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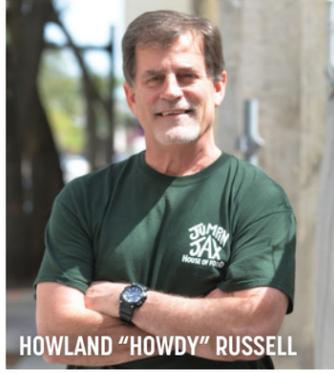
Four Candidates Seeking To Replace Hazouri On City Council



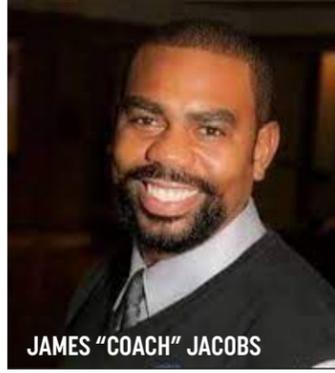
TRAYCE POLSON



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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City Council Approves Skinner Development

BY KEVIN MEERCHAERT
Resident Community News

Over the objection of many nearby residents, the Jacksonville City Council has approved a new multi-family housing project on Old Kings and St. Augustine Roads.

The proposed development includes 280 apartments in nine, three-story buildings along with 100 two-story townhouses. It also includes a clubhouse, two pools, a dog park, and social areas. It includes a retention pond design to overcompensate for runoff to ease stormwater concerns. There would be two entrances to the property. One on Old Kings and the other on Dupont Avenue.

The property has been owned by the Skinner family for decades. It has been sitting empty since 1996.

At an October town hall meeting family spokesman Chip Skinner said after the death of his father Arthur Chester Skinner Jr in 2020, none of the family members were interested in living on the property. They decided to sell the property to a developer who they believed would find the best use for the site.

“We found ourselves with 30 acres of land and 24 property owners,” he said. “We wanted it to be a quality development. Something that would add positively to the neighborhood and after much due diligence we selected the Rangewater team.”

Attorney Cyndy Trimmer represents the developers. She said they have made numerous concessions to help ease the concerns of nearby residents and they are willing to make more of them if possible. The current zoning allows 20 units per acre. Rangewater is

proposing 13. The 30-foot setback will be established from the lot line to the adjacent residential development.

Traffic engineers said according to their studies the development will not overburden Old Kings or St. Augustine Roads, both, they said, are under capacity.

Residents said despite what the studies showed, traffic in the area is already bad and the development will only make things worse.

Marty Steinberg is the president of the San Jose Parks Neighborhood Association. He said DuPont Road is already being used as a cut-through to San Jose Boulevard. “It’s a racetrack,” he said. “There is no enforcement (since the police substation on Powers closed). We are taking in some cases our lives into our hands.”

Kevin Seacrest lives next door to the development. He’s concerned that while the developers will be planting new trees to replace those lost in the buffer, it will be years before they are big enough to provide any real privacy.

“What they are going to install behind us are these little saplings that are going to die from neglect and careless maintenance anyway. There’s going to be nothing left between us and the apartments,” he said.

Some neighbors have argued that the apartments will bring in people who could cause trouble in the community. Rangewater spokesman Mike Oliver said the monthly rents projected to be \$1400-\$1600 for the one-bedroom apartments, \$1800-\$2000 for two bedrooms, and \$2300-\$2500 for the



townhouses should ensure only high-end tenants will be moving in.

Council members spent about 90 minutes questioning the developers and hearing from residents at a Land Use and Zoning Committee hearing on Nov. 16, but in the end, most of them believed the development would be the ideal use for the Skinner property.

LUZ Chair Rory Diamond said he was relying on the findings of city staff members that the development will not be a detriment

to the area. “I understand you are all passionate about your neighborhood,” he said to the opponents who attended the meeting. Diamond also said there are some good things going for the neighbors. “This is a classic infill project,” he said. “Whatever it is zoned for could have happened right behind you...and the engineers who designed this are some of the best in the world.”

The developers hope to start construction soon.

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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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Stockton Cottage sits just adjacent to the left of Preservation Hall

Stockton Cottage gets an overhaul

Venue amenities will help draw weddings, more events

The San Marco Preservation Society has wrapped up its renovations of Stockton Cottage in Fletcher Park. The renovations were completed in September.

The Cottage, which was relocated to the park in 2003, was built in 1938 as a temporary sales office for brokerage company Telfair, Stockton, and Company.

Since its move, the cottage has often been used as a bridal suite for weddings being held at the San Marco Preservation Hall next door.

Governance Chair Linzee Ott said they wanted to find ways to increase revenue at Preservation Hall and came up with the idea of renovating the cottage to draw more weddings to the park. Most of the renovations

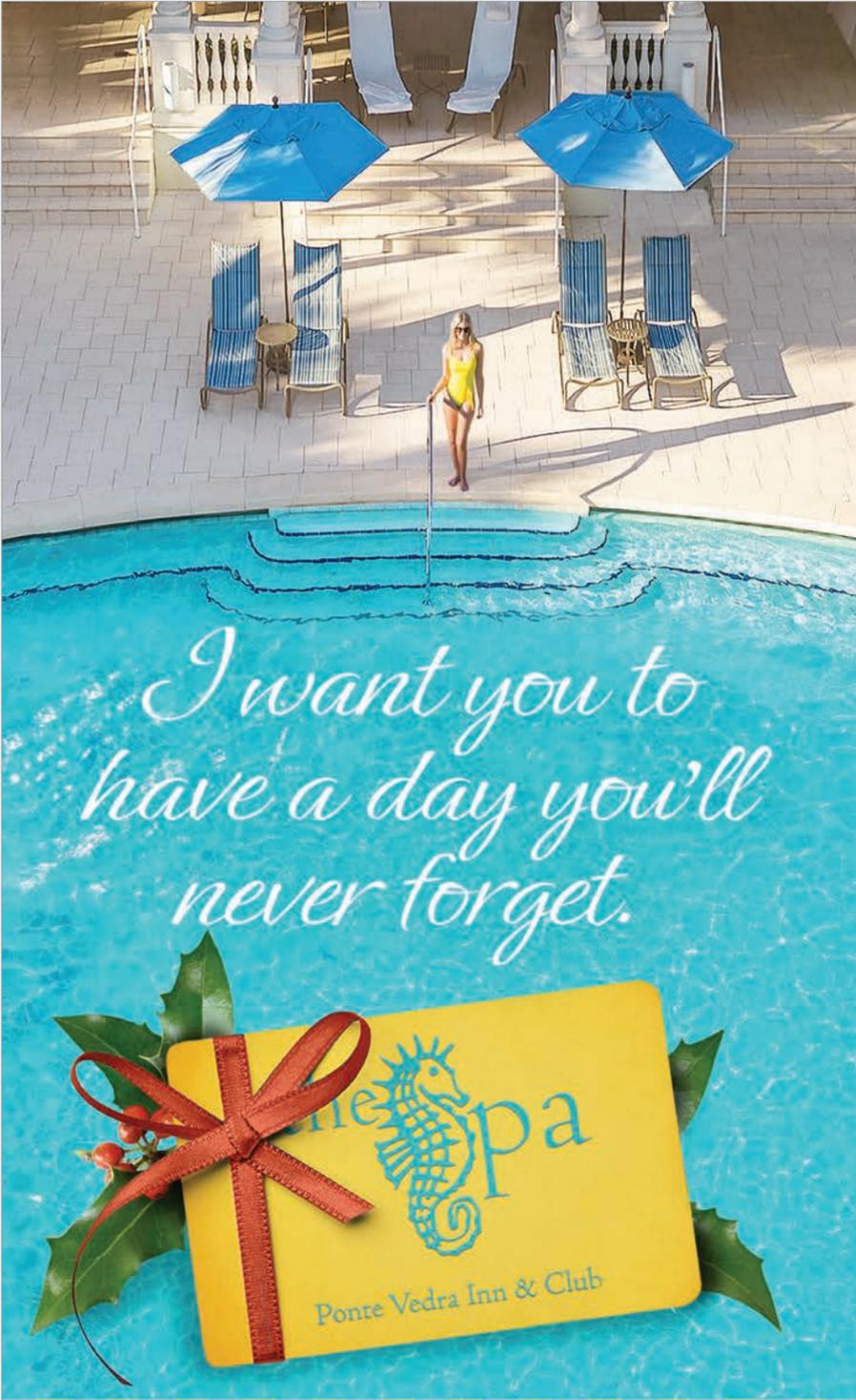
for the cottage involved a fresh paint job and contemporary furniture.

While the Hall and Cottage are available for numerous events, weddings are still the prime use. "I would say about seventy percent are weddings," Ott said.

Ott said with the COVID epidemic, more brides are looking for a smaller venue for their weddings. She says that, and the historic features of the hall and cottage have made it a desirable location for weddings in San Marco.

The Hall and Cottage are operated by the SMPS but operates independently from the rest of its mission.

All revenue from events is reinvested back into the Fletcher Park.



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New furnishings adorn the inside of the cottage as seen in this photo (provided by SMPS)

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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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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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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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Local duo gives to Ronald McDonald House



Color and Keep packages donated to RMHC by Shuler and Kolbenschlag

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.

The Art Center Cooperative Relocates To San Marco



LEFT TO RIGHT: founding members Annelies Dykgraaf, Marsha Hatcher, and current Board President Lisa Lofton cut the ribbon of the new San Marco location.

The Art Center Cooperative has relocated from the Regency Square Mall to San Marco. The move to 1225 Hendricks in July was necessary due to continuing problems at Regency. It also allowed TAC to move closer to the San Marco artist community.

Established in 2005, the cooperative was formed to bring local artists together and give them a place to work on and display their projects. Its first gallery was opened in October 2006,

It now includes at least 25 members and is expecting additional growth with its move to San Marco. TAC Board President Lisa Lofton said people have been very receptive to the move and they are getting a lot more visitors to their gallery.

"It's really been great," Lofton said. "We had about 250 people come by during our grand opening."

The Art Center Cooperative will be holding an Open House on December 4 and 5 to show and sell various holiday wares and present some demonstrations by their resident artists.

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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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.”

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 Anfuso, 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\$ 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.

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 Harvesh, 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.

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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.



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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Elsbury leaves, Krieg named COJ chief of staff



LEANN KRIEG



JORDAN ELSBURY

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



YVES RATHLE

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.

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES FLORIDA NETWORK REALTY WELCOMES DAVID WORSHAM

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



DAVID WORSHAM

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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Underwood partners with Pink Ribbon



Melissa Hirmeise, 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 under-insured 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 Dec. 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.

San Marco resident Julie Feldman wins First Prize in state art show



"Backward Glance" by San Marco resident Julie Feldman, First Prize, 31st Annual All Florida Juried Art Show

Award-winning artist Julie Feldman has done it again, this time earning first prize by juror Kirk Ke Wang, in the 31st Annual All Florida Juried Art Show on Oct. 15, 2021, for her painting, "Backward Glance." Feldman is a contemporary painter whose figurative paintings evoke a sense of mystery and discontent.

"A lot of my work is from photographs and found images," Feldman said. "Backward Glance" is from a photograph that accompanied a story in the New York Times. I painted it very quickly because I was so excited and inspired by the image."

"The women in my paintings are both vulnerable and strong, conveying their strength in haunting and expressive eyes that invite the viewer to create their own narrative or meaning," she said.

Feldman has won two other first prizes since moving to Florida: for "Up in the Air," by juror Mary Jo Hinson in 2021 and, in her first juried show in Jacksonville, for "Second Sight Series #1," by juror Nofa Dixon in 2020, both at FemArt Gallery. The gallery, located in Jacksonville, is a nonprofit that promotes women artists through exhibition opportunities and offers educational programs to build on

their art skills and business knowledge.

Before moving to Jacksonville, Feldman immersed herself in several areas of art throughout her career including weaving, hand painted decorative textiles, dried botanicals.

During her 30 years in Los Angeles, she created large scale wall hangings and extravagant botanical arrangements for commercial and residential interiors. Her work was sold at Smith and Hawken, Saks, Gumps and many boutiques across the country. She was featured in Elle Decor, Architectural Digest, Country Home, LA Magazine and many regional publications.

Feldman spent two years in Paris, first at the American College and then at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. After she returned home to Baltimore, she finished her studies at the Maryland Institute of Art.

In 2015 she returned to full-time painting, working primarily in oils on canvas. In 2019 she moved to Jacksonville with her husband, Richard, to live in San Marco with their standard poodle, Max.

Since moving to Jacksonville, Feldman has also been in a couple of arts shows by Women Writing for a Change and will be in the groups' upcoming anthology. Her portfolio can be viewed at www.juliefeldmanstudio.com.

She still harkens back to her earlier work designing unique dried botanicals for residential and corporate clients, as well as for stores and designers in Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York.

"I'll be doing a dried flower workshop at the Cummer Museum on Jan. 23," she said.

Feldman is a member of The Artist Alliance, FemArt Gallery, The Jacksonville Artists Guild and the St. Augustine Art Association.

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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 Jan. 2, 2022. For more information, go to www.mocajacksonville.org/exhibitions.

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 multi-generational 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.

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Drive-in movie benefits Community PedsCare®



Teen Advisory Board

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.

Community PedsCare®, the pediatric program of Community Hospice & Palliative Care, is a nationally recognized program for children in Northeast and North Central Florida who live with complex, chronic, life-limiting, or advanced illnesses. The team enhances the lives of families through compassion and holistic care.

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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 corona virus 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.

WGA will continue to celebrate its 20th Anniversary into next year with activities for members, grantees, and the broader Northeast Florida community.



Two generations of attendees enjoying the drive-in movie



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



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

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.



St. Johns 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 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.



Elizabeth with Caroline Rinaman, Karen Barakat, Julia Rinaman, and Amy Zeller



Gerry and Everett Crouch, John and Judy DuBose, standing (left) and Davy and John Parrish with 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.



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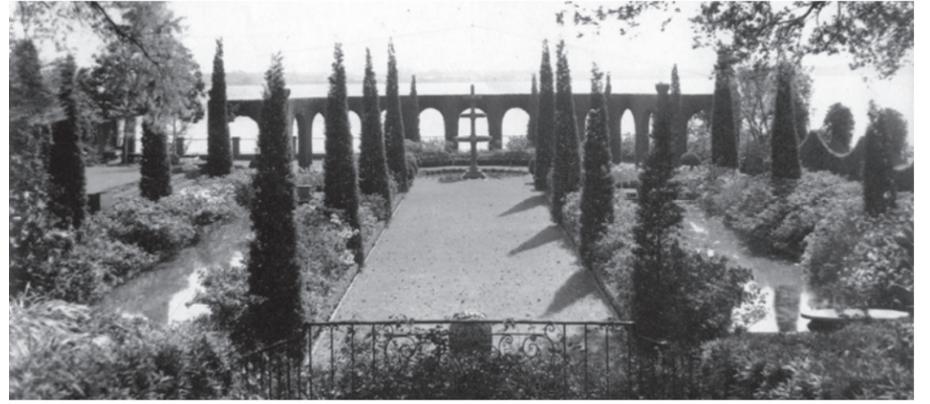


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Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens celebrates 60th



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



Italian Garden, 1937, The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens Archives



Family activities at Cummer

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 Nov. 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.

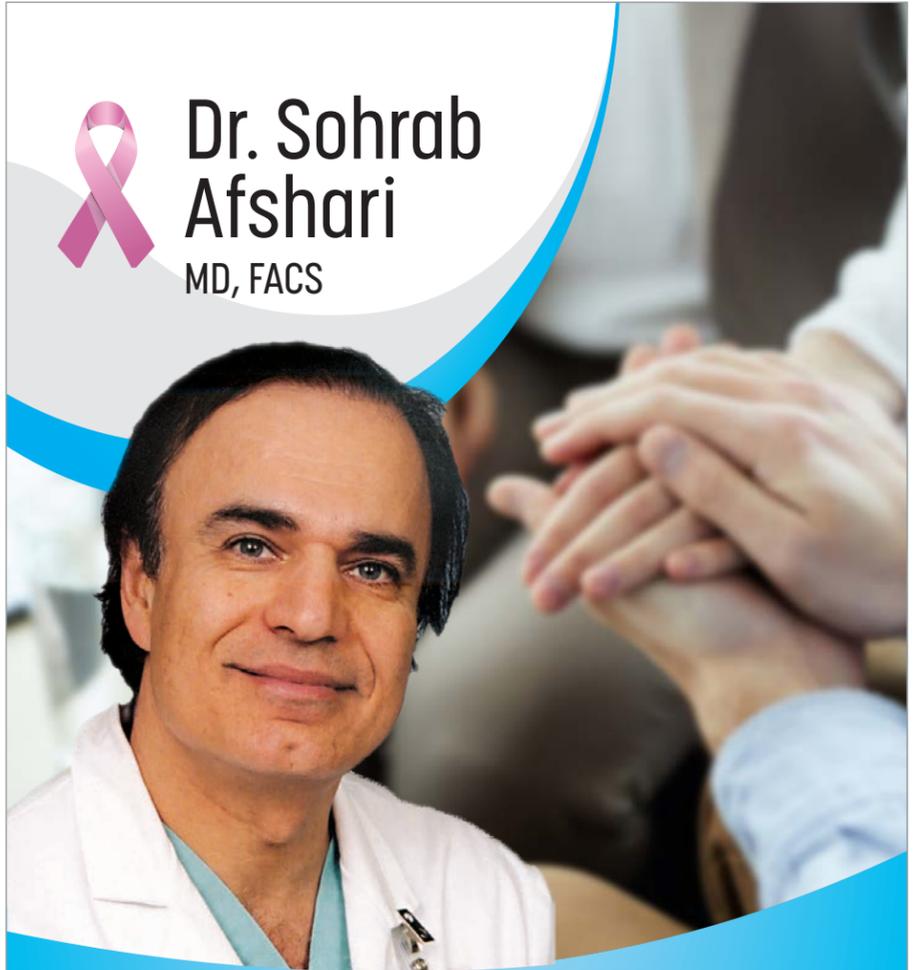
"For 60 years, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens has served as a vital source of inspiration and a place of reflection for our community—a role that has taken on even greater significance during the pandemic," said Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, Ph.D., George W. and Kathleen I. Gibbs Director and CEO of 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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Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church: 75 years young and still growing

BY KAREN RIELEY
Resident Community News

From its very beginning Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church (HAB) members have focused on how their church is being called to serve its members and the local community. The original members split from two other congregations – Faith Temple and Southside Baptist Church – and agreed to form a single church in 1945 in space they rented from the Little Theatre in San Marco. They initially wanted to call themselves Calvary Baptist Church, but soon learned that there was already a church with that name in Jacksonville.

With their decision to build a new church came a new name. A member, W.K. Hatcher, offered to purchase 14 acres of land on Hendricks Avenue beyond Oriental Gardens near the end of city development along a narrow, blacktopped State Road 13, not wide enough for two cars to pass comfortably. His one condition was that the congregation would have to match his contribution with funds going toward building the first structure.

The church was built on a vision, as much or more than it was on land. The young church claimed to be “a new Church founded with old ideals and a new idea, that of offering

to children and young people a Church that is a place of worship and also a community center ... We are convinced that no church has a moral right to close its doors during the week and then complain about young people going to other places for their social and recreational life.”

And so, the members built first not a sanctuary but a gymnasium. It became the foundation of the church’s recreation program that still is fundamentally important to its mission today.

HAB’s first service was led by Dr. C.M. Coalson, on Sept. 22, 1946. In October of 1946, when the Jacksonville Baptist Association met in October 1946, HAB reported eight baptisms. On May 16, 1947, William G. Power joined the church as its 100th member. HAB’s first wedding was when Power married Betty Crovatt 15 days later on May 31, 1947.

Member Robert F. Darby, son of HAB founding member, Fred Darby, and an architect with Reynolds, Smith and Hills, designed the church’s first sanctuary. Ground was broken on Jan. 6, 1957, and the first service was held on March 16, 1958.

True to its original vision to be a gathering place for neighborhood children, the Hendricks

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21...



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20...

Avenue Baptist Recreation Association was established in June 1958, led by Robert Carnes, first full-time recreation director for HAB. Ball fields were created and within 18 months, 398 youth were engaged in various sports offered by the program.

The sports were open to anyone in the community with these requirements: Be at least nine years old, pay a fee of one dollar per year and agree to adhere to the rules of Christian conduct. The program has been led by volunteer, not paid, recreation directors. Some are Harvey Jay, Mrs. C.G. Jones, Jim Abercrombie, George Clements and Randy Weathers.

The recreation program changed to Hendricks Avenue Community Athletic Association (HACAA), a non-church owned organization in 1986. That allowed the program to receive funds and support from the City Recreation Department and be controlled by a board of directors. HACAA has been the springboard for a number of professional athletes, such as Dee Brown, David Treadwell, Rick Wilkins and John Callhan.

One long standing mission of the church has been its work with internationals, teaching them both conversational English and citizenship classes. April 15, 1966, Christine Garnett, a former missionary to Cuba, started a Bible Fellowship at HAB with 12 Cubans. Two key figures involved in the international program were the Rev. and Mrs. Phil Maxwell, who moved to Jacksonville from Tallahassee in September 1968. During a typical year, they led English classes for 100 students from 27 nations. This ministry led to a Baptist Mission for Koreans in 1980.

HAB is also unique among Baptist churches in its promotion of women leaders.

"In the Baptist tradition, women and men have not always been recognized equally," said Dr. Kyle Reese, HAB's pastor from 1980 to 2000. "We began electing and ordaining women in the late 1980s."

In 1986, Ann Carter, Anne Birchfield, Evelyne Hanson, Sylvia McQuaig, Nannie Paul Thomas and Corinne Williams were the first females to be elected and ordained. Irene Albritton, a hospital chaplain, was the first woman ordained to the ministry by HAB. In 1990, Cheryl Warner was the first woman elected as a deacon officer, vice chair and the first to woman to administer Communion. In 1996, Mary Wood became the first female deacon chair.

"Hugh and I joined HAB in August 1987 after we moved here from Nashville," said Susan Greene. Hugh Greene, an ordained minister, retired from Baptist Health in 2019,

where he had been an executive since 1989 and CEO for 20 years.

"We were told when we moved here that there would be one church for us – HAB. We had 3 young sons and we drove in from the Beaches to go to attend," Susan said. "We joined because HAB is a progressive Baptist church – part of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF). We are an embracing church. We respect all faith traditions."

Susan has also been involved in the church's international outreach. While serving on the board of the then-YWCA, she took training to learn how to teach English to refugees. She taught classes for seven years with nearly 40 other volunteers. They taught Bosnian, Sudanese and Burmese refugees being resettled in Jacksonville by Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida.

"We could feel and know what was happening around the world by who was literally coming to our front door," she said.

HAB's most widely visible moment was when the original sanctuary was destroyed by fire on Dec. 23, 2007. The fire began in the early morning hours and burned undetected until it was impossible to prevent it from consuming the building.

The next day, Christmas Eve, the members had worship in the Family Life Center, which didn't burn in the fire. At the end of worship, All Saints Episcopal Church members came in and announced they had lunch for the members. Other churches helped as well, by loaning them music and choir robes. HAB member Joyce Hanson recalled that a Jewish young lady and her family bought the church pew bibles.

"The fire pulled the community into HAB and HAB even further into the community," Hanson said.

The new sanctuary's official opening was Dec. 23, 2009, exactly two years after the fire. The choir performed Messiah, the same music that had been performed the night before the sanctuary burned down.

HAB developed a reputation as an ecumenical church eager to work with others – Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Islamic. Its pastors have had a strong sense of the importance of community participation and involvement in roles outside the pulpit.

"HAB began interfaith cooperation in the 80s," Reese said. "Our members would serve as ushers at the temple on High Holy Days, and their members would do the same for us on Christmas and Easter. Before the Islamic Center got a building of its own, it used a Sunday School room at HAB for Friday prayers."

If you have happened to drive along Hendricks Avenue between Ash Wednesday and Good Friday any year since 1983, you may have noticed large wooden crosses draped in royal purple until Good Friday when they are changed to black for mourning and then in white on Easter Sunday morning. That tradition began with HAB and inspired All Saints Episcopal and St. Mark's Lutheran to construct their own crosses.

That cooperative effort led the three congregations to begin an annual celebration of Palm Sunday. In 1985, the three choirs and congregations gathered on the lawn in front of HAB's gym for a Palm Sunday service and then processed with palm fronds into their separate sanctuaries.

HAB's most recent community outreach is the HAB Art Gallery, which opened in 2009. The gallery features both permanent and rotating exhibits year-round. Susan Greene was part of the Art Ministry Team that planned the HAB Art Gallery.

"It became very meaningful to see how art opened up new questions and new thoughts and led to conversation," she said. "We have had people from multiple cultures involved."

In 2013, the church also established HAB Ambassadors to welcome and engage with the more than 25 groups that meet on its campus. The HAB Community Garden was also created that year.

"From its very beginning, HAB has had the community on its mind," Reese said. "When I came it was a perfect match. I wanted to be active in the community, and HAB pushed me to be more active than I ever thought possible. It was a great gift to me."

B.J. Hutto was called as HAB's pastor in 2020, just as in-person church services and activities had been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. His wife, Rev. Rebekah Hutto, a Presbyterian minister, and he, along with their daughter, Hannah Ruth, and son, Elijah, live in San Jose.

"I've been here just over a year, and during that time we haven't been able to get everybody together in the room at the same time," Hutto said. "What I've seen so far, though, is a church that is careful, considerate and willing to go the extra mile to take care of its members and the people surrounding it. It's a church that really values fellowship."

"Since I have arrived at HAB, I keep meeting interesting and interested young adults. People are always going to want to go to a place where they will be loved, where they can come together and investigate interesting, critical questions in life."

Robert Hill Jr. and his wife, Margaret, joined HAB about 20 years ago when they moved their family from Tennessee to Jacksonville. Hill is the former president and CEO for Acosta Sales & Marketing Co.

"Margaret and I both served as deacons, and our children participated in mission programs," Hill said. "The church has a history of strong, pastoral leaders serving in the community as well as in the church. It has a great leader in Pastor Hutto."

"The church will continue to change," he said. "It will be flexible in its ministry and will adapt to members' level of comfort by reaching people appropriately and beyond its walls as needed."

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HAB has benefited from three long-term pastors in its 75-year history:

The Rev. Clyde B. Lipscomb came in October 1953. He retired in 1979 after serving for 26 years.

Dr. Jack A. Snell became HAB's pastor in July 1980. He retired as senior pastor in June 2000 after 20 years to become, with his wife, Anita, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionaries in Singapore.

Dr. Kyle Truman Reese became senior pastor in May 2006. He regularly participated on a panel of pastors from different faiths called "Faith Matters," produced by WJXT. He resigned 13 years later in 2019 to become deputy director for OneJax.



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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,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29...

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Beth Robison's paint



Beth Robison with "The Mountains are Calling" Sept. 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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ANIMAL HOUSE

FRIENDS OF JACKSONVILLE ANIMALS (FOJA) CELEBRATES 4,000TH SHELTER DOG TREATED FOR HEARTWORM DISEASE

BY JULIE KERNS GARMENDIA
Resident Community News

The nonprofit Friends of Jacksonville Animals (FOJA), has much to celebrate this holiday season. FOJA's Heart Care Program has successfully treated the 4000th dog for heartworm disease, at Jacksonville's Animal Care & Protective Services (ACPS). That special 4,000th dog, Elvis, has also been adopted. This healthy, happy ending is the goal for every shelter animal, FOJA President Alicia Strayer said.

The all-volunteer FOJA incorporated in 2008, to save heartworm-positive, otherwise adoptable shelter dogs from

euthanasia. Since then, their mission has expanded to fund specialized medical care, enrichment, adoption promotion and animal welfare advocacy.

FOJA's founders, rescuer Carolyn Edwards, ACPS volunteers Sherri Audette, Ginger Hughes, Jill Mero and Margie Yarborough reacted when they learned that half of ACPS' dogs were heartworm-positive.

"ACPS couldn't afford prohibitively expensive heartworm treatment. It costs from \$60-\$400, depending upon the dog's size and disease severity. FOJA's Heart Care Program covers heartworm treatment for shelter or fostered ACPS dogs. It also offers treatment financial assistance to adopters of ACPS heartworm-positive dogs," Yarborough said. "FOJA's mission is to raise funds to pay for shelter animal needs

above and beyond what ACPS can provide. Some animals need specialized veterinary care that would otherwise be unavailable."

Strayer said that they have become the conduit for local residents to know that their FOJA donations for critical or specific animal care needs go directly to ACPS, whereas that is not the case with donations to the city. City of Jacksonville donations are deposited into general city funds and are then allocated at the discretion of city government.

FOJA manages animal care initiatives in support of ACPS animals and other pets at risk of becoming homeless. Their Intake Diversion Program helps people avoid surrender of their pet. Some owners face difficult circumstances: seniors on a limited budget cannot afford pet food; some need updated



FOJA Founding members left, Carolyn Edwards with Maverick, right is Margie Yarborough & Teddy.

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Alicia Strayer, FOJA President

“In 2012, FOJA’s Heart Care Program began to partner with veterinarians who agreed to provide heartworm treatment for a flat or reduced fee off-site,” Abbott said. Abbott is a Jacksonville native, legal assistant and adoptive mom of her ACPS rescue dog, Coco. Coco successfully beat heartworm disease through FOJA’s program.

Heartworm treatment is complicated and requires a second confirmation test, because false positives occur. After a heartworm disease diagnosis is confirmed, exercise is severely restricted; physical exercise increases the rate of organ damage from heartworms.

Next, an overall health evaluation and diagnostic tests identify other health issues to be addressed before treatment. Heartworm treatment can interfere with or worsen other health conditions already present in the animal.

Bloodwork is necessary to determine the severity of heartworm infestation. A minimum of sixty days is required for the series of injections to be completed. Approximately six-nine months after completion of treatment, testing is repeated to confirm elimination of all heartworms. After successful treatment, oral heartworm prevention medication must be administered monthly, for the animal’s lifetime, to prevent recurrence.

Heartworm disease is a potentially fatal disease transmitted by mosquitoes. It is found in every U.S. state. Left untreated, the preventable disease leads to a slow and painful death. The parasites are foot-long worms that live in the heart, lungs and blood vessels of affected pets, severely damaging organs.

Adult female heartworms produce microscopic microfilaria (baby worms), that circulate in the infected animal’s bloodstream. When a mosquito bites an infected animal, it carries the worms and infects the next animal it bites. The larvae reach maturity within six months. They live from five-seven years in dogs and two-three years in cats. Heartworm disease affects dogs, cats and ferrets. Heartworms also live in other mammals, including, rarely, humans.

For these reasons, veterinarians urge pet owners to start monthly heartworm preventive treatment, which is highly effective when given correctly. However, it is not 100% effective in all animals. Some pets may still become infected with heartworms, despite monthly preventative medication. Most otherwise healthy dogs that test positive for heartworms

can be successfully treated. The earlier the disease is detected through an annual blood test, the better.

Puppies should be prescribed heartworm prevention medication by a veterinarian and all dogs should have annual heartworm blood tests during routine vaccine appointments. Heartworm prevention medication is prescribed by a veterinarian after a negative heartworm test.

Cats can also become infected with heartworm disease, but it is less common and more difficult to detect. Currently, there is no safe, approved treatment for feline heartworm disease. Most heartworms in cats do not survive to become adults, but the immature worms can still cause respiratory disease. Owners should consult their veterinarian about heartworm disease exposure and risks for outdoor cats.

Annually, FOJA coordinates with ACPS to identify specific, unfunded projects urgently needed to better care for shelter animals. FOJA welcomes donations to help ensure identified projects can be completed.

For 2022, FOJA President Strayer and ACPS Chief Jennifer Walter have prioritized the following 2022 projects: replacement of worn play yard fencing, privacy screening and sunshade structures (the fencing alone cost \$10,000 in 2013). The 2022 total cost for those items has been estimated at \$15,000 - \$20,000. Other projects include: replacement of worn-out adoption lobby cat enclosures (original to the 2009 building-broken, damaged or no longer properly latch), estimated at \$50,000; kennel top covers to prevent escapes by the more athletic dogs; replenishment of pet supplies given out by ACPS Animal Control to help pet owners secure their pets (safe dog run pulley systems).

ACPS currently receives approximately 50 - 100 dogs and cats per day. Animals are brought to the shelter as lost pets, homeless strays, owner-surrendered pets or animals saved and removed from animal abuse situations. Visit the ACPS website at www.coj.net/pets to see lost or adoptable pets, become a foster for a dog or cat awaiting adoption, or to volunteer.

FOJA has no physical shelter or public office to eliminate overhead expenses. All members, officers and board members are unpaid volunteers. The organization’s only expenses are required insurance and taxes. FOJA does not directly accept or rescue animals from the public, but they do accept donations and volunteers through their website.

vaccines they cannot afford, to move into or remain in rental or other housing; owners face breed discrimination or conflicts that can be resolved with professional advice, information or resources. FOJA’s goal is to keep owners and pets together.

FOJA members take pride in never saying no, if possible, to needs of the shelter animals or staff, Strayer said. Although staff rarely make requests, last year FOJA learned that ACPS’ ancient washing machine could not handle the daily mountains of laundry. FOJA purchased a commercial washer for the shelter. Charity Watch, the independent charity watchdog that verifies how donation money is spent, has awarded FOJA its highest rating.

Allison Abbott, who asked to chair FOJA’s Heart Care Program, said that since the heartworm treatment program began and the first ACPS shelter dogs were successfully treated, thousands of adoptable dogs have been saved. She said that it is a wonderful feeling to know that every single month more heartworm-positive dogs complete treatment, ready for adoption into forever families.

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THE WAY WE WERE

Nina and John Searcy

BY MARY WANSER
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



Searcy 50th anniversary, 2006



Searcy engagement, 1956

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 Wagenen 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

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 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



Searcy wedding, 1956



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Searcy family, 1976

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



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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.

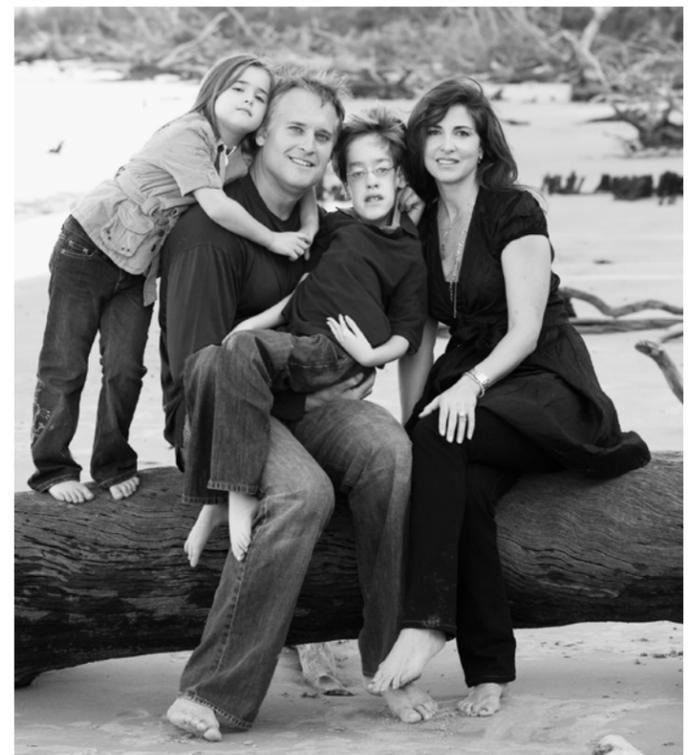
On April 15, 2009, Nibs gave birth to twelve puppies, eight females and four males. Five of the females carried the MTM gene and one of the males was affected with the disorder like Joshua. Nibs' progeny lives on, contributing to research and wagging their way into the hearts and homes of affected families. 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.



JUNIOR RESIDENTS



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 Oct. 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.

SJEDS celebrates autumn during Fall



Past Fall Festival chair Caren Jones and her daughter greet students at morning drop-off with Jaxson, their therapy pet-in-training.

Angela Rivera-Zinsmeister and Elise Summa, this year's Fall Festival co-chairs, work on a balloon arch.

The playground at San Jose Episcopal Day School was transformed into a cornucopia of autumn décor for the school's annual Fall Festival on Oct. 29. Costumed preschoolers and kindergarteners entertained Halloween-bedecked first through sixth graders with their traditional costume parade. Festival activities included magic shows, inflatable slides, crafts, pizza lunch, Kona Ice treats and a petting zoo.

Fall Festival co-chairs Angela Rivera-Zinsmeister and Elise Summa planned the event with the assistance of last year's co-chairs Caren Jones and Cyndi Hodges. Parents Garrett Johnson and Candace Poellnitz-Johnson provided pizza. Additional sponsors were Tidewater Homes; Stone, Glass & Connolly Law; Gleason Hope Law; and Cindy Corey, realtor.

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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.



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.

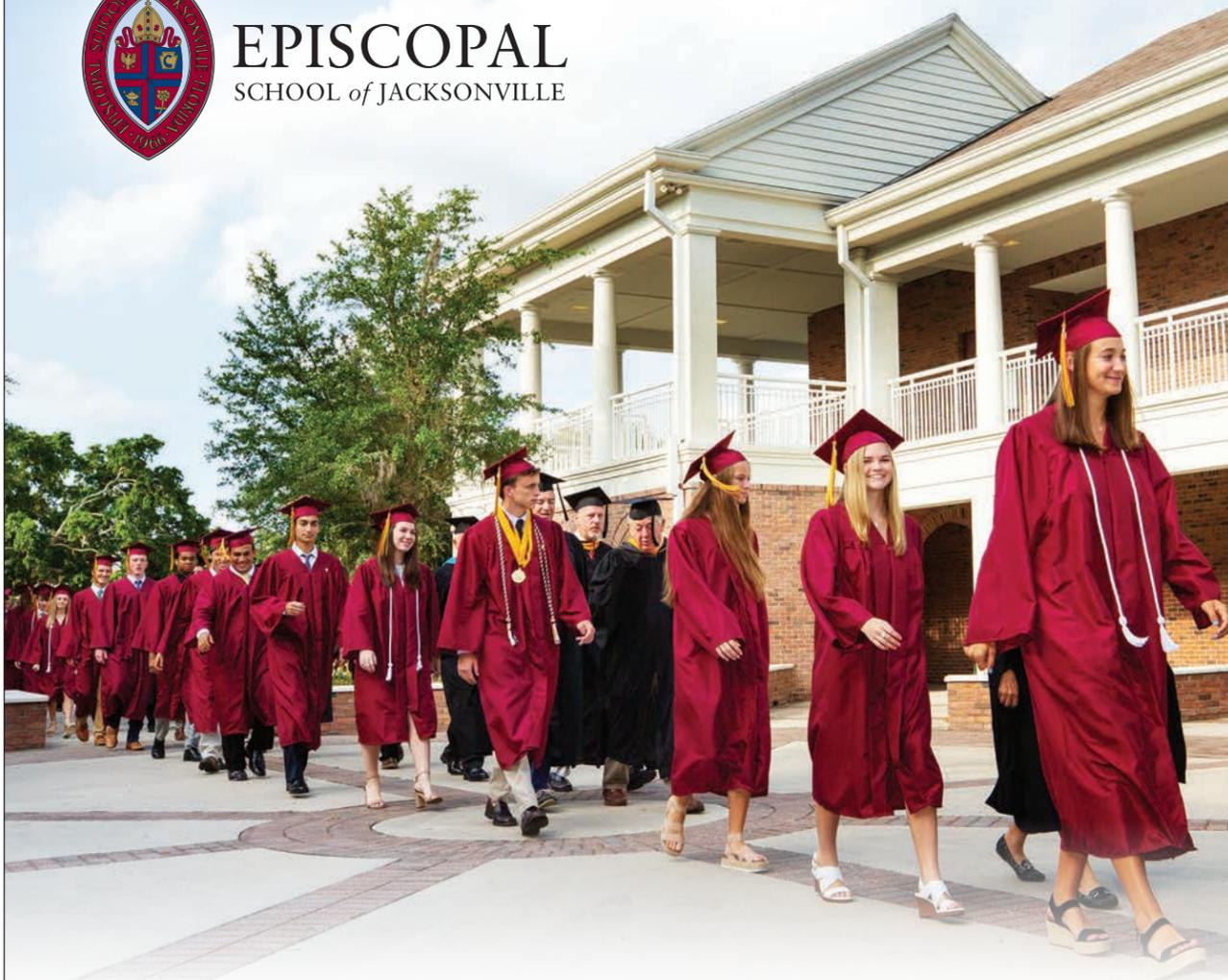
The seven signees who have made a commitment to continue their academic and athletic careers at the next level are as follows:

- 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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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

Bishop Kenny hosts award-winning author

Bishop Kenny High School hosted alumna Dr. Teresa Thompson Van Woy '85, an award-winning and best-selling author, for a presentation and book signing. Fifty guests attended the event at the Carla Harris Performing Arts Center.



Dr. Van Woy read from her 2020 memoir *Wildflower*, a Tale of Transcendence, which details her difficult upbringing as she persevered through abuse, homelessness, and caring for her siblings while finding joy in her adventures and fantasizing about a better life.

During her visit, the author was able to tour campus for the first time since her graduation and have a short visit with the school's former president, Monsignor Daniel Logan.

Dr. Van Woy currently resides in Benicia, California with her husband and three daughters. She is a board-certified podiatrist who enjoys photography in her spare time.

SJEDS faculty attend FCIS conference



Megan Trumpler and Katie Foster, SJEDS faculty

Two members of the San Jose Episcopal Day School faculty recently presented a session called "Knockout Novel Studies" at the Florida Council of Independent Schools conference. Katie Foster, sixth grade teacher, and Megan Trumpler, fifth grade teacher, led the session virtually.

"At the end of the session, all participants shared contact information so the professional development continues as ideas are shared all around Florida," Foster said.

FCIS is the premier accrediting body for independent schools in Florida recognized by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the international authority on independent school accreditation representing schools in over 100 countries.



SJEDS Student help outreach ministry

San Jose Episcopal Day School's 2nd Annual Friendly Food Competition Collection amassed an amazing 3,110 food and necessity items to benefit the Food Pantry, an outreach ministry of St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Sixth-grade managed the project under the direction of their teachers, Katie Foster and Natalie Inclan. During the week-long event, all homeroom classes vied with each other for the top collector prize. The end result of the collection was a spectacular, mountainous display that included can-lined pathways illuminated by twinkle lights.

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-Roshan Kallivayalil, '94 and BK parent

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HAB Baseball League facilities get a facelift

Leaders seek volunteers, donations and community support



For generations of local youth, the Hendricks Avenue Baseball League (HABL) has been a game changer. Providing confidence, skills, and knowledge of America's game all while getting area youth the exercise, fresh air, and sunshine they need to grow has been key to its mission. Since its humble

beginnings back in 1946, the league has been turning to volunteers to keep the engine running, while offering a top-notch youth sports experience for local families.

As of last Summer, coming out of the COVID lockdowns, the fields and facilities needed grounds maintenance and amenity improvements. As the demand increased, the deferred maintenance needed to be addressed. A few local families stepped up, taking immediate action to improve upon the current situation by pitching in funds and elbow grease to get started. Of those early families that sprung into action, Chet Skinner and Alan Ridge were among them. Both men participated as players, both coached their own children in the league and continue to take immense pride in improving upon the ballfields.

From new batting cages and the rebuilding of the bullpen, which Skinner referred to as 'world class', the areas look sharp and ready for competition. Irrigation was improved upon in conjunction with some fresh sod and a new set of bleachers and four new sets of sunshades were added for those hot sunny days ahead. "We did that [initial funding] with one quick meeting, and what followed was multiple devoted families asking, "What can we do, we grew up playing here...my son played here, my grandfather played here," shared Skinner, as he talked about the future of the league and those others ready to step up to raise funding.

From the grounds to the mounds, it's an all-volunteer effort, as Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church owns the property, allowing the league to operate the fields, raise funding and host baseball on the grounds. The league and local families care for and maintain every facet of the operation, there's no city mowing crew showing up to maintain the grass - weeds included - it's all hands on deck.

"It's a really great league, with a really great family feel. It's competitive and becoming more competitive and we've got really good participation," said Ridge. "We had over 300 kids play in the Spring and over 250 this Fall."

The three fields are in use constantly and to get the numbers through the season's packed schedules, the league will have to continue raising funds, and growing notice of its seasonal sign-ups, which opened for registration Nov. 28 and will continue through Jan. 22.

The early lessons learned growing up at HABL are reflected in league mantras - Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, Teamwork and Healthy Competition. All are all facets of growing up, but sports and athletics teach lessons that can't be learned in the classroom, that's why sports leagues like HAB are building for the future.



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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.



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

Bishop Kenny wins State Title

The Bishop Kenny Boys’ Swim team won the FHSAA Class 2A state title at the 2021 Swimming & Diving State Championships held on Nov. 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.”

1ST GRADER PRESENTS ON DIWALI AT SJEDS



On Nov. 4, first grader Johan A. of San Jose Episcopal Day School made a presentation to fellow classmates and some third graders about Diwali, the oldest and most celebrated holiday in his Indian culture.

Dressed in the traditional kurta, a loose collarless shirt, Johan explained all about this festival of lights

that observes the triumph of good over evil. He shared with his classmates about not only the holiday but also about his family’s Indian heritage.

Johan brought in some symbolic items—like a glass elephant, which represents peace, strength, and power. He also brought in candles and incense.

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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.



Kate Price, Isabella Borghese, and Hayden Jones had fun at the petting zoo.

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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!"



Mackenna Gregory and Maddie Millar

National Signing Day at Bishop Kenny

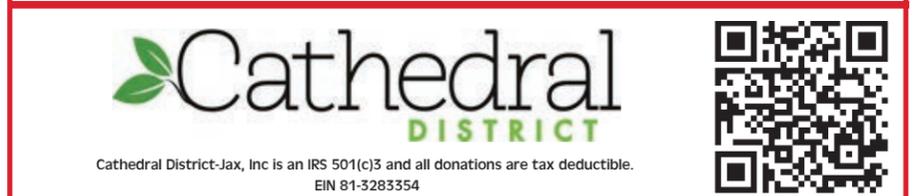
Two Bishop Kenny student athletes signed college scholarships on National signing day, held on Wednesday, November 17. With the exception of football players, senior athletes who have college scholarship offers can sign in this early signing period. Football players and other scholarship athletes have the opportunity to sign in December and February.

Mackenna Gregory signed to play soccer for East Carolina University. Gregory will be a center forward at East Carolina which was the same position she played on the 2020 State 4A Championship team at BK. Gregory said, "Playing high school soccer has been a wonderful experience for me bringing many new close friendships that I will cherish throughout my life." She is a strong student and when not playing soccer works part time at a local restaurant.

Maddie Millar signed to play basketball for the University of North Florida. Millar is the team captain and has been on the varsity team for four years as a guard. She stated, "Playing high school basketball has taught me many life lessons and I am thankful for my education at BK because it made me into the person I am today on and off the court." Millar has a rigorous academic schedule and is very involved in school activities. She is a Kairos leader and also a member of Drug Free Duval Youth Co-Lab. Millar plans to pursue a degree in business and integrate her future career with basketball.



Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Downtown Jacksonville



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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

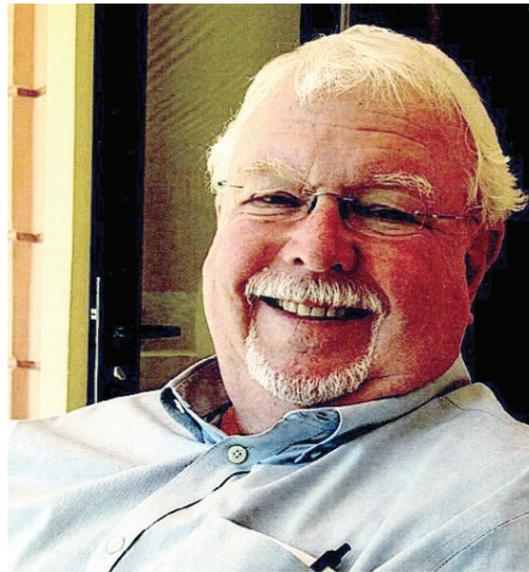
February 21, 1948 – October 31, 2021

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

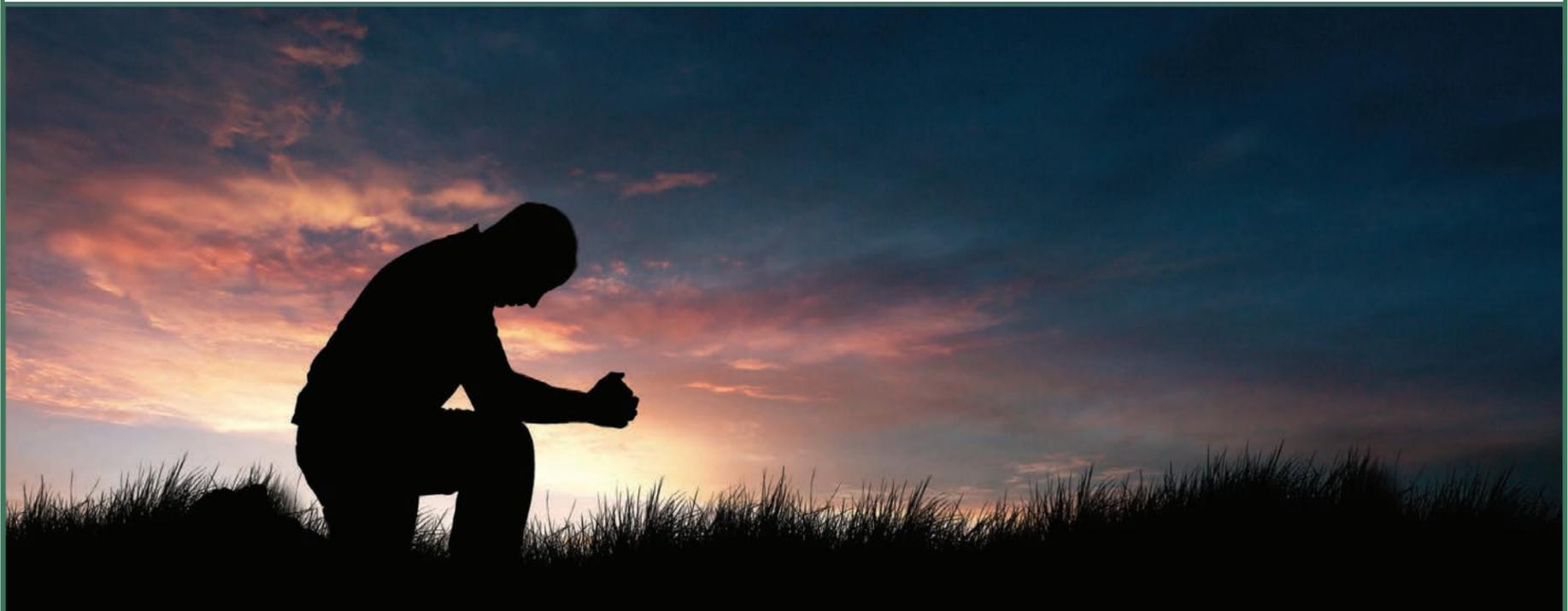


Association (IMSA) semi-pro racing Kelly Series winning three first-place finishes and winning second place in the 1983 IMSA Championship Race. Robert was a member of The Road Racing Drivers Club, an organization comprised of the most successful racing drivers from America and Europe, elected by their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