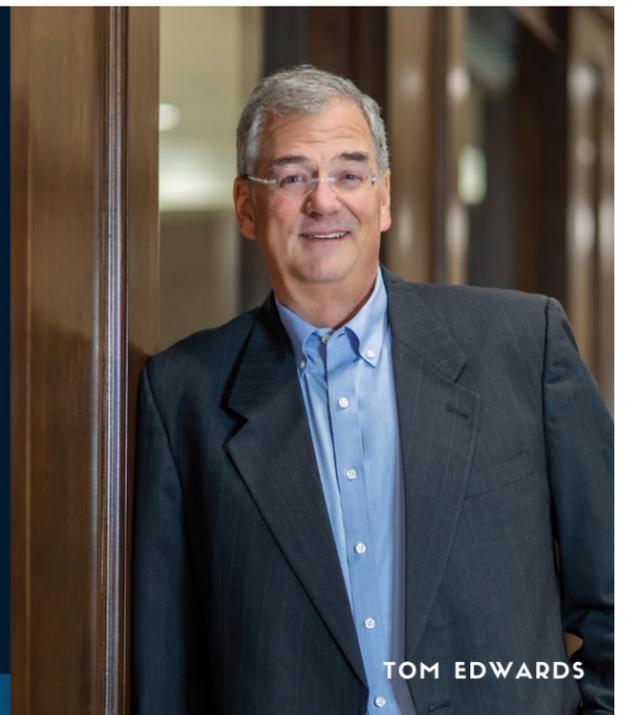
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Elsbury leaves, Krieg named COJ chief of staff



As of mid-November, Leann Krieg, the City of Jacksonville's current director of intergovernmental affairs, is the new chief of staff. She follows Jordan Elsbury who existed the position after nearly seven years of service.

Krieg started with the City of Jacksonville in 2012 as executive assistant to Council member Greg Anderson. She moved to the administration more than three years ago and worked her way through the Government Affairs Office as a liaison, deputy director and her current position since June of 2020.

"Leeann has risen through the ranks of Jacksonville government and her roots are deep within the community. Her commitment to our city is unwavering and



the future is bright. There is no one better suited to fill the shoes left by Jordan and we are both excited to move forward and are confident the best is yet to come," Mayor Lenny Curry said.

Elsbury took over as chief of staff in June of 2020. Prior to serving in this critical role, he served under Curry as director of intergovernmental affairs for nearly six years. Elsbury began his career with the City in 2015 as director of appointments and special projects.

"As Mayor, it has been an honor to have Jordan as part of my administration. His leadership ability is second to none and his willingness to conquer any task, no matter how complex, is steadfast," Mayor Lenny Curry said. "Watching Jordan grow his family here in our community has been a joy and I am confident of his continued success as he moves on to new and exciting endeavors."

Elsbury plans to remain in Jacksonville with his wife and three young children.

Yves Rathle, architect, wins award for Amazon HQ2



The AIA Jacksonville Design and Honor Awards Program awarded Yves P. Rathle, principal of studioYVESinc+ architectural firm, with a merit award for the Amazon HQ2, Jacksonville Master Plan... the Confluence of Two Rivers project during its 2021 Annual Design Awards Reception on Oct. 15 at Cowford Chophouse Rooftop.

Amazon HQ2 was a proposed corporate headquarters for online retailer and tech company Amazon.com, to supplement the existing Seattle headquarters. Amazon announced the initiative, along with a request for proposals from governments and economic development organizations, in September 2017, attracting attention from more than 100 cities in Canada, the United States and Mexico. Amazon intends to have 50,000 workers at HQ2 and will invest \$5 billion in new construction.

While Jacksonville was not named as a finalist for the project, AIA Jacksonville considered Rathle's design "transformational."

"It was a very ambitious urban master planning assignment that deserves a special recognition for its efforts to solve a very complex range of ideas, opportunities and challenges... the research methodology used is complex and thoughtful," Guy Peterson, FAIA - 2021 AIA juror, said.

Rathle has been the principal of studioYVESinc, based out of San Francisco since 1991, with a Jacksonville office in San Marco Square. StudioYVESinc is a design-oriented studio that has participated in the creation of many mixed-use projects throughout the world.

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A native to Northeast Florida David joins Florida Network Realty with years of experience in Real Estate. Previously working for a builder as a multi-million dollar producing agent, David is excited to bring his



knowledge of new home sales, the neighborhoods and communities of Jacksonville and the Beaches, to help his clients through every sale or purchase! When asked why he became a Realtor, David states, "I've always had a passion for real estate. Helping people realize their dreams of homeownership is what drives me as a Realtor. I love getting to know my clients on a personal level, and I strive to be a good consultant and advisor to my clients - to help them market and sell their home for its true value, and to help my buyers see the potential that may be hidden in a home."

"From your first meeting to the final closing, David provides best-in-class service to his clients. He has the experience you can count on and the passion to make things happen, even with the most challenging of circumstances. I am excited to welcome David to our team," shares Josh Cohen, Broker/Manager of the Metropolitan office of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty with locations in Avondale and San Marco.

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Doug Eng selected to receive the seventh annual Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award



Noted photographer honored by The Community Foundation at his MOCA Jacksonville exhibition

Douglas J. Eng, an award-winning photographer, installation artist and environmental advocate, was presented with the Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award by members of the Baker Family. Martha Frye Baker, chair of The Community Foundation's Board of Trustees, made the announcement at MOCA Jacksonville, where Eng's retrospective 'Structure of Nature | Nature of Structure' is currently on exhibit.

The Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award recognizes an artist whose work brings distinction to Northeast Florida, and is named for the late Ann

McDonald Baker, whose leadership helped create and nurture such vital cultural gems such as The Community Foundation's Art Ventures Fund, the Arts Assembly (now the Cultural Council), Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, and Greenscape, among others. As this year's Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures award recipient, Eng received a \$10,000 unrestricted grant.

"It's not only the power and precision of Doug's photography that earned him this award, but also his deep reverence for the natural world and his willingness to advocate for its preservation," noted Baker, who is Ann McDonald Baker's daughter-in-law. "His career is also notable for the number of meaningful public art projects to which he's contributed over the years—Imagination Squared, Message in a Bottle, The Red Chair Project, Blu Gras and Photographers for Freedom, among others."

Eng's studio is located in CoRK Arts District in Jacksonville. For more information about the artist, go to <https://dougeng.art> or on Instagram @dougengphoto. His retrospective, 'Structure of Nature | Nature of Structure' will be at MOCA Jacksonville through January 2, 2022. For more information, go to www.mocajacksonville.org/exhibitions.



City Rescue Mission Open New Store, Cafe

Jacksonville's City Rescue Mission has opened a new thrift store and cafe. The store and cafe at 7200 Normandy Blvd near Memorial Park Road will become the anchor store at the corner strip mall. The City Rescue Mission has operated a thrift store in Jacksonville for over 20 years. The new location will be larger at 27,000 square feet. It will allow for more retail and operating space. It also allows CRM to open the CHARIS Cafe.

The cafe will feature special blend coffees as well as breakfast, lunch, and dessert specialties including pastries, bagels, sandwiches, and chocolate treats.

"We are very excited for this move. Due to the support and donations received from the community, we have simply outgrown our current space," says Paul Stasi, CRM Executive Director. "The new location will allow us to streamline operations such as donation receiving and sorting, as well as allow us to offer a more open and pleasurable shopping experience with longer hours of operation for our customers."

The City Rescue Mission has been serving the homeless and needy in northeast Florida for over 75 years.

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Underwood partners with Pink Ribbon



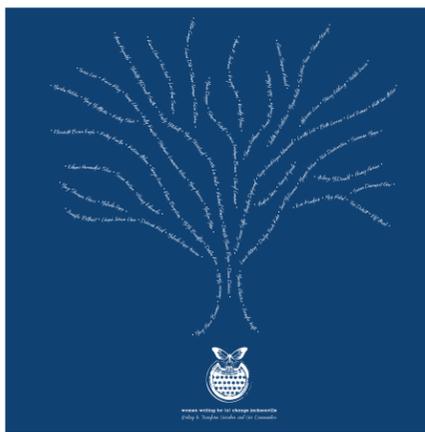
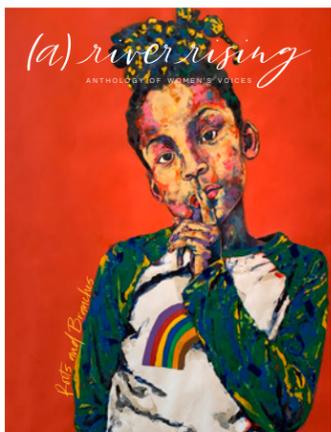
Melissa Hirneise, San Marco Manager, Michelle Burgstiner, Marica Pendjer, Kelly Wood (all three with Pink Ribbon), Shelly Adkison, Leslie Burkhalter, Greta Holmes, Sarah Larkin, Mae Painter (All five with UJ).

Underwood Jewelers, a founding sponsor of Pink Ribbon Jax (PRJ), hosted a private cocktail party and check presentation reception at their San Marco location on Thursday, Nov. 11. The event marked the culmination of PRJ's 2021 fundraising campaign efforts thus far.

Pink Ribbon JAX has a goal for its 15th anniversary to fund 1,500 mammograms for uninsured and underinsured women and men in Jacksonville through Baptist Health and the Mayo Clinic. Each free mammogram to the community costs, on average, \$300. So far, they've funded 1,400, which leaves 100 left to go. Fundraising to reach their goal will continue through December 31.

"It's vital that people know about this so that the women and men who don't have insurance can get what they need," said Marica Pendjer, Pink Ribbon Jax 2021 chair.

For more than a decade, Underwood in Ponte Vedra has hosted the annual fundraising party for PRJ. This year, a second reception was added at their San Marco store. It was the kickoff to a 3-day Designer Trunk Show featuring the jewelry of David Yurman, Marco Bicego, William Henry, and Penny Preville. Pink Ribbon Jax and their campaign will benefit from 10% of those sales proceeds.



Local Anthology Features Work of Artist Erin Kendrick on Cover

More than 95 female writers and artists from the Jacksonville community will be featured in an anthology to be released in December by the group Women Writing for (a) Change Jacksonville. The annual anthology, called (a) river rising: Anthology of Women's Voices, includes work inspired by the group's recent art exhibitions on the themes of "roots" and "branches."

The cover artist is Erin Kendrick. Her painting, titled "O.," is part of a series of paintings highlighting Black girls. "In spite of the relentless adultification of Black girls, they are, in fact, children first," said Kendrick.

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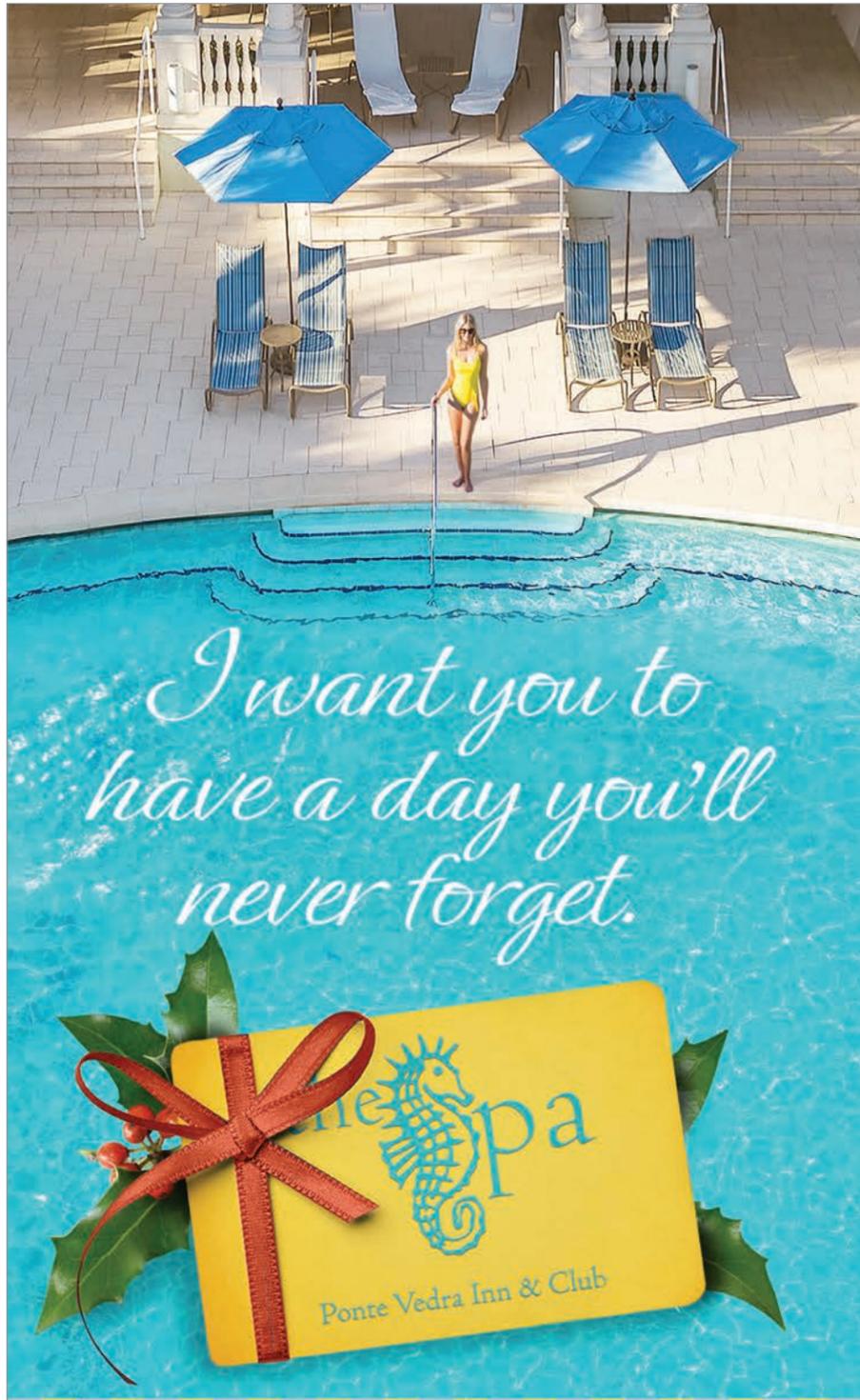
Kelsey Shuler is a local artist who creates under the name KB Shuler Art & Designs. Her boyfriend is Dan Kolbenschlag, a CPA with Grant Thornton LLP. The duo recently teamed up on a giving project to benefit the families at Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville (RMHC).

Shuler incorporated the RMHC logo into several fun drawings that she penned on paper heavy enough for framing. She and Kolbenschlag then bundled together the 'color and keep' pages along with their donated packages of colored pencils and delivered them to the families staying at the House.

RMHC was recognized this year as a TPC Charity of the Day for the 'home away from home' lodging and other services they provide for ill and injured children and their families who must travel to Jacksonville for pediatric medical care.

"The House has an upcoming campaign, and we will also be structuring a proceed share from [Shuler's] art sales towards that," Kolbenschlag said.

Color and Keep packages donated to RMHC by Shuler and Kolbenschlag



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Women's Giving Alliance celebrates 20th

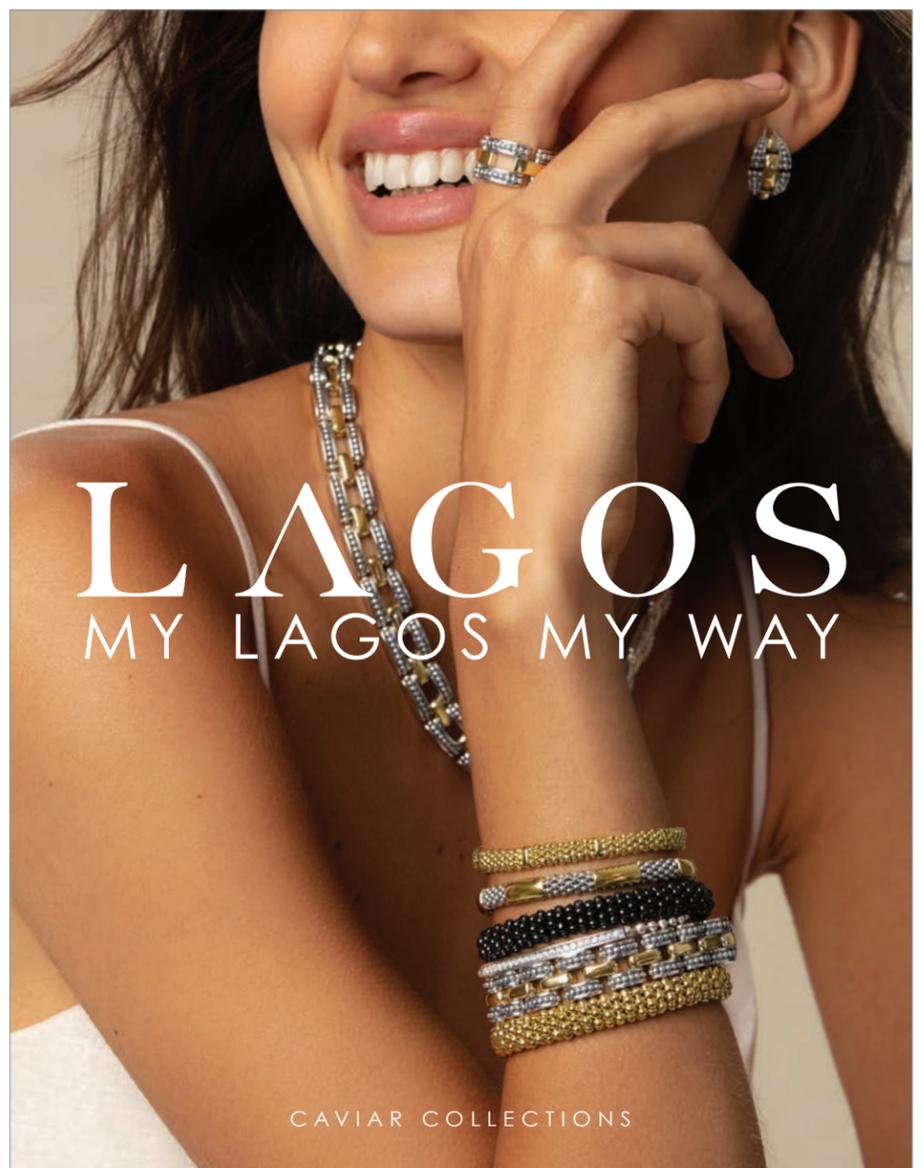
Members, guests, and nonprofit partners gathered to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Women's Giving Alliance (WGA), an initiative of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

"To date, WGA has awarded more than \$7.7 million in grants to 68 nonprofits offering programs and services designed to help women and girls reach their full potential and live healthy, enriching lives. Through collective, strategic philanthropy, this dedicated group of women has touched the lives of more than 30,000 women and girls in the last 20 years," said Jan Healy, President of WGA.

Looking ahead, WGA has created an action plan for a new, simplified grantmaking process focused on core mission funding for 2022 based on research about how to best support nonprofit partners as they continue to navigate pandemic-related challenges.

"Nonprofits were hit especially hard by the coronavirus pandemic as they juggled increased demand for their services with declining revenues, staffing challenges, and canceled fundraising events. We believe that offering this one-year shift focused on core mission funding will help our grantees rebuild and recover from the pandemic's lasting effects," said Linda Simmons, Co-Chair, WGA Grants Leadership Team.

WGA has also strengthened its statement of values with an enhanced position on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and made the recently created DEI committee a permanent part of its organizational structure.



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Hunter Sleiman with Paul Esdale, Bonnie Sleiman, Linda Crofton with Tony and Amanda Sleiman

Be The Light Gala, lights the night

A unique and entertaining fundraising event was held Nov. 7 at the St. John's Episcopal Cathedral at 256 E. Church Street, in support of the Cathedral District initiatives. The event included a live concert by a Jacksonville Symphony Ensemble, who performed to synchronized lights, which danced across the Cathedral's stain glass windows during the evening's performance.

Complete with a silent auction and illuminated courtyards, early patrons were the first to experience "Illuminate the Path," as the lights of the Cathedral District sent parting guests down a pathway of illumination, culminating in an exciting finish to the evening's festivities.

The Cathedral District is a 36-block area in northeast downtown Jacksonville. Encompassing 118 acres, it is currently being redeveloped into a leafy, green, vibrant neighborhood where a diverse array of residents can live, work, and play together. Visit www.cathedraldistrict-jax.org for more information.



Melissa Ross with Matt Carlucci and Heather Schwyz



Levy Green and Ashley Williams



Patrick Kimball with The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead



Kedgar Volta with Adianez Garcia



St. John's RIVERKEEPER Executive Director, Jimmy Orth, alongside his father, Jim Orth.



Stacie Gerrity with Patty Stilwell, Susana Napolitano and Katies Ganas



Hampton Barnes with Mike and Paula Weatherby, Courtney Weatherby-Hunter and Brad Hunter

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RIVERKEEPER celebrates 20th anniversary of Annual Oyster Roast

The St. Johns RIVERKEEPER staff and leadership welcomed family members, friends, environmental advocates and ticket purchasers to enjoy its 20th Annual Oyster Roast on Nov. 19. Known to many as the best cocktail party of the season, the fall affair always draws a crowd to the Garden of Jacksonville, along the banks of the St. Johns River. In addition to the accompaniment of hot steaming oysters from Fisherman's Dock Seafood Market with bites from Chef Matti's, beverages from Champion Brands and music by the Po' Boys, the fun lasted far into the night. From a robust offering of silent auction items to an exciting raffle-drawn prizes, there was something for everyone to walk away with – for the right price – to support the cause.

With the Oyster Roast celebrating 20 years, the show of community support continues to run deep for the environmental advocacy organization that defends and protects the St. Johns River and its tributaries.



Carly Lambeth with Caroline Rinaman, Karen Barakat, Julia Rinaman, John Parrish and Amy Zeller



Gerry and Everett Crouch, John and Judy DuBose, standing (left to right) with John Parrish and John and Kay Lindsey



Major Kieth and Candice Biggers



Henry and Sue Turner with Josh and Stephanie Dixon alongside Brooks and Michael Biagini



Louise Hunt with Carl and Rita Cannon, Kerri Napoleon, Carol Folsom, Missy Coker and Martha Van Der Mallie

The Salvation Army Red Shield Ball raises funds to help the homeless

The Salvation Army held its eighth annual Red Shield Ball on Nov. 20 at WJCT to raise funds to help feed the homeless. The event's Fund a Need raised \$86,000 to improve the Carpenter Family Marketplace where the women and children who are living in the nonprofit's Red Shield Lodge as well as local residents receive food in Downtown Jacksonville.

The food pantry serves 250-300 Duval County households with supplemental groceries per week. In honor of The Salvation Army's longtime friend and sponsor Pete Carpenter and his compassion for helping others, the Carpenter Family Marketplace was created from the funds raised by the friends of Pete and Marilyn Carpenter and the 2019 Red Shield Ball Fund-A-Need donations. The Carpenter Family Marketplace is a client-choice pantry, which gives clients an opportunity to select the foods that are best for their household in an environment that preserves dignity.

Other income from the event will support the ongoing operations of the Red Shield programs that house the home, provide hot and nourishing meals and casework services to enable the participants to obtain housing and self-sufficiency.

The elegant, gala-style fundraiser included dinner, live music, dancing, and live and silent auctions.



Char Miller and Jim Webb

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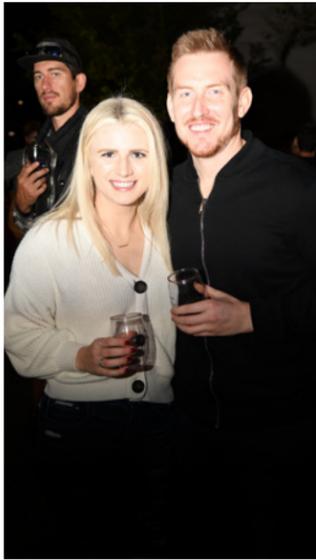
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Riverside WineFest a success, benefits local nonprofits

The King Street corridor was alive with pleasure, as wine enthusiasts and local patrons flocked to the Riverside WineFest 2021 on a cool Saturday evening, Nov. 20. The Fest is an annual party in the streets, hosted by Riverside Liquors & The Restaurant in Riverside.

The streets were lined with vendors as crowds came to taste the finest pours around and with over 250+ wines available to taste, there was no shortage of fun to be had. As part of the ticket purchase, a special polymer logoed wine glass and 5-dollar coupon to shop merchants and vendors was a nice bonus for attendees.

The fall affair raises thousands of dollars raising funds for local nonprofits, the best part, the beneficiaries are always local organizations. This year's proceeds will help fund the work of Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) and the Memorial Park Association (MPA).



Courtney and Dan DeMartini



Karen Schrader with Bill and Susan Jaycox



Olivia Scott with Liv Walker



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Mia Jones with Dr. Audrey Wooten



Dr. George and Ann Trotter

WeCareJax honors local volunteers

The Caring Awards presented by WeCareJax was held Nov. 18 at the Double Tree by Hilton. The Caring Awards is an annual celebration of Healthcare Heroes who volunteered their time and skills to help people without insurance get the services and surgeries they needed—in spite of the pandemic.

2021 honorees included:

- The Dr. George Trotter Founder's Award for Physician Service recognized Dr. Tra'Chella Johnson Foy, longtime volunteer Medical Director for WeCareJax and a Baptist Health family physician
- The Freddie Webster RN Award for Nursing Excellence, honoring Teresa Edwards, RN, BSN, a nurse navigator at Baptist MD Anderson
- The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to the family of Dr. Maymon Thint in her memory, for her outstanding commitment to our neighbors through her work at Ascension Health and as a volunteer for the Legacy of Care Health Center and the Myanmar Association Clinic
- The inaugural Sister DeSales Award for Outstanding Practice Administrator went to Dr. Kyle Etzkorn of Borland Groover



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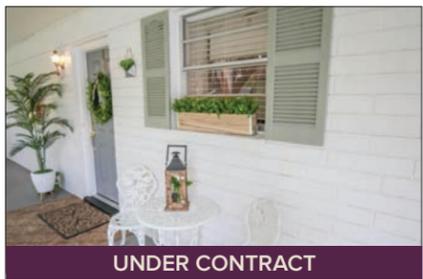
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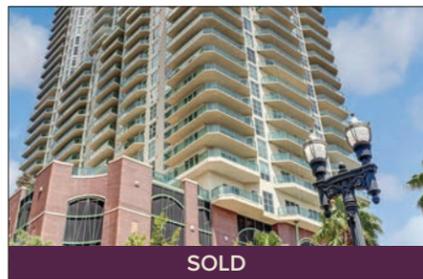
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YATES AND QUARANTA

Among the Guests of Honor at the Mayor's Breakfast and Veteran's Day Ceremonies at the Moran Theatre on November 11th, 2021 were Parade Grand Marshals Lt. Colonel USAF (ret.) Alton Yates and Tech Sgt. USAF (ret.) Deloris Quaranta, as well as Jacksonville's oldest Veteran, 103-year old Sollie Mitchell, Staff Sgt., US Army, WWII. Each was presented a medal by Mayor Lenny Curry, and then, riding in Corvettes that sparkled in the bright Florida sunshine, led Jacksonville's Veterans Day Parade.



YATES AND MITCHELL

Family Promise helps youth understand plight of homelessness, earns support for programs



Lakewood United Methodist Church hosted Family Promise of Jacksonville's eleventh Cardboard City. Fifty-five people attended the evening event. Nearly half spent the night in tents, cars or even a cardboard box shelter.

Lakewood UMC served a simple meal food line style. The group learned more about how Family Promise provide resources for families and works with them to alleviate barriers.

"Cardboard City is held to raise awareness of the number of homeless families in our community and to raise money for Family Promise of Jacksonville," said Lakeshore resident, Mark Landschoot, executive director at Family Promise. "Families are the hidden homeless. They are living in motels, couch surfing or even in cars. Tragically, 35% of America's homeless are families with children."



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How Daniel Kids Benefit from Year-End Giving

With the pandemic continuing, the holidays swiftly approaching, and dozens of nonprofit agencies clamoring for the community's year-end support to help their clients, it can be difficult to determine who to help and where to give. Although there is no wrong choice when it comes to philanthropy, Daniel always stands out as a wonderful giving option for two main reasons – its longevity and its continued focus on helping kids in a way no other agency can.

Daniel was founded as a local orphanage in 1884. The agency now serves an average of 3,500 kids and high-risk families each day, connecting children with caring foster or adoptive families, and offering homeless teens shelter and support.

Yet, what Daniel is likely best-known for is providing counseling for abused and troubled children on its 10-acre Southside campus. Daniel CEO Lesley Wells said that the campus, initially built in 1968, is the only local place equipped to help kids who've dealt with abuse, experienced severe neglect, or have serious emotional or behavioral issues, in a residential setting.

"The exceptional care our team provides our children has evolved through the years, yet the infrastructure here has not kept pace," Wells said.

That's why Daniel's team has worked to raise funds to renovate the campus building-by-building, starting with the cottages where Daniel kids reside. An enhanced environment that allows for today's best treatment practices is essential in the children's healing. Daniel is committed to making that happen. The agency recently celebrated the grand re-opening of the Haynes Cottage, and expects to complete renovations on the Creekside/Cedarwood Cottage this spring.

"Community support was key in accomplishing these goals," Wells said. "It's still needed moving forward. I hope, when people consider their year-end gifts, they'll think of Daniel and help us improve our children's surroundings or support the proven programs that assist them."

Online donations made by Dec. 31, 2021 will be doubled by the Jessie Ball duPont Fund. Visit danielkids.org/donate/give-now/

Jacksonville Community Rallies Behind Fitz Opie

Local tailor receives outpouring of community support following partial amputation



Rosenblum's "Beach Team" of Melvin Jefferson, Fitz Opie and Jennifer Ford

BY SUSANNAH PARMENTER
Resident Community News

At first, local suit maker Fitz Opie thought the sore on his foot was just an annoying callus. But when it refused to heal and the pain became unbearable, he decided to have it checked out at Baptist Health emergency room.

Little did Opie know the "annoying callus," would turn out to be a life threatening – and life changing – medical problem.

But that's what happened - Opie's "callus" turned out to be related to a heart problem that was impeding circulation of his blood. "With further testing, they found out that my 'Widowmaker' artery was 80 percent blocked. If this hadn't happened, I might have been walking across the sales floor and keeled over dead from a heart attack," he recalled.

Opie is a custom specialist for Rosenblum's Custom Suits, a fourth-generation, family-run business. In business for 123 years, the store is currently run by brothers, Bob and Richard Rosenblum. According to Bob, the personal

"relationship with their customers" is one key to their success. "That's the most important thing. And it's also how we dress them and treat them that is important. Most of our customers love clothes, they know clothes. We have great service, and we have good people who work for us too."

Rosenblum said Opie is one of those people. "He's like a brother. We've always confided in each other, always been friends and he's always watched out for my business like it's his business. He's a remarkable guy."

Opie said he considers Bob and Richard to be family as well. "We're all around the same age and we've been involved in the clothing business, pretty much our whole lives. We all started as teenagers. We just get along and communicate with each other really well.

With his usual work ethic, Opie worked up until the day he went to the E.R. He said he didn't present any of the typical symptoms, which include: high blood pressure, high cholesterol and chest pain. But once he was admitted to the hospital, the extent of his illness became clearer.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33..



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He received two stints in his heart to help the blockage. He also faced an incredibly difficult choice when it came to his leg. "They gave me my options about my leg. They said, "You can stay in the hospital, and we can try all kinds of crazy things to save your leg, or we can do a partial amputation and you can get a prosthesis and learn how to walk again and go back to work and have a regular life." Opie ultimately decided to get the amputation.

Opie's daughter launched a GoFundMe page to help cover the mounting medical costs and the response was overwhelming. The page started with a goal of \$20,000. As of now, the GoFundMe has reached almost \$88,000 with 290 donations. Many of the donors are customers of Opie. Some are anonymous donors, and some are members of his church, Our Lord at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church in Palm Coast.

Religion is a huge part of Opie's life. He has been a member of St. Nicholas since 2001 and serves as a Deacon. He and his wife, Elizabeth converted to Russian Orthodox when they were 26 years old-the same day they were married. He has taught himself Russian and even Old Slavonic, the oldest attested Slavonic language.

While all the donations are special, Opie said the ones from members of his church are especially meaningful. "It is really touching. Those people are my fellow parishioners and my priest. The first 20 donors were Russians from Palm Coast, which was really heart warming."

Over the last year, Opie has been rehabilitating and re-learning to walk. Doctors told him it would be six to eight months to get walking again. He did it in five. Opie has nothing but praise for the doctors of Baptist and Brooks Rehabilitation. "The medical community in this town is unbelievable. I would do free commercials for Baptist because they're amazing."

These days Opie is working three days a week at Rosenblum's. He is also enjoying time with his tight-knit family. He and his wife have been together since they were 17 years old. During his ordeal his daughter Masha and her family moved from San Diego, California to Avondale. Opie loves to spend time with his granddaughter, Ella. With her, he recently achieved a milestone in his recovery: "I took my granddaughter down to see the ducks where I live and I was able to walk over grass. That's a big deal because it's not smooth and hard."

Opie said the silver lining of his medical journey is his ability to use his experience to help others facing similar situations. "I've gotten this far along in the ordeal, and I know a couple of people that have also had to have partial amputations. It's rewarding to be able to help them."



Opie back at home after prosthesis with wife Elizabeth and Bishop Nicholas and Father Vastly



Fitz Opie with family and his Priests at the hospital

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LOCAL FOLKS

Beth Robison

“I just started **PAINTING, PAINTING, PAINTING** after the children were grown. That’s when the painting bug **REALLY BIT.**”

— Beth Robison



BY MARY WANSEER
Resident Community News

Some local folks are fortunate enough to have their hobby and their work be one and the same. Beth Robison, an abstract landscape artist from Ortega, is one such lady.

Many might know Robison as the mom of James, Jack, and Anna who run Grassroots Natural Market on Park Street in 5 Points. Others might recognize the bold colors and broad brush strokes that are characteristic of Robison’s paintings that can be found around town.

Her paintings evoke childhood memories of exploring beaches, marshes, and woods near her home. “I have always adored anything creative—painting, drawing, coloring—all of it!” she said. Growing up in Ortega Forest, she’d draw pictures of her house and build forts along the riverbank with fallen tree branches.

Robison also remembers as a child visiting relatives and friends who had art on the walls. “Going in their homes and seeing the paintings, I was just always drawn to them,” she said.

Now, she paints fulltime, every day in her upstairs home studio that used to be her son Jack’s bedroom. It has lots of windows, lots of natural light. “I just started painting,

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Beth Robison's paint



Beth Robison with "The Mountains are Calling" September 4, 2020



Beth Robison holding "Marsh at Ft. George Island" June 10, 2121



"Sailing Camp II" July 17, 2021 Stinson Park near Ortega Bridge

painting, painting after the children were grown. That's when the painting bug really bit," Robison said. She began with watercolors, then took some oil workshops.

Her works spilled out of Jack's old bedroom and began accumulating in the living room. That's when Robison approached a garden shop in Avondale about hanging her paintings there; for she had seen other artists' pieces there for sale. Robison's works sold! That was the start of her hobby evolving into her career.

Robison's next step was to approach a childhood friend who owned a gallery in San Marco. Again, sales. Robison was gaining notoriety around Jacksonville. She began branching out beyond the local market with Instagram postings and then made contact with an online art consultant. "It has grown from there," Robison said.

Robison has a daily ritual she follows prior to picking up a paintbrush. Her creative process begins with a walk through the neighborhood

to clear her mind. "I love to hear the birds chirping," she said, as part of her morning routine. But other than that, Robison prefers quiet, and she paints alone. "I'm so passionate about it. It's what I love to do," she said.

Robison draws inspiration from the warm, sunny skies of northern Florida. She works primarily in acrylics and prefers large canvases, although she does work on small pieces, too. "What inspires me is a day trip, looking at the marshes, just the openness, the vast sky,"

Robison said. Her husband, Jim, often accompanies her. Once she's back home, it's those feelings that she translates onto the canvas. The pictures she relies on are within.

Although Robison is known as an abstract landscape artist, she does occasionally do portraits. Her pieces can be found in retail establishments as far as St. Simon's Island in Georgia. "I love to do commissions," she said. Her paintings hang in both private and corporate collections nationwide.

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19th Annual Gingerbread Extravaganza showcases edible structures from local talent



Our Lady of La Leche Chapel at Mission Nombre de Dios in St. Augustine was named Best Historic Structure in 2020 for Drew Haramis' third grade class.

Jacksonville's most beloved holiday tradition, the 19th Annual Gingerbread Extravaganza, will open on Saturday, Dec. 4 and close on Wednesday, Dec. 22 with dozens of stunning displays from local gingerbread builders.

The 21-day event will again feature a scavenger hunt, holiday gift and bake shop, a virtual silent auction, and an online \$1-a-vote competition for Best Display. Also returning this year are tours of the Merrill House Museum, included in the price of the ticket. Mid-morning time slots for the exhibit and tour are reserved for school groups; late morning to early afternoon for seniors, and general admission is available from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Closed Mondays and on Dec. 19, Gingerbread Extravaganza takes place at Old St. Andrew's Church, 317 A. Philip Randolph Blvd., next to the ballpark. Visit jaxhistory.org for all the details about how to purchase tickets and reserve your time slot. Walk-ins are welcome but reservations encouraged for parties of four or more.

Each year since 2003, individuals, families and school groups from the historic neighborhoods have participated in the event with gingerbread creations of all levels of expertise and this year is no different.

Third grade teacher Drew Haramis, of Venetia, draws her class into history and a little bit of architecture and engineering every year with a display that honors a historic structure. This year, the third-grade class from Episcopal School of Jacksonville - St. Mark's Campus created Downtown Jacksonville's Laura Street Trio, currently slated for re-development.

"My class looks forward to building a historical structure every year," said Haramis.

"We connect it to our Jacksonville history unit. The Laura Street Trio has been in the news lately so we thought it would be a fun structure to build, using gingerbread and lots of icing!"

Ortega resident Kelly Brenner returns as a second-year builder this year with a display called Island of Misfit Toys.

"I've always been attracted to the less traditional aspects of Christmas - Krampus, Nightmare Before Christmas - and thought this would be fun to try," said Brenner, who has no help creating her display out of "gingerbread, fondant and a lotta love." She said it took about three weeks after work and on weekends to create. "This is a therapeutic solo project to ensure I keep making art."

A high school teacher and former baker challenged students to do something outside their comfort zone. Cedar Springs resident Elizabeth Kerns wanted the Bishop Snyder High School Art Club to create something as a way to get involved outside of the high school community. "The Gingerbread Extravaganza is one of my favorite holiday events full of sensory experiences: eating cookies, drinking cocoa, listening to carols, while enjoying the décor and edible builds," said Kerns. "In addition, Old St. Andrew's Church is a beautiful historic venue. Not one of the students participating has ever been to the Extravaganza - they are missing out!"

The Art Club decided to build "Christmas on the Ark" to include an aspect of the school's Catholic identity in combination with a holiday theme. "We landed on Noah's Ark because we saw the potential to fashion

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37...

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Created by the Cashore/Flower family, Do You See One Eye See? took second place in the Fantasy category in 2020.



Whimzeyland, the 2020 entry by Kelly Brenner, was a Third Place winner in the Landmark category.

Noah in the likeness of Santa, we plan to deck out the ark in holiday swag and create cute arctic themed animals. Since Noah's journey and the global Flood came before the birth of Jesus Christ, Noah was not able to experience or celebrate the Christmas season. However, he had much to celebrate when God saved Noah, his family, and representatives from the animal kingdom," Kern explained.

Last year, after years of attending the annual Gingerbread Extravaganza, a Murray Hill family was finally motivated to give building a try. They enjoyed the experience so much that, this year, they entered three displays, all focusing on birds. Sisters Imogen and Isabel Flowers and their mother Catherine Cashore, created one display called Clark's Nutcracker, another featured the Ivory Billed Woodpecker, which is an extinct bird native to Florida, then they entered a third display called "Silent Night: Remembering the Lord God Bird."

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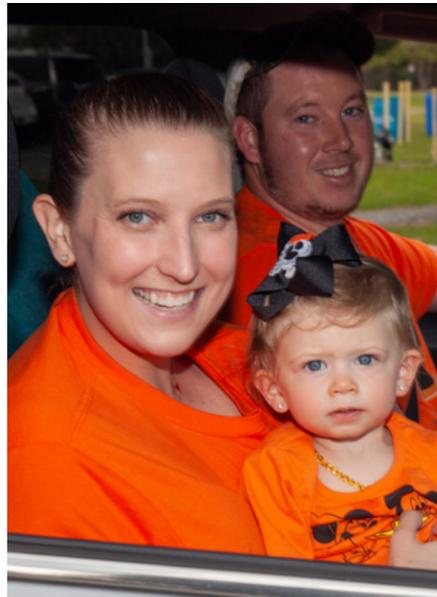
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Two generations of attendees enjoying the drive-in movie



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The Community Hospice & Palliative Care Foundation's Halloween Doors & More presented a Drive-In Movie Experience to raise funds for Community PedsCare®. Over 800 people enjoyed the outdoor cinema event at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds. Over \$240,000 was raised.

For 17 years, Halloween Doors & More has delighted kids of all ages. This year's event was a reworking due to COVID concerns. Hosted were two movies under the stars: Hocus Pocus and Trolls: World Tour. Co-chair Devon Witt expressed how thrilled he was to offer the community an outdoor experience, a fun and safe evening of entertainment.

"North Florida is very fortunate to have Community PedsCare®. I am doing what I can to support and create awareness of this incredible program that is important to me," Witt said.

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One family's Christmas endures as a promise of remembrance

Medical miracles continue due to legacy of Joshua Frase



BY SUSAN BRANDENBERG
Resident Community News

Joshua Frase was 15 years old when he passed away on Christmas Eve in 2010. On that Christmas Eve eleven years ago, as families the world over celebrated the birth of the Christ child, Joshua's 9-year-old sister, Isabella, told her mother Alison as she wiped the tears from her eyes with her pajama sleeve, "This is the best Christmas ever for Joshie, because he can see Jesus."



The son of Paul and Alison Rockett-Frase, Joshua was born on February 2, 1995 with a rare genetic neuromuscular disease called Myotubular Myopathy (MTM). He was not expected to live past the age of two, but despite difficulty in breathing, inability to walk or ingest food orally, Joshua earned a cumulative 4.3 GPA at Ponte Vedra High School, attending by being wheeled from class to class, his frail body stretched out on a gurney.



"Josh had the highest average in class," recalled his 10th Grade Geometry Teacher Beth McBride. "His work ethic was something I wish I could bottle and pass out to all the students. Information just jumped into his brain ... he and I talked about homework once. I told him he did not need to do all the problems because he had shown me that he knew the material and, guess what, he still did all of it by hand!"

Popular with his classmates as well as his teachers, Joshua Frase never complained and was known for his dry sense of humor, bright mind, deep faith, and positive attitude. His stated goal was to attend Wake Forest University and become a research scientist specializing in muscle gene therapy in hopes of finding a cure for his peers. The fact that Joshua could verbally communicate so well with others was due to the determination of his parents to avoid traching him (A tracheostomy -a tube placed in the windpipe to help one breath). Instead, they supported his every possible effort to breath on his own.

"Alison was determined that Josh would live as full a life as possible," said Paul Frase. "She researched everything, became an expert at caregiving, and soon had the doctors working with her instead of trying to tell her what to do." When they first brought Joshua home, Alison and her mother, Elsie, were the main caregivers, as Paul was away from home most of the first four years, as a professional NFL football player - being a lineman with the New York Jets, Jacksonville Jaguars, Green Bay Packers and Ravens. In 1996, Paul and Alison began using his National Football League and Wall Street connections to raise awareness and millions of dollars for cutting edge regenerative research through the Joshua Frase Foundation (www.joshuafrase.org).



Every waking hour was a challenge for the Frase family, but their deep faith in God and the constant love and support of family and friends brought cherished moments, too. Laughter abounded in the Frase household, especially after Joshua's sister Isabella, was born. One day, Paul heard Joshua screaming "Help, Dad! Help!" He ran to Joshua's room only to find that 6-year-old Isabella had taken her mother's make-up case and made up her brother's face with eye-shadow and lipstick! Laughter reigned, also, as Joshua, the teenager, watched the television series, "The Office" regularly with his Dad. Josh would slap Paul's leg and laugh hilariously. "Dad, Dad, Dwight is such an idiot!" he'd gasp, trying to catch his breath. "It's painful!"

Struggling long hours daily just to keep her son alive, Alison Rockett-Frase also took on management of the foundation's efforts and its website, which developed an international registry of hundreds of families. "When Joshua was born, there were only 50

known cases of MTM in the world," Alison said, adding that she now collaborates with families and institutions world-wide, providing lifesaving care-guidelines, and encouragement.

By 2008, the Joshua Frase Foundation had raised more than \$7 million toward MTM research, but Joshua's health was declining rapidly. While there had been remarkable advances in gene transfer therapy in mice, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) required that pre-clinical trials of genetic neuromuscular therapies had to be run on large

animals before human trials could begin. A miracle had to happen soon if Joshua's life was to be spared.

That miracle occurred in 2008 when Alison's network of doctors led her to Dr. Elizabeth Snead, a Canadian Veterinarian. Together, Alison and Dr. Snead tracked down Nibs, a female Labrador Retriever who possibly carried the MTM gene. Nibs had two puppies that potentially displayed symptoms of MTM. It was a hunch and a "knowing" Alison needed to pursue.

Alison immediately called Nibs' owners, Vic and Karen Wagman of Saskatchewan Province in Canada. The Wagman's responded to the desperate plea of a mother, and within days, met Alison at the Saskatchewan Airport where she picked up Nibs and delivered the beautiful chocolate lab to Dr. Casey Childers and his researchers at Wake Forest University.

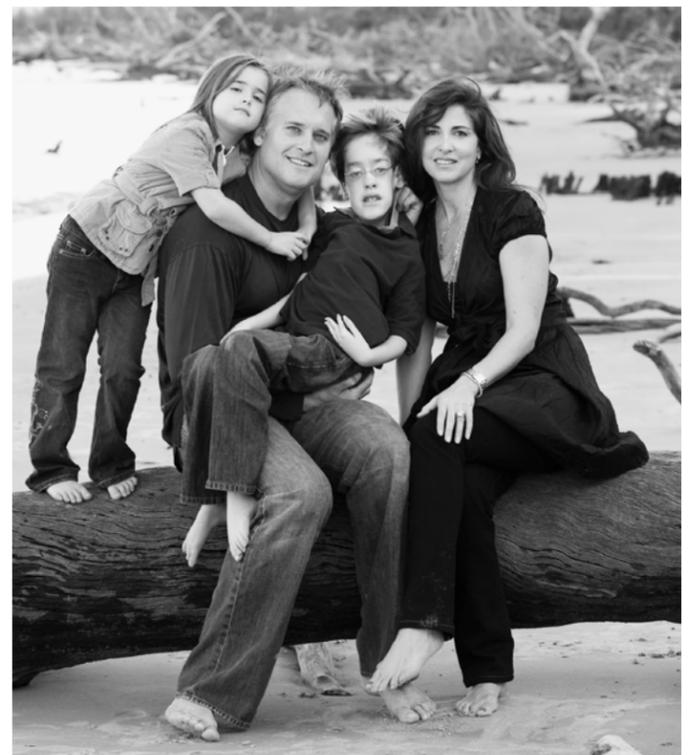
On April 15, 2009, Nibs gave birth to twelve puppies, eight females and four males. Five of the females carried the MTM gene and one of the males was affected with the disorder like Joshua. Nibs' progeny lives on, contributing to research and wagging their way into the hearts and homes of affected families. Dr. Childers credits Alison with launching the large animal studies. "Alison flew from Florida to Saskatchewan with an empty dog crate and came home with the founder of what is now a colony of dogs which has been strategic in solving the mysteries of MTM."

While "the miracle of Nibs" and her contribution is now rescuing affected dozens of MTM patients in clinical trials, young Joshua Frase was not destined to be one of them. His memorial service was attended by nearly all of Ponte Vedra High School's faculty and student-body.

Fast forward to September 19, 2017 when Audentes Therapeutics announced dosing the first patient in ASPIRO, a Phase ½ clinical trial of AT132 for treatment of X-Linked Myotubular Myopathy.

"After four years, that patient has shown marked improvement, as have several other patients," said Alison, while she and Paul viewed video after video of MTM children standing and walking. Joshua's legacy is about saving lives "If my life's work was just for one ... it's been worth it all," says Alison. "We fought for his life every day and prayed to God that a cure would be found to save our son. Now our Foundation is working to perfect the cure for all the Joshua's of the world."

You can invest in the lives of children by supporting their efforts by visiting www.pleasedonate.org.



THE WAY WE WERE

Nina and John Searcy



Searcy wedding, 1956

BY MARY WANSEER
Resident Community News

Over the summer, Nina and John Searcy, Jacksonville natives, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. Their secret to staying together for over six decades was summed up in one four-letter word: love.

Both were born and raised in the north end of town. Nina Lincoln was from Springfield. Her family knew of John's from the time Nina was four years old. She had known John's younger brother because he was closer to Nina's age.

John Searcy was raised north of Springfield in North Shore. He grew up as a Boy Scout during WWII. He attended Andrew Jackson High School a few years ahead of Nina and

had a strong interest in physics. John's science teacher had a hand in getting him into the University of Florida where he earned a four-year degree in electrical engineering. He was not drafted but was obliged to spend two years in active Army duty, which he fulfilled after college.

During the summer after Nina's high school graduation from Andrew Jackson, when she was only 17, just prior to her attending St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing, Nina joined a city-wide summer youth group called The Disciples of Christ that met in a Christian church in Riverside. John, who had already been attending college for three years by that time, also belonged. He would pick Nina up every week so that they could attend the meetings together. Nina had been dating another boy, and she said of John, "I had no interest in him whatsoever. None. Zero." She had plans to finish college and start a career in nursing, never intending on falling in love or getting married anytime soon. But life and love derailed Nina's plans for a while. "It just happened," she said.

At the end of that summer, John asked Nina for a date. She accepted. They went to the Florida Theatre to see *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*—the same theatre and the same movie she had attended the night before with her boyfriend. The young lady in the ticket booth recognized Nina and looked perplexed. "I just put my finger to my mouth, and she didn't mention it," Nina said. When she returned home that night, Nina told her mother, "That's the man I'll marry." Two years and four days later, she did, at Central Christian Church on 9th Street in Springfield on August 24, 1956. Nina was 19 and John 24.

John's military duty as an officer with the Army Signal Corps brought the couple to Augusta, Georgia at the beginning of their marriage. In late December 1956, John was sent to what Nina called "the swamps of Louisiana" for several months. Rather than follow him there, Nina put their belongings in temporary storage and came back to stay with her parents in Springfield until, together, she and John could return to Augusta in 1957.

It was October of the same year that they bought a house in Jacksonville, which they moved into a couple of months later once



Searcy 50th anniversary, 2006



Searcy engagement, 1956

John was released from duty with the Army before he joined the Florida Air National Guard in 1960, prior to the Cuban Missile Crisis. When asked if they still live in that same first house, Nina replied, "Oh, heavens no!" So much has happened in their lives since then.

From 1959 to 1964, Nina had given birth to three children—Kevin, David, and Jill. When her youngest was two years old, Nina completed a two-year program at Florida Junior College before earning a bachelor's degree in nursing at the University of North Florida in 1969. She worked at Memorial Hospital for a time. "Nurses never retire," Nina said. She still nurses, though not for income, taking care of John and one of their sons and friends who come to her for help. She has always considered the field a calling and maintains her Florida license.

John retired as a major after seven years with the National Guard and continued in his career as an electrical engineer in Jacksonville. "Technology has changed so much. Early on, I used to design computer rooms, and now they don't even have computer rooms," John said. He had become a partner in Van Wagener and Searcy, Inc., and when his partner died, John continued the business solo well into Jacksonville's boom through the 70s and into the 80s and worked on a lot of the buildings along the river.

In the mid-1980s, John closed the practice. "I got tired of being the boss, running all the administration, and I wanted to get back to engineering," he said. So, he then opened John Searcy Engineers and Associates where he designed and supervised electrical and mechanical work until he retired at 81 years old, when he sold the business to one of his engineers. "He loved what he did. And he's a little modest about telling all that he did," Nina said of her husband and his engineering career.

During John's career, he had designed the mechanical and electrical engineering work to be done on the Wells Fargo Center, a skyscraper downtown, which was previously called Independent Life Building. The remodeling of Jacksonville City Hall was another of his projects. He had been chosen by an international group to go to Korea for two weeks and study a set of drawings in order to guide other engineers. "It was quite an honor to be chosen to do that," Nina said on John's behalf.

For 30 years, the Searcys lived in Mandarin in a house they had built on the river in 1970. When asked to share memories of their family life as the children were growing, "We stayed in the car, taking them places all the time," Nina said as she and John both laughed recalling it. They did a lot with the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour, and John was very active in Scouts with the boys. "Our house was full of kids all the time. You never knew how many would be there," Nina said.

After the children were grown, Nina and John downsized. They spent two years at The Villages of San Jose before finding the house they're in now in Colonial Manor, just outside of San Marco. They did a complete remodel of the 1939 structure before moving in and have been there for two decades now.

Both are members of the San Marco Preservation Society. Nina has been a Garden Club member, off and on, since 1970 and of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America. At St. John's Cathedral, where they are members now, Nina has worked in the archives room and tended the gardens. In addition to being involved with the Boy Scouts all his life, John has been a member of several professional engineering societies. For over 45 years, he has been a Kiwanian and for nearly 20 years, a member of the Men's Garden Club.

When not working on her third book about genealogy, Nina, and John too, enjoy spending time with family. "Our lives have always been busy with kids," Nina said. All three of their children live within a five-minute drive. They have five grandchildren, including one with a spouse. "We've always been family oriented," Nina said.

When asked the secret to reaching a 65th wedding anniversary, what they might tell young couples, "The first one is love," John said. Nina agreed. They love each other, their children, and other people. Another important component of their relationship has been their involvement with church. Further, "Maintain a positive outlook on life, no matter what happens," John said.



Searcy with grandchildren, 2017

JUNIOR RESIDENTS



TEENS RAISE \$11K FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

As chapter heads of The Power of Blue (POB), Jessie Pearson and Ava Allen, Bolles students, held a successful spike ball tournament to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. With the help of 15 local high school POB ambassadors, the group raised over \$11k for the cause.

"I chose the Ronald McDonald House because I enjoyed my time with the Ronald McDonald Club at Bolles these past few years," Pearson said.

Power of Blue is an organization started by a Philadelphia teen at the height of the pandemic when she blue tie-dyed cotton face masks and sold them online to raise funds for local charitable causes. Soon after, the Power of Blue Ambassador Program was launched, recruiting teens throughout the country who wanted to get involved in their communities by volunteering, fundraising, and creating awareness of people in need.

"We quickly sold out all 32 teams," Pearson said. The teams were encouraged to show up in costumes and enjoy the concessions and music while cheering for the others. Several representatives from the Ronald McDonald House were present. In the end, the Bolles swim duo of Tucker Peterson and Seth Tolentino were the winners.

St. Paul's-Riverside Lady Ramblers win championship



The St. Paul's Catholic School-Riverside Lady Ramblers won the division championship in girls' basketball in a close 21-20 game against Christ the King Ravens, finishing the Ramblers' best season and ending the Ravens' five-time winning streak.

"Our ladies were committed to playing their best. They had enough of coming in second place," said Principal Kim Repper.

The Ramblers kept the lead in the first half, bringing the tally to 11-7 at halftime. The Ravens rallied strong in the final quarter, yet fell short, narrowing the Ramblers' 17-12 lead in the third quarter to one point in the game's final minutes. St. Paul's eighth grader Julia Marquez was named most valuable player.

"Led by coach Jeff Conley and assistant coach Nicole Johnson, the team practiced multiple days per week outdoors in the summer heat on our blacktop. They studied plays, analyzed game footage, and scrimmaged with the boys' team. They did everything in their power to improve their talent and skill," Repper said.

Repper reported that the athletes' dedication to training did not impact their ability to maintain strong academic performance. "They balanced their studies and workouts quite well," she said.

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Ortega teen sees opportunity in suspension of curbside recycling pickup

Ortega resident Ann McCarthy's son Declan, a 16-year-old sophomore at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville, saw an opportunity to make a difference in his neighbor's lives when the City of Jacksonville halted curbside recycling for a neighborhood dumpster collection site approach.

"I've been collecting for about a month and it started with an idea from my mom, who loves recycling," explained Mr. McCarthy, who's collected 550 pounds of recycling in a month. "Our cans were beginning to overflow with recyclables and I knew that there were a few drop-off spots around the city for recycling drop-offs, so I started making runs to drop off our stuff."

Mom suggested helping out neighbors on the block to continue recycling as well, "and it kind of sprouted from there," he said.

"The word spread throughout most of Ortega and is just now getting to Ortega Forest," said the green entrepreneur who's been working for tips that can reach \$10 and above. He does ask that recyclables be pre-bagged, which mirrors the city's policy for the dumpsites, including at Riverside Park.

For Mr. McCarthy, it's more than a side hustle.

"I enjoy the thought that I am making a difference in the world and in my community. I have a total of 24 clients and pick up for about 8-12 of them each week. I usually get a \$10 tip but if it is a big load some will even pay me \$20.

As long as the city's curbside service is suspended, the teenager intends to keep his going.

"... which might be a few months," he estimated.



Declan McCarthy picks up recycling from an Ortega residence Nov. 5 in Stuart, FL.

Bishop Kenny boys swim team win State Title



TOP: Graham Evans, Evan Gardner, Zach Jones, Jeb Brownell, Evan Larson, Andrew Davis, Owen Kerkezi, Barrie Snyder, Angelo Candelora, Noah Straley, BOTTOM: Assistant Coach Stephanie Jaeger, Head Coach Laurel Valley and Assistant Coach Dennis.

The Bishop Kenny Boys' Swim team won the FHSAA Class 2A state title at the 2021 Swimming & Diving State Championships held on November 5 in Stuart, Florida. The combined results of individual and relay performances of the swimmers secured the title for the team. Head Swim Coach Laurel Valley commented, "I couldn't be prouder of the boys. They kept their focus and worked one meet at a time to remain undefeated throughout regular and post-season competition."

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Cathedral Arts Project student selected for highly competitive Florida All-State Orchestra



N'DIYAH BOLTE

Cathedral Arts Project (CAP) student N'diyah Bolte has been accepted into the highly competitive Florida All-State Orchestra. N'diyah originally joined a CAP string class in third grade despite having no experience playing an instrument. She went on to become an inaugural member of the CAP String Orchestra in 2019 and is now in seventh grade at LaVilla School of the Arts where she plays viola in both the repertory and chamber orchestras.

Each year, Florida orchestra students in grades 7-12 are given the opportunity to audition for the All-State Orchestra. The Florida Music Educators Association (FMEA) selects the audition music, and expert faculty review and score each audition. The top

students are selected to participate in the All-State Orchestra, which will rehearse with world-class conductors and teachers and perform at the FMEA Professional Development Conference in January 2022.

FMEA is one of the largest music education professional development events in the U.S. More than 10,000 people attend the conference, including the state's top music program directors, administrators and educators.

"N'diyah has always striven to become a better player and was moved to a higher-level orchestra mid-year due to her passion and skill on the viola," said CAP String Teaching Artist Fellow Josh Stone. "She is very self-motivated and a great student outside of her music classes, as well."

The audition process for the All-State Orchestra is extremely competitive and challenging. Typically, only 8-10 viola students are accepted each year, and many students go through all four years of high school without being selected.

"I didn't even think I could make All-State," said N'diyah. "But now that I have, it's allowed me the opportunity to dream big! My advice to other students is to take the opportunity today to build the tomorrow you want. No matter what, don't quit!"

"I'm so proud of her," said N'diyah's mother, "and so thankful for programs like CAP that help catapult these children into things they probably would have never been introduced to. Thank you [to Mr. Stone] for all the time he has sacrificed and dedicated to these children. It means the world and is definitely life-changing!"

Episcopal's St. Mark's Campus Celebrates Veterans



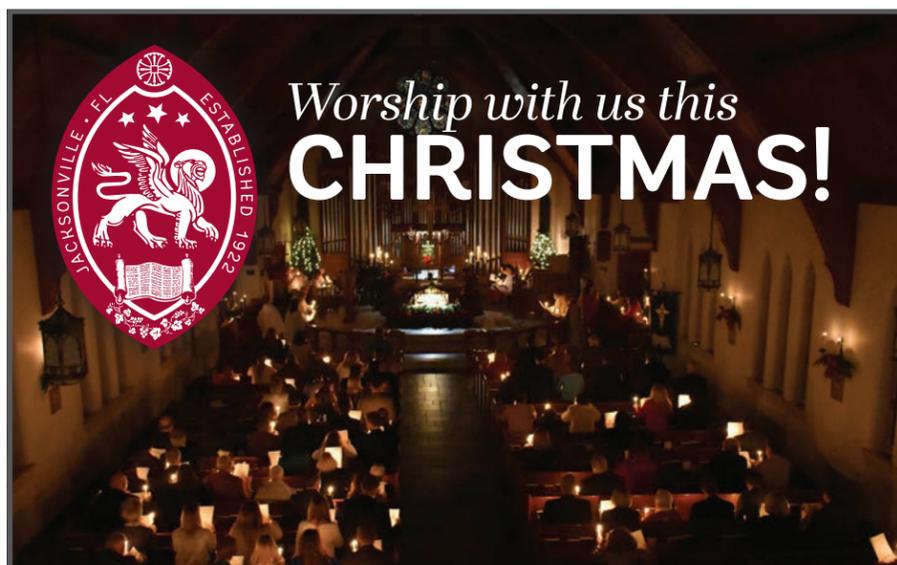
All families were invited to join Kindergarten – fifth grade students at Episcopal School of Jacksonville St. Mark's Campus during a special chapel honoring veterans and current military personnel held Wednesday, November 10 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 students also had a Veterans Day themed chapel in the Lori Schiavone Commons. The students all convened on Baker Green to participate in a flag raising ceremony. Along with the service, the campus prominently displayed photos and information about veterans special to the St. Mark's Campus community submitted by loved ones, faculty, family members, and staff.



Gabby Ferriera and Eve Estling enjoy their ice cream at the RPDS Fall Festival

RPDS Celebrates Fall Festival

Riverside Presbyterian Day School celebrated their annual Fall Festival on November 13th. The festival featured an inflatable obstacle course, a petting zoo, a live DJ, face painting and other fun and games for everyone. Parents, faculty, and staff volunteered their time to make the festival a success.



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8pm Choral Eucharist with brass

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11pm Choral Eucharist

Prelude followed by traditional candlelight service with incense

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Michael Lyvers, Kate Stanly, and Ona Burhyte hard at work



Eve Sauvageau, Kai Jenkins, and Anna Hammond presenting

Episcopal School combines creativity, fun, and learning

Students in Ms. Megan Trumpler’s fifth grade class at the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, St. Marks Campus participated in a fun STEM project that also incorporated a social studies lesson.

Using only a limited number of everyday office supplies, students worked in groups of three to design a prototype of a trunk that the Jamestown colonists would have brought with them on the ship heading to the New World in 1607. The trunk could not be more than 216 cubic inches in volume and had to hold certain items that the settlers would have brought with them—like a shovel, represented by a spoon; clothing, represented by a swatch of fabric; and seeds, represented by popcorn kernels.

The students learned how explorers needed to consider the priorities of packing and the space allotted on ships. They came up with innovative designs and creative ways to solve this problem. “Watching students design prototypes using a Design Thinking mindset is powerful. They have to build something with the idea of empathy at the forefront. Thinking about what others may have wanted or needed to bring with them, while considering the limitations, definitely requires students to process information at a higher level,” said Trumpler.



B. Hodges, F. Howell, J. Howell, J. Taylor, M. Stratton, J. Boaventura, and I. Pontieri

Seven Spartans commit on Early Signing Day

St. Johns honored seven Spartans by hosting a ceremony as each student athlete signed a National Letter of Intent to play a sport at the college level.

The seven signees who have made a commitment to continue their academic and athletic careers at the next level are as follows:

- Julia Boaventura (soccer) – University of Southern Mississippi
- Brad Hodges (baseball) – University of Virginia
- Finn Howell (baseball) – University of North Florida
- Jude Howell (baseball) – Rollins College
- Isabella Pontieri (soccer) – Virginia Tech
- Matthew Stratton (cross country) – University of Florida
- Jordan Taylor (baseball) – Florida State University

“We are so proud of each of these athletes and the tremendous achievements we recognize with this signing ceremony,” said Director of Athletics Traci Livingston. “They have each worked so hard, and they and their families have made many sacrifices to get to this point. We look forward to watching them continue to grow and improve over the years to come.”

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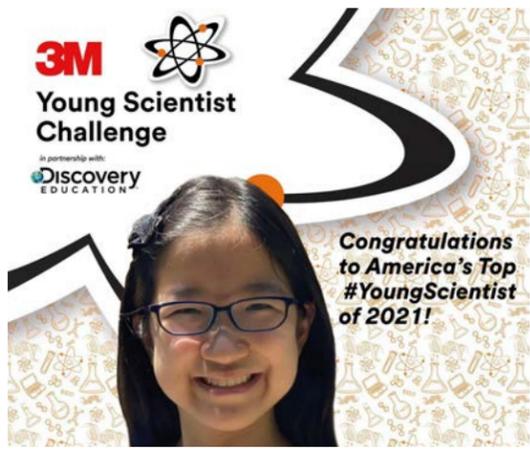
Whitehurst Campus | Thursday, December 2 | 6-8 p.m. | Monday, January 10 | 9-11 a.m.

Bartram Campus | Tuesday, January 18 | 9-11 a.m.

San Jose Campus | Friday, December 3 | 8:30-11 a.m. | Friday, January 7 | 8:30-11 a.m.



Bolles.org | Pre-K through Grade 12, Day & Boarding School.



Bolles junior Sarah Park, grand prize winner in 3M's Discovery Education Young Scientist Challenge

Bolles freshman wins America's Top Young Scientist Award

Bolles freshman Sarah Park has won the \$25,000 grand prize in 3M's Discovery Education Young Scientist Challenge for her Spark Care+ music therapy treatment project. Spark Care+ is a personalized music therapy treatment for mental health disorders that uses artificial intelligence, galvanic skin response and photoplethysmography. Park is an accomplished violinist who has performed in Carnegie Hall and won many state and national-level awards for her musicianship.

The award is the result of a months-long competition featuring the work of student-scientists in grades 5-8 from all over the country. Last spring, students submitted their ideas to help solve everyday problems and improve lives around the world. Judges selected 10 student projects, including Park's, as national finalists and competitors worked throughout

the summer – with the help of a 3M scientist mentor – to bring their innovative ideas to life, according to a 3M description.

Park worked with Dr. Ann Fornof, 3M Senior Research Specialist in Polymer Science & Adhesives, on her research and application. The final daylong event on Oct 18 included two intensive challenges judged by seven different scientists and educators. On October 19, Park shared her final presentation and participated in a question-and-answer session. The awards presentation was held later in the evening.

In her finalist overview, Park said it is her dream to be paired up with a mentor scientist to make Spark Care+ a reality.

"In 15 years, I hope to be an innovator and researcher in the medical field using technology and robotics," Park said.

RPDS Basketball Champions



Riverside Presbyterian Day School's boys and girls teams both won the North Florida Independent Schools Athletic Conference championship. Last year, due to COVID-19, athletics seasons were limited. This year, the RPDS teams were grateful for the opportunity to compete for a full, 11-week season against fellow independent schools throughout Jacksonville. After playing many talented and competitive teams throughout the season, RPDS' boys and girls teams finished the season strong. Although competing against other teams is fun, the true reward in athletics is seeing students develop new skills and grow their

understanding of the value of teamwork and sportsmanship. RPDS girls basketball coach Mike Sullivan explains, "Seeing where students start each year and where they finish is the most rewarding part of every season. This year our girls were determined and dedicated to getting better at all of the small details in basketball, and it showed in our final games." RPDS boys coach, Gabe Clark, says, "Attitude and effort. I always tell my players if they keep those things in check good things will happen. My boys this season did a good job working together and playing as a team."

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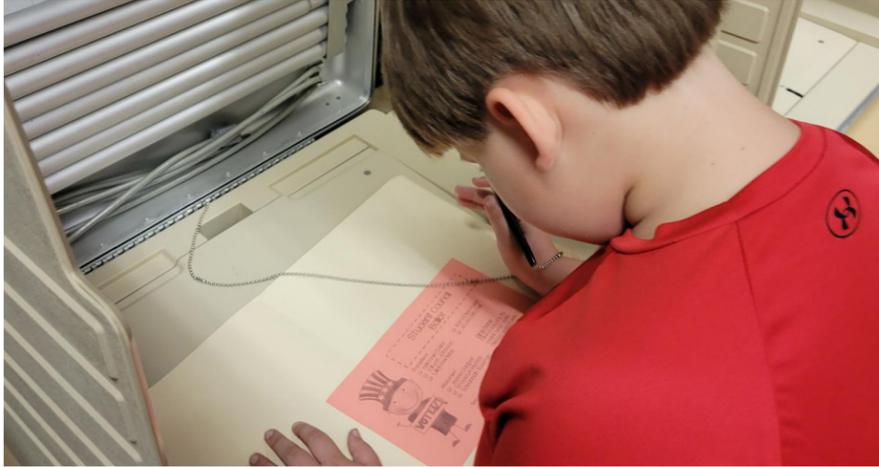
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Ruth N. Upson Elementary students vote



Students vote during Election Day at Ruth N. Upson Elementary School



The Duval County Supervisor of Elections provided the school with booths for students to cast their vote and voter stickers for those who did vote.

Students at Ruth N. Upson Elementary School took part in Election Day by holding the school's Student Council Elections. The Duval County Supervisor of Elections helped out by providing the school with voting booths and "I voted" stickers.

About 200 students voted in the election on Nov. 2. They voted in the cafeteria after their lunch period on Tuesday.

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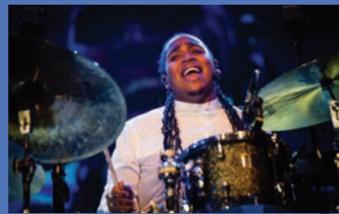
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— Jamison Ross

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McLerran, Dupont Cabrera and Nozaki

College Athletic Commitments at Bolles

Nine Bolles student-athletes were honored on November 10 for committing to a particular college or university to continue their athletic and academic careers. See the complete list of student-athletes below. Family, friends, classmates, coaches and faculty gathered in Davis Gymnasium on the San Jose Campus to celebrate this well-deserved achievement. Associate Athletic Director Kelly Stevenson welcomed everyone, and coaches introduced their respective athletes.



Haug, Zellem and Sledzik

Baseball

Max Haug, George Washington University
Tanner Zellem, University of Tennessee

Boys' Lacrosse

Andrew Sledzik, Queens University of Charlotte

Softball

Annabella McLerran, Stetson University

Boys' Swimming

Andres Dupont Cabrera, Stanford University
Tomohiro Nozaki, Georgetown University
Tucker Peterson, Brown University



Peterson, Breuer and McGrath

Girls' Swimming

Alexandra Breuer, Georgetown University
Megan McGrath, US Naval Academy



St. Paul's-Riverside students (from left) Joshua Inocencio, Greyson Rodman, Kylie Salem, Lillian Barnard, Christian Salem, Marco Chua, and Euan Pascual

St. Paul's-Riverside students join 19th JCC choral festival

Seven students from St. Paul's Catholic School-Riverside joined the 19th Annual First Coast Honors Choir Festival hosted by the Jacksonville Children's Chorus (JCC) in October. Held at Deermeadows Baptist Church, the one-day choral event began with rehearsals and culminated in a live concert featuring select students from nine schools across northeast Florida.

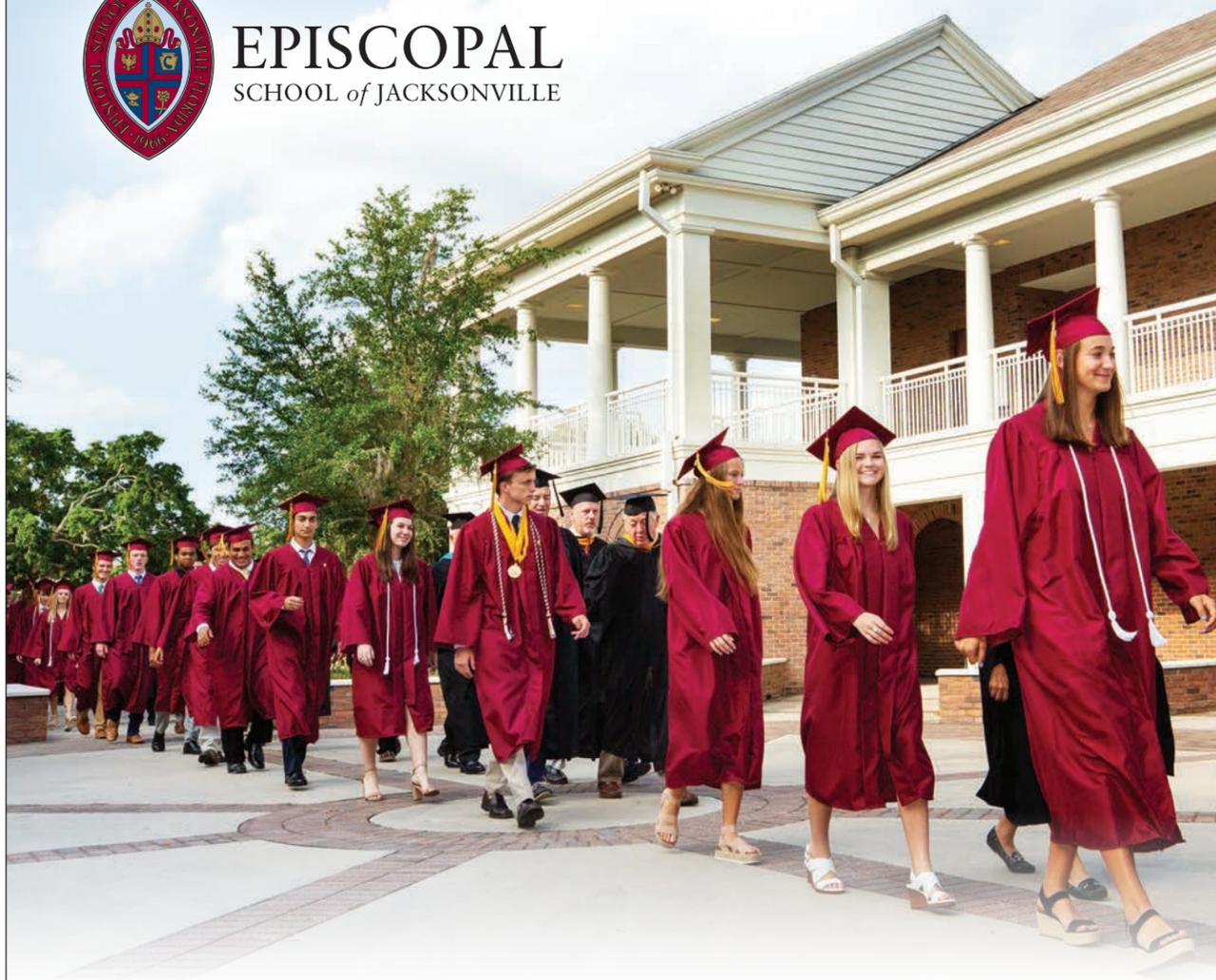
Music educators in participating schools vetted students based on overall musicianship and performance skills. St. Paul's was represented by Lillian Barnard, Marco Chua, Joshua Inocencio, Euan Pascual, Greyson Rodman, Christian Salem, and Kylie Salem.

"This event is an amazing opportunity for our students to get together with the best singers in Jacksonville, learn new rehearsal techniques and perform music in two and three parts," said St. Paul's music teacher Lisa Weindorf. "JCC's Darren Dailey and his staff go above and beyond to provide our Jacksonville children with opportunities to experience great choral music led by amazing conductors."

Guest conductors at the festival included Dr. Lynell Joy Jenkins, Westrick Music Academy's artistic director, and Robyn Reeves Lana, Cincinnati Youth Choir's founder and managing artistic director. Both are music educators of international stature.



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IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth “Betsy” Ross Lovett

MARCH 19, 1930 –
OCTOBER 26, 2021



Betsy's heart and led her to a lifetime of devoted community service and prolific philanthropy.

Betsy graduated from Lee High School and UNC Chapel Hill. She married industrialist William Dow Lovett, also from Jacksonville. Betsy adored her “Billy.”

Betsy's community roles spanned the gamut of organizations. She served as Chairman of the Cowford Ball, the American Cancer Society's annual benefit, and as Honorary Chair of “ExZOOberation.” She donated two black bears, Betsy and Billy Bear, to the Jacksonville Zoo.

Her 14 years on the Board of Trustees of the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens included two years as the first female Chairman of that board. She served as President of the Cummer Council, chaired the Cummer Ball and Auction, and reestablished the tradition of the annual Christmas tree display. She gave the naming gift for the Meissen Gallery in honor of her husband.

She was an Advisor for the opening gala for the Jacksonville Museum of Modern Art (now MOCA) in 2004 and member of the Host Committee of the 2005 Super Bowl. At the Jacksonville Historical Society, Betsy served as Vice-President and began the annual Christmas Party.

A notorious and self-proclaimed “raconteuse,” Betsy loved stories, books and libraries. She chaired the gala opening of the new Jacksonville Public Library, where she served on the Board and established the Betsy Lovett Courtyard. She chaired the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation from 2007-2010.

Betsy's dear friend Robin Albanese, current President of The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, recalled: “Betsy was an extraordinary woman who lived life to the fullest. I first got to know her co-chairing the opening of the Library. There were so many stops and starts with the project that we went from a committee of 20 to a committee of five. That did not faze Betsy! She brought in everything from flowers to food to bagpipes!”

Her years of involvement with St. Vincent's include the Betsy Lovett Surgical Center and the lead gift for the Lung Institute. She was also a member of The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital, where she supported medical programs and equipment for children.

She set the trajectory of many area artists, donating to Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, Episcopal Children's Services, Jacksonville Arts and Music School, and Jacksonville University. She established the Betsy Ross Lovett Center for the Arts at the Bolles School Bartram Campus and served as Trustee.

Betsy was awarded the 2010 Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville Individual Hall of Fame Award, the second ever given. She received the EVE Lifetime Achievement

Award from the Florida Times Union for her service to the community.

Betsy was an accomplished markswoman who enjoyed outdoor adventures including safaris in Africa and hunts with the King of Spain. She loved hunting and fishing on her large plantation in North Florida and was a strong environmentalist. She supported organizations including St. Johns Riverkeeper, Ducks Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy. She considered one of her greatest accomplishments her success in blocking the construction of a hazardous waste facility that would have endangered the Florida aquifer.

Betsy loved her farm. She said it was the place she went to nurture her soul. She even once called it her “church.”

While her extravagant, exuberant personality and humongous heart reminded one of Auntie Mame, Betsy was even more lovable. She treasured people, and people adored her. Those who knew and loved Betsy were all “dahlin” to her.

“ I have always **LOVED PEOPLE**. I don't care who they are or where they are. I don't give to receive. I give to know that **OTHERS ARE HELPED**. It's a constant reaping of joy to know that I may have helped somewhere.”

— Betsy Lovett

Her dear friend Ward Lariscy said, “Betsy was larger than life and always made everyone feel she had known them forever. Her favorite expression was ‘Cheers!’ and she would lift her champagne glass high. And at the end of the evening the glass was still almost full, as she had no time to sip it for talking. She loved costumes, and we drove her Rolls Royce with Betsy in full flapper attire across the Buckman Bridge as she waved the royal wave to startled persons who passed us, wondering who this celebrity was. Cheers, my friend!”

Indeed, she was known for those costumes, some of which she borrowed from the Santa Fe Opera. She dressed as Betsy Ross and Miss Victory at school growing up, and the passion progressed from there. For the American Cancer Society, she was once Annie Oakley. Another year she was a western madam with lighted garter and shoes holding a shootout with Sheriff John



Rutherford, who handcuffed her and took her to a “jail cell” with an old toilet bowl filled with ice and champagne. “Why not dress up and be silly if it can help an organization?” said Betsy.

Betsy's philanthropic efforts also took her outside North Florida. She was President of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Florida, and on the board of Dumbarton House in Washington and Sulgrave Manor, the ancestral home of George Washington. Betsy was Vice President of the Board of Venetian Heritage, Inc., an international restoration organization co-founded by her brother-in-law, Laurence Dow Lovett, and previously served on the Board of Save Venice.

Even with her glamorous life, Betsy's heart was one of humility and love for others. When she received the EVE Lifetime Achievement Award, she said everybody in that audience deserved it and that she was only the recipient of it for them. “There is nothing in life that you can do without a support system,” Betsy said.

Betsy believed the Jacksonville community was “extraordinary.” “I've been all over South America and Africa and Europe. I've met many royals and been to birthday parties at Kensington Palace. But I always came back to Jacksonville to find it the most beautiful, joyous, wonderful spot. It's the river. It's the people. We are fortunate to have what we have here in Jacksonville. I hope people realize it.”

Betsy is survived by two daughters, Elizabeth Lovett Colledge (Frank Denton) and Anne Lovett Jennings (Jim); seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; her sister Caroline Ross Burroughs and several nieces and nephews. She dearly loved her long-time caretaker and household manager, C. J. Farrell.

Contributions may be made to one of the causes dear to Betsy's heart.



A legendary Jacksonville hostess and entertainer, avid donor and fund raiser, donner of exquisite and show-stopping costumes, and passionate world traveler, Betsy Ross Lovett was a shining star and one in a million. Betsy passed away on October 26, 2021, but her bright light continues to shine through the many lives she touched.

Born at St. Vincent's on March 19, 1930, Betsy became seriously ill at age nine and underwent surgery also at St. Vincent's. A particular medication, along with an arm-to-arm transfusion from a fireman, saved her life. “All my life I wanted to do something for that hospital,” Betsy once recounted. Years later she put her name on the surgery and research center there. “My mother always said I must have been left on this earth for something good.”

When she was 12, Betsy knitted ‘Bundles for Britain’ with her grandmother—eight-inch squares that were made into quilts for WWII soldiers—and rolled bandages. She remembered giving away ration stamps to needy families. These selfless acts molded

Robert S. Overby

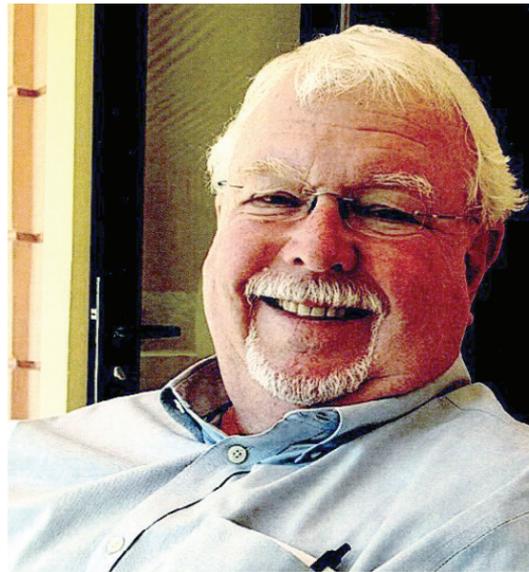
February 21, 1948 – October 31, 2021

Robert S. Overby of Jacksonville, Florida passed away peacefully on Sunday October 31, 2021. Robert was born February 21, 1948 and was the only child of Toby Overby and Ann Arline Overby.

Robert attended grammar school and high school in Jacksonville, and graduated from Mercer University in Macon, Georgia in 1969. Robert's father had been an early aviation pioneer after serving in World War 1 and gave flight instructions in Jacksonville.

Robert inherited his father's need for speed and gravitated toward race cars and motor sports after college. He was active in the Sports Car Club of America E class racing circuit from 1974 to 1980 and raced at Watkins Glen, 24 hours of Daytona and 12 hours of Sebring, among others. He won the National Championship E Class division in both 1978 and 1979 driving a Porsche 356 at Road Atlanta.

In 1983 Robert was selected by the Buick division of GM to assist in the development of their V6 racing program. From 1981 through 1984 he competed in the International Motor Sports

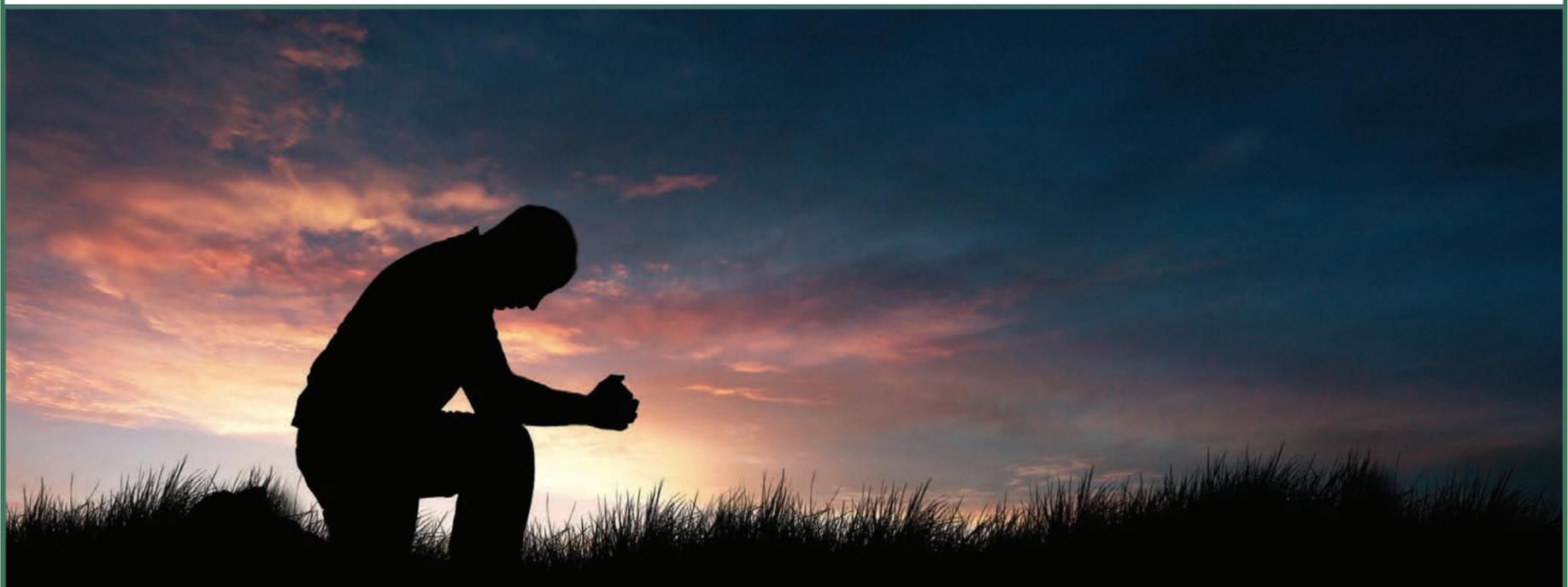


Association (IMSA) semi-pro racing Kelly Series winning three first-place finishes and winning second place in the 1983 IMSA Championship Race. Robert was a member of The Road Racing Drivers Club, an organization comprised of the most successful racing drivers from America and Europe, elected by their peers.

Robert's passion for automobiles and auto racing led him to create Overby's Fine Motorcars, which was located on Phillips Highway and served the Jacksonville community with luxury car sales and service for 44 years. Many of Robert's customers became fast friends and relied on his knowledge and experience of fine autos.

In addition to auto racing, Robert loved the outdoors and enjoyed hunting, fishing and hiking. For a time he owned property in Idaho and enjoyed many wonderful camping treks in the Tetons and Wind River Range. In recent years Robert and Katherine enjoyed several European riverboat trips. Robert was a passionate patriot with a firm and abiding belief in the United States of America. He was gregarious and engaging and always had a story or anecdote to share.

In addition to his loving wife Katherine Overby, Robert is survived by his son Whitten Robert Overby. In lieu of flowers it is requested that donations in Robert's memory be made to Tunnels to Towers, Wounded Warriors or Heartland Hospice.



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