



Evening soiree a big draw for annual Home Tour

Looking dapper, George and “pretty-in-pink” Julia Martin attended the Home Tour Twilight Party on Richmond Street April 25.

READ MORE, [PAGE 24](#)

Keeping historic neighborhoods intact

Ortega residents fight frontage waivers to prevent lot divisions, higher density, while Riverside Avondale Preservation plans community meeting to review proposed legislation on short-term rentals in the historic neighborhoods.

READ MORE, [PAGE 12](#)

Fishweir Creek restoration project moving along in survey, design phase

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

The Army Corps of Engineers has been moving along with initial design and survey steps for the proposed aquatic habitat ecosystem restoration project on Fishweir Creek.

Since meeting with residents on both sides of the creek – in Fairfax Manor and the Arden neighborhood – in late September 2018, the Corps has completed its topographic field survey, and is expecting to complete the new channel alignment by the end of May, at which time it will begin a scour

CONTINUE READING ON [PAGE 4](#)

RIVERSIDE · AVONDALE · ORTEGA · MURRAY HILL

Resident

COMMUNITY NEWS

Annual YARD GOLF BENEFIT SCORES FOR LOCAL LEGAL AID ASSOCIATION

Steve Pajcic, right, points at Thomas Lloyd, a prior year hole-in-one challenge winner. With them are Walt Nicholson and his brother, Marvin, who is Steve’s son-in-law.

READ MORE, [PAGE 24](#)



WOMAN’S CLUB GIFTS NEARLY \$25,000 TO SIX LOCAL NONPROFITS

Several local nonprofits were recipients of The Woman’s Club of Jacksonville’s generosity at its annual grants luncheon March 27 at the Timuquana Country Club. Receiving grants were Family Promise, \$5,000, educational program to support homeless mothers’ to self-sufficiency; DESC (Downtown Ecumenical Services Council, Inc., \$5,000, to assist women and children through their Food Pantry program; Jacksonville Historical Society, \$5,000, one year’s salary for a archiving Woman’s Club collection; West Riverside Elementary School, \$5,000, purchase of musical instruments; Ortega Elementary School, \$2,900, purchase of a Leveled Literacy Intervention Kit for kindergarten classes; and We Care Jacksonville, Inc., \$2,000, nutrition education, assistance for women with chronic disease.

Katherine Naugle, Laura Crooks, Michelle Tibbets, Shannon Rose-Hamann, Mark Landschoot, Beth Mixson, Shawna White, Jack Warren, Betty Lustig, David Clark, Susan King, Julie Handley, Pat Andrews, Alan Bliss, Nancy Chamblin, Emily Lisska

Dinner on the Farm welcomes First Lady

Smiling broadly at the annual Berry Good Farms’ Dinner on the Farm fundraiser were Camille Ott and Francine Shell with Jacksonville First Lady Molly Curry and Jessica Waugaman, director of advancement for North Florida School of Special Education.

READ MORE, [PAGE 22](#)



Arbor Day celebrated by Greenscape leadership

Robin Patton, Greenscape board member and Kim Bongiovanni, incoming board president, pose for a photo with Gourd’s Gone Wild owner Linda Vacca and Anna Dooley, Greenscape executive director.

READ MORE, [PAGE 31](#)



Women’s Board Spring Luncheon gathers generous group of givers

The waterfront home of Karla Newton played host to the annual spring luncheon and kickoff for the Women’s Board of Wolfson Children’s Hospital.

READ MORE, [PAGE 17](#)



Jennifer Pentaleri with hostess Karla Newton

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Reader shares school board plan to move students from Ortega Elementary to Venetia

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

Thanks to Ortega resident George Nelson, *The Resident* is looking into a proposal that has some Ortegans disturbed about the future of a neighborhood landmark.

Nelson, whose wife, Robin, teaches second grade at Ortega Elementary School, said "You may be aware that the school board is considering a master plan to revamp the schools in the city. Pursuant to the presentation given to the community on March 21st the current plan is to demolish Venetia Elementary and then rebuild it with additional classrooms. It is also in the master plan to add classrooms to Stockton and Fishweir Elementary. The plan includes closing Ortega Elementary school and placing those students at Venetia. Ortega Elementary would then be demolished."

Nelson also shared that after the Duval County School Board received comments from the public about some of the scenarios, Superintendent Dr. Diana Greene intends to conduct further dialogue in the school community about the proposed Ortega/Venetia Elementary Schools situation to evaluate potential alternatives.

The Resident reached out to the City of Jacksonville regarding the historic status of Ortega Elementary School. Christian Popoli, City planner supervisor for the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission, said the school is not listed as a candidate for demolition. The building would be renovated and used as "swing space." Since it is not a locally designated landmark, renovations would not be reviewed by JHPC.



Ortega Elementary School

The two-story Mediterranean Revival school located at 4010 Baltic Street was constructed in 1923 to replace the original wood frame school built in 1914 on Longfellow St. after the community was platted in 1909 by Henry J. Klutho, one of Jacksonville's most famous architects. The school was the 16th school opened in Duval County. After the new school was built, within a few years two more classrooms were added along the Princeton Avenue wing of the building. In 1935, with help from the W.P.A., a new auditorium, with an entrance on Harvard Street, was constructed. Two additional wings were added in 1950-1951 at the front of the building on Baltic Street.

The school is noted in the National Register of Historic Places for the Old Ortega Historic District as a contributing structure.

According to the Property Appraiser's website, the Ortega Elementary School building currently has a value of \$1.22 million and a land value of \$353,925. The Venetia Elementary School, built in 1942, has a value of \$94,707 and a land value of \$2.37 million.

The Jacksonville Public Education Fund's website indicates an enrollment of 398 students at Ortega, 411 at Venetia. Both schools are magnet schools – Ortega is a museum magnet and Venetia is a medical arts magnet – and both have a School Grade of C.

Look for a more in-depth story in a future issue about the Duval County Public School Board's Facilities Master Plan. In the meantime, visit dejongrichter.com/duvalfmp/ for information about the findings.

Friends of Library to host big book sale

The Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library will hold its semi-annual "Big Bag Sale" of books, DVDs and CDs Thursday-Saturday, May 16-18, at FJPL's Book Warehouse at University Park Library, 3435 University Blvd. North.

Thursday, May 16, 4-8 p.m., is Members Night. Members receive a 25 percent discount on one \$15 bag and receive a second bag free. Don't worry – if you're not a member you can join at the door for just \$10. Friday, May 17, 4-8 p.m., and Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., buy one bag for \$15 and get a second bag free.

Sales tax of 7% is applicable to all sales. Proceeds help support the Jacksonville Public Library. For more information call (904) 630-2304 or visit the website at FJPL.org.

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open floorplan and 1st floor master



UNDER CONTRACT

931 WINSTONIAN WAY - \$150,000
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Crystal Springs area. 3/2, 1232sf,
updated with pool



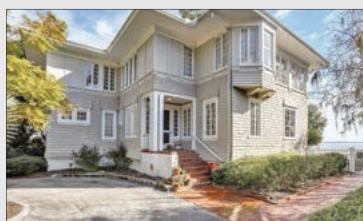
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to family room, split bedrooms,
and a pool!



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Fishweir Creek restoration project

FROM PAGE 1

analysis to determine how far away from the bridge the dredging portion of the project will need to be.

For several of the property owners along the St. Johns River who expressed concern about installation of an island in the center of the channel, the good news is it might be relocated or possibly even removed from the plan. However, a lot of coordination is required for complete removal.

“Based on survey data we received, it appears placement of the island in the center of the channel could prove challenging and very costly,” said Jason Harrah, project manager, Water Resources Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “I wouldn’t say, at this time, it’s 100% off the table or would be relocated but we should have a final decision in June. Right now we are working to finalize design of the channel and review real estate ownership from the recent surveys received.”

Harrah said the topographic field survey, completed at the end of March, has resulted in a second look at the island location. Property owners were concerned it would obstruct their view, attract bugs and floating litter, and not withstand major storms. Harrah said the significant cost to construct a metal wall around the island for stability as well as difficulty in constructing the island to withstand large storm surges from 50- or 100-year storms may change the plan. In addition, material might have to be brought in to construct the island to full design standards, which could prove very costly, he said.

“We are now looking into the possibility of expanding the existing marsh area adjacent to Little Fishweir Creek, parallel to Morningside Street, where the docks

are,” he said. “This would provide a similar acreage to what was authorized and allow for continued growth of that marsh area back to its natural state before all of the development. If you look at aerial photos from the 1940s/1950s, you can see the marsh was much more expansive. Our goal is to restore this lost marsh area on the northern bank of Fishweir Creek.”

At this time, the City of Jacksonville is reviewing the deeds to the properties where the marsh area may be moved. “If the creek area around these docks is, in fact, owned by the residents, then the City will have to obtain perpetual easements to allow us to construct the expanded marsh,” Harrah said.

The shoaling analysis will determine whether moving the marsh would impact the future shoaling of the creek and result in more frequent dredging. “Our modelers are working this answer and also making sure that the proposed new channel alignment, widths, depths will all work with future flows from storms, etc.,” said Harrah.

As regards the scour analysis, which will provide a better understanding of how big the buffers need to be for the bridge, Harrah said it would need to be approved by the Florida Department of Transportation after it is complete at the end of June.

Once both analyses and the City’s review of deeds is complete, the Corps will share the results with FDOT to get approval to move forward with a solid plan. Harrah said they are planning a public meeting late summer/early fall to share the final plan. Watch for meeting details on the Resident Community News Facebook page.

Emerald Trail first mile walk brings completion one step closer

By Kandace Lankford
Resident Community News

It has been more than a century since architect Henry Klutho came up with the gem of an idea to build a circle of trails connecting the neighborhoods around downtown Jacksonville, and his plan is finally coming close to fruition.

At the Emerald Trail first mile walk, held April 13, hundreds came out to walk the site where the beginning of the trail will be built. Maps were distributed and docents led small groups along the route, stopping at several points of interest along the way to explain how the Emerald Trail will be built and what it will look like when finished.

The walk began at the Prime Osborn Convention Center and concluded at the south end of the existing S-Line Rail. Plans for the first mile of the trail include making the Park Street viaduct more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly by adding a dedicated two-way bicycle track and a pedestrian area with benches and art; a proposed greenway along East Duval Street with an overlook area adjacent to the pond, and the proposed side path on Church Street could possibly use the FDOT land under I-95 to transition into a greenway heading through city-owned greenspace.



Kay Ehas, CEO of Groundwork Jacksonville, and District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer spoke to the large crowd that gathered at the Prime Osborne Convention Center April 13 to walk the first mile of the Emerald Trail. Construction of the first mile will begin in 2020.



While walking the first mile of the Emerald Trail, docent-led groups paused at Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park, one of 28 parks that will connect directly to the trail when it is complete.

Groundwork Jacksonville’s Emerald Trail Master Plan was approved by the City Council March 26. The \$88,200 plan cost was privately underwritten by a \$50,000 donation from JTC Running (JTC) and through grants from Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and the Giving Forward Community Endowment Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

According to Ehas, the next step will be to design and build the “Model Project,” a portion of the trail that will be highly utilized and will offer the community a tangible example of what the finished Emerald Trail

can be. The 1.3-mile Model Project will connect the south end of the existing S-Line Rail Trail to the intersection of Park Street and Stonewall Street, near the convention center. The goal is to have the project completed in 2020.

“The Emerald Trail will not only create unprecedented recreational opportunities in the urban core, it is a transformative transportation and economic redevelopment project,” said Ehas. “Groundwork sees Jacksonville’s neighbor to the north as an example of the impact this project could have. If you look at the Atlanta BeltLine, the direct economic impact is almost \$4 billion dollars thus far. We believe the Emerald Trail will deliver significant economic benefits to Jacksonville as well.”

The estimated cost of the Emerald Trail is \$31 million, not including land purchases, and it will take approximately 10 years to create and connect 30 miles of new and existing trails in the urban core. Groundwork Jax is responsible for raising half the money for design and permitting costs from private donors, grants and foundations. The trail will eventually connect to 18 public schools, two colleges, and 28 parks directly and within three blocks of another 20 schools and 20 parks.

“Everyone involved in revitalizing Jacksonville is looking for ways to create a more livable, walkable, recreational downtown to attract residents, visitors and business expansion to the urban core,” said District 5 Councilwoman Lori Boyer. “The Emerald Trail will help to accomplish this while also improving mobility and economic opportunity for those who currently live in the historic urban neighborhoods along the proposed trail.”



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City says Lakeside bridge replacement to begin this summer

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

The annual crop of colorful utility flags has sprung up again along Lakeside Drive between Herschel Street and Wabash Avenue. Like tulips heralding spring, those flags are alerting residents and passers-by of the start of the combined Lakeside Bridge replacement and the Lakeside sidewalk projects.

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

In October 2018, City Council passed a bill to increase the funding to \$1,334,240 for the bridge project, citing the Florida Department of Transportation's evaluation which indicated the 59-year-old bridge

is "structurally deficient and in need of replacement." The bridge serves an estimated 14,000 trips per day and loss of the connection would be a serious disruption of traffic pattern in the area, according to the 2018 Legislative Fact Sheet which accompanied the bill.

Additionally, the City's Public Works Department was originally given a \$159,000 budget in 2017 to install sidewalks in that area, a surprisingly heavily-traveled surface street for the few homes and businesses along that 0.3-mile stretch.

The roadway is a popular cut-through from northbound Roosevelt Boulevard for motorists heading toward St. Johns Avenue. Lakeside Drive is also well-traveled by pedestrians and bicyclists from boats docked at the Marina at Ortega Landing at the bottom of Herschel Street as they head to Roosevelt Square Mall. Currently, a sidewalk runs alternately on both sides of Lakeside Drive, with gaps where the sidewalk ends on the east side then zigzags across Lakeside to continue on the west side of the local road.



The bridge over Lakeside Drive behind Roosevelt Square Mall is slated for replacement beginning this summer.

The sidewalk project is intended to fill in the gaps on both sides of Lakeside Drive, extending the sidewalk the entire way from Herschel Street to Roosevelt Boulevard. The project was put into the 2017 Capital Improvement Plan but was added to the bridge replacement project in late 2018. Sidewalk construction includes final grading and sodding of all disturbed areas for the residences and businesses along Lakeside Drive.

Construction on both projects is expected to begin this summer and be completed in early 2020. JB Coxwell was awarded the project, and the contract is currently being processed, according to Marjorie Dennis, public relations specialist for the City of Jacksonville. "Pre-construction meeting and Notice to Proceed will follow shortly thereafter. A schedule would be provided by the contractor at this meeting." Dennis also noted road detours have not yet been finalized.

Road crossing to popular playground improved for pedestrian safety



Boone Park visitors have an added safety measure at the corner of St. Johns and Van Wert Avenues. Closer curb lines reduce distance across the busy state road.

What the Florida Department of Transportation calls a "minor safety improvement project" at St. Johns and Van Wert Avenues began and was completed in April. The improvements reduce the distance a pedestrian must travel across the roadway by 14 feet by bringing the curb lines in closer together. The project, located across the street from the Boone Park playground, also adds another barrier by installing a curb.

Other added benefits of the project will include improved viewing for pedestrians

to oncoming traffic, better visibility of pedestrians in the crosswalk by vehicles approaching the crossing and reduced pedestrian crossing time.

Some minor gutter work was also included to improve the flow of water on the northeast corner of Van Wert and St Johns Avenue.

American Lighting & Signalization was selected to complete the \$65,000 safety improvements. RS&H provided construction, engineer and inspection services.

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1334 SUNSET VIEW LANE
3/3, 3,463 square feet
LISTED BY ANNE RAIN
\$750,000



4614 ARLON LANE
4/2.5, 3,410 square feet
LISTED BY WADE GRIFFIN
\$650,000



1846 MARGARET STREET
2/2.5, 1,611 square feet
LISTED BY WADE GRIFFIN
\$499,000



1655 CHALLEN AVENUE
3/2, 1,092 square feet
LISTED BY WADE GRIFFIN
\$269,000



2151 GILMORE STREET
3/2, 1,248 square feet
LISTED BY KEITH SOWIN
\$250,000



1478 RIVERPLACE BOULEVARD
3/3.5, 3,429 square feet
LISTED BY WADE GRIFFIN
\$999,900



4134 ALHAMBRA DRIVE
5/6/2 half bath, 7,000 square feet
LISTED BY WADE GRIFFIN
\$2,699,000



7016 CATALONIA AVENUE
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3222 ST. JOHNS AVENUE
4/2/3 half bath, 5,313 square feet
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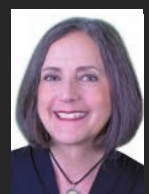
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Two women seek District 14 Council seat

Since there was not a clear majority (50% plus 1 vote) in the March 19 unitary election for the District 14 City Council seat, the race is on between Randy DeFoor, a Republican from Ortega Forest, and Sunny Gettinger, a Democrat from Avondale. The General Election will be held Tuesday, May 14.

In addition, two At-Large seats are still up for grabs. In At-Large Group 1, Terrance Freeman, Rep., is running against Democrat Lisa King, while incumbent Tommy Hazouri, Dem., is fighting for his Group 3 seat against Republican Greg Rachal.

Council Districts 8 and 10 both have two female Democrats vying for those two seats. Ju'Coby Pittman is hoping to retain her seat in District 8 against Tameka Gaines Holly, while Brenda Priestly Jackson and Celestine Mills are running for Freeman's former seat in District 10.



Randy DeFoor



Sunny Gettinger

Spaghetti fundraiser to assist Upson teachers

The Murray Hill Preservation Association will host a fundraising spaghetti dinner Saturday, May 18, 6 p.m., at Ruth N. Upson Elementary School, 1090 Dancy St. The loose theme of the event is to treat the school's teachers like royalty for the evening. Supporters may purchase a \$50 ticket-for-two to be donated to a teacher, who will attend the spaghetti dinner, made by chefs from South Kitchen and Spirits. Others may purchase a ticket for \$10 for cafeteria-style dining.

The proceeds will be split between MHPA and a fund at the school

designated for teacher supplies, which include Clorox wipes, hand sanitizer, clothing for students, and more. "As a nonmagnet Title 1 school, most of the students qualify for free breakfast and lunch," said Jose Lazcano, event organizer. "The teachers and administrators are on the front lines of seeing our children grow during different struggles and times. I'd really like to give back to them for taking care of our children."

To sponsor a table or purchase tickets, visit 904tix.com/events and enter "Upson" in the search box.

One box checked, many more before POW/MIA Memorial and Museum becomes reality



Rendering of the reflection pond proposed for the POW/MIA Memorial and Museum.

By **Kate A. Hallock**

Resident Community News

March 29, 2019 was a fitting day to dedicate the newly-restored Chapel of the High-Speed Pass and unveil two plaques which commemorate the chapel's historic landmark status. That date was also National Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day and local veterans were there to help celebrate the occasion at Cecil Field.

Hosted by the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, a nonprofit dedicated to honoring all former prisoners of war and remembering those missing in action, the dedication service was preceded by a brief unveiling of two plaques on the front of the chapel. The first notes the historic landmark status, as legislated by the City of Jacksonville in 2018, for its part in the military base's 58-year history (1941-1999). The other plaque commemorates the day of dedication, March 29, 2019, following more than a year of renovation and restoration.

The Chapel of the High-Speed Pass hosted hundreds of weddings, baptisms, memorial and funeral services, in addition to Memorial Day and Veterans Day events since 1966. Built in the A-frame design popular in church architecture during the 1960-1970s, the chapel was designed by KJB Architects of Jacksonville.

The chapel restoration project was part of a larger, multi-million project to create a memorial and a museum. The \$30 million project is expected to take five to six years to complete.

Land preparation for Phase I of the project was expected to begin in early 2019. There will be a Jet Display area, replica of the Cecil runways, reflection areas, and a brick paved area known as Benefactor Plaza. There will



Michael Cassata and Buddy Harris at the plaque commemorating the chapel's historic landmark status.

be memorials for the different conflicts and campaigns the base was involved in from World War II to Operation Desert Shield and Storm. The USS Forrestal (CVA-59) incident, known as the "Forrestal fire" on July 29, 1967, will honor and remember the heroes lost.

The service included music by the Let Freedom Sing Choir, the First Baptist Academy Youth Choir and the Liberty Express Quartet, the presenting and posting of the colors by the Filipino American Veterans Society Honor Guard, dedication of the Missing Man Pew, a tribute to the four chaplains who served at the chapel during its heyday, and keynote speaker Richard "Richie" Perricone, a former POW.

Perricone, a St. Augustine resident, was captured by the North Vietnamese Army in 1967, two years after being drafted and assigned to Third Platoon of B Company, 112 Infantry Battalion, 4th Army Division. He was part of the infamous march up the Ho Chi Minh Trail and imprisoned at the "Hanoi Hilton," the Hoa Lo Prison, then released in 1973. His military decorations include the Silver Star, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, two Purple Hearts, the POW Medal, National Defense Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

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2965 ST JOHNS AVE - \$845,900
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This 1916 Classic Avondale home is one of the most beautiful homes on one of the Historic Districts loveliest streets! Offers 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, grand entry hall, glorious sunroom, cozy screened porch, and formal front staircase.



3885 ST JOHNS AVE - \$885,000
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A Rare Avondale Find! Fabulous 1925 pool home situated on 3 LOTS, with detached GUEST HOUSE—TOTAL of 5 bedrooms & 4 1/2 baths! MAIN HOUSE is 3,150 sq.ft., 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, 2 master suites, 3 fireplaces, & additional 449 sq.ft. Florida room!



1510 ABERDEEN ST - \$310,000
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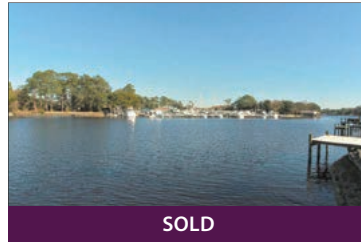
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SOLD by Jane Slater! Gorgeous, historic riverfront home located on highly desired Richmond St. in Avondale.. At once elegant and warm with plenty of room for entertaining both inside and out. Friends and family can gather in the updated Kitchen then let the party flow.



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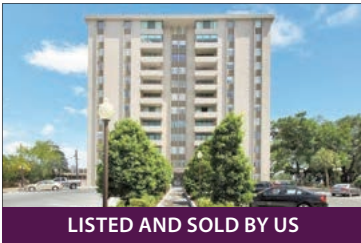
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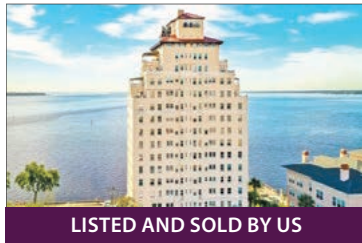
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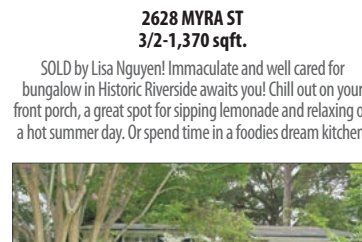
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Murray Hill rising, thanks to young homeowners, new businesses

By Kandace Lankford
Resident Community News

An electric energy has edged out the lull that long defined Murray Hill, and residents and merchants alike are enthusiastic about the changes that have emerged. Young families and professionals have moved into the area, multiple new businesses have opened, and property values are on the rise, making the neighborhood a desirable alternative to its Riverside and Avondale counterparts.

Bold murals accentuate streets that are filled with moms pushing strollers to the park. Couples pedal their bikes down Edgewood Avenue, perusing the restaurants to decide where to sate their palates. Businesses – the new ones along with the well-established ones – are thriving. It seemingly happened overnight, but in reality, it was a slow evolution that turned into an explosion.

Len Burroughs and his wife, Vicki, bought their home in Murray Hill 43 years ago and have seen the ups and downs of the neighborhood.

“We were looking in places like Ortega and Avondale, but this happened to be the place we found,” he said. “If you’d have told me when I bought this house that I would retire in Murray Hill, I would have said you were crazy.”

The house was a fixer-upper and the Burroughs spent more than two years working on it – starting with installing new ceilings and ending with putting in new floors. In the 1980s, they did a 500-square-foot home addition. They have always been happy in Murray Hill and have never wanted to move.

“The neighborhood went downhill a little bit back in the ‘90s, but now it is very secure and going uphill,” Burroughs said.

One of the biggest changes he has noticed is the demographics. Their neighbors on either side were a renter and an 87-year-old homeowner, but now, a young couple owns one of those homes and a police officer owns the other.

“We have gone from a neighborhood of mostly senior citizens and people who have lived in their home for 30 years to a neighborhood full of young people buying starter homes,” he said “It’s the same case with the neighborhood association. I used to be the youngest guy, now I am the oldest and one of the only long-term members.”

Vicki said her absolute favorite place in the neighborhood is Community Loaves. The way people came together to help the restaurant was a testament to the cohesiveness that has developed in Murray Hill.

“It’s been there a while and it’s very much community supported,” she said. “When they

needed a new oven, people in the neighborhood pitched in to make sure they got it.”

When Meghan Kopitke and her husband moved to Murray Hill in 2006, there wasn’t a whole lot to do. They were in their mid-20s and most of their neighbors were in their 90s. The strip on Edgewood Avenue was lifeless.

“We would find ourselves biking to Riverside and Avondale because there wasn’t a lot to offer here,” she said. “But things have changed drastically. Now we don’t leave Murray Hill very often because we have everything we need at our fingertips. It’s an exciting time to be here. It’s a lot of fun and you see a lot of community involvement where you didn’t see that before.”

Kopitke, vice president of programs for the Murray Hill Preservation Association (MHPA), said that an attempt a couple of years ago to start an association for area merchants was unsuccessful, but last year, they decided to try again.

“We as a board and even homeowners were trying to find a way to get the merchants more involved in the community and more involved with each other,” she said. “We started about eight months ago with only a couple of merchants, now many of them are participating.”

The MHPA came up with the concept of Murray Hill-O-Ween in 2017 – the event has been very successful. Known as the largest Halloween party in Jacksonville, Murray Hill-O-Ween brings the community together and invites people citywide to participate in the festivities. Last year Murray Hill-O-Ween had 28 floats in the Halloween parade. Not only is it a fun event for the community and people from all over the city, it has become the primary fundraiser for MHPA, according to Burroughs.

After renting a home in Avondale, Katherine Hardwick and her husband, Bryant, moved to Murray Hill in 2012.

“When we went to purchase, the value dollar for dollar in Murray Hill was so great for us. We got the size house we wanted on a double lot, but it still had the urban flair that you get in Riverside and Avondale,” she said.

The Hardwicks were excited to be in their new home and wanted to celebrate by having a wine party, but the week after they moved in, the area wine shop closed. Businesses were sparse and there wasn’t a whole lot to choose from when it came to dining out. But now, the couple doesn’t have to go far to find what they are looking for – it’s right outside their door. Hardwick enjoys shopping at Momni, a small boutique owned by a mother and daughter. She also loves the tacos at El Jefe.

“I think it’s a great area for families and for young professionals because of its affordability,” said Hardwick. “It’s a great place where you can walk to dinner or to some shops. A lot of the places we go to, we run

into people we know. There is a great community vibe.”

Will and Samantha Morgan simultaneously opened a business and moved into Murray Hill in 2016. They were looking to transition Vagabond Coffee from a coffee caravan to a brick and mortar location when they found out the space that served as the café for the Murray Hill Theater was available.

“We heard about the space and went to look at it. It was very much a diamond in the rough. I was able to walk into it and see what it could be, not what it was, and we decided to put our shop there,” said Will Morgan. “From a business standpoint, as the neighborhood grows, so do we. New people are coming in and we are their neighborhood coffee shop now. We are excited about the development on Edgewood. It’s redeveloping – great growth is happening.”

The Morgans are also happy on the home front. They were able to find a nice, affordable four bedroom two bathroom house to accommodate their growing family. They have two children, an infant and a toddler.

“There are a lot of young families and we watch out for each other. Everybody sits on their front porches – you get to know your neighbors. To me, Murray Hill is solidifying itself as that friendly, throwback front porch neighborhood of Jacksonville,” Morgan said. “Murray Hill has a great spirit in and of itself and it’s being brought back to its glory days. I’m excited to have a hand and be a voice in that.”

Larry Raikes recently opened Fired Up Pizza and Larry’s Giant Subs on Edgewood Avenue. He was attracted to the area because he could see Murray Hill is on the rise and thought it would be a great location for his business.

“It seems like this area is going to be the next 5 Points. Things are going very well and we are so excited,” he said. “We are getting busier and busier every day – a lot of the foodies are coming here. During happy hour, people are waiting in line.”

For Joshua Garrett, a recent move back to Murray Hill was a return to his roots. He grew up in the area and remembers when Murray Hill Theater was still a theater, and he could see the “Hot Now” sign at Krispy Kreme Doughnuts from his home. He and his girlfriend purchased a home in Murray Hill last October after living in Avondale for a while.

“It’s quiet, the neighbors are awesome and there is a real sense of community. We are not far from Four Corners Park so we can walk over there,” he said. “We pretty much know everybody – people go out of their way to meet and greet and talk.”

Although there have been a lot of changes since Garrett lived in Murray Hill as a child, some things have remained the same.

“We are excited about the development on Edgewood. It’s redeveloping – great growth is happening.”

— Will Morgan, Owner, Vagabond Coffee



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“In terms of daily life, it’s not too different – it’s still the same family-friendly community that I remember it being,” he said. “But there is a lot more to do now, especially in terms of restaurants. We’ve really enjoyed Murray’s Taco Bodega – they do the food for Fishweir Brewing Company and it’s really great. Murray Hillbilly is really nice too. There are a lot of vegetarian and vegan options.”

The Murray Hill Theater has long been an icon in the community and it was the catalyst that began to turn things around for the neighborhood when Tony Nasrallah purchased it in 1995 after the space was used as an industrial goth nightclub for a year.

“When I bought the property, Murray Hill was a neighborhood riddled with crime and illicit activity. There were prostitutes actively working Post and Edgewood and there was a lot of drug trade,” he said.

In an attempt to deter crime, Nasrallah put up a fence and lighting in the parking lot and had security officers out there to ensure the safety of his patrons. After those measures were taken, the element that brought down the neighborhood dispersed fairly quickly. It was the first step in the long climb up that helped the neighborhood become what it is today.

“There is such a vibrancy here now – it is more active and more alive. You can see a significant difference in foot traffic. People are walking around going to restaurants and visiting all the shops,” he said. “I’m excited that there are so many new tenants. I’m excited that Dreamette and Edgewood Coin Shop and the diner on the corner, though it has changed hands, have been consistent. There are plans to add a bike lane and more parking to the first block. I’m excited for what’s to come.”

New Riverside-based Lung Institute is Florida’s largest in pulmonologists

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

St. Vincent’s HealthCare, now Ascension St. Vincent’s, took another great step in fighting lung disease by opening the St. Vincent’s Lung Institute. A dedication and an open house were held March 28 in the Betsy Lovett Center in the Dillon Building on Shircliff Way.

The Lung, Sleep and Critical Care Center at St. Vincent’s originally used the services of North Florida Chest Physicians and of Pulmonary and Critical Care Associates until 2011 when St. Vincent’s acquired North Florida Chest Physicians. Over the next seven years, more physicians and advanced practice clinicians were added, then in 2018, St. Vincent’s acquired Pulmonary and Critical Care Associates, allowing the Lung Institute to be formally established. Now there are over 100 physicians, nurse practitioners and advance practice clinicians in the group.

The Lung Institute was funded in part by donors to St. Vincent’s Foundation, with Betsy Lovett providing the lead gift. This gift named the new institute, which has the largest number of pulmonologists in the state of Florida, providing care, healing and research for St. Vincent’s patients, according to Jane Lanier, CFRE, president and chief development officer for St. Vincent’s HealthCare Foundation. “This is a place that’s going to help so many people, and it’s filled with light and hope,” said Lanier at the dedication.

The new office is more than an expansion of the practice, originally located in the DePaul Building. By conducting research studies in pulmonary disease states, St. Vincent’s Lung, Sleep and Critical Care was able to change its name to St. Vincent’s Lung Institute.



Cutting the ribbon at the opening of the new Lung Institute in The Betsy Lovett Center were Michael Morrical, Jane Lanier, Dr. Jose Soto-Soto, Estrellita Redmon, Betsy Lovett, Dr. Abdallah Kafrouni and Dr. Huson Gilbertstadt



Dr. Abdallah Kafrouni and Carrie Kafrouni



Amanda Klipa, Dr. William Mentz, Father Jose Pazheveetil

The only way it can be called an institute is to actively participate in research, said Dr. Estrellita Redmon, president, St. Vincent’s Medical Group and Clinical Integration, at the dedication. “This is our first step toward raising awareness for what the Lung Institute can do.”

There are 12 exam rooms allowing patients to see a pulmonary specialist on an outpatient basis for health issues that include COPD, asthmas, pulmonary hypertension, interstitial lung disease, sleep apnea, lung nodules and masses.

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Ortega residents seek to prevent lot subdivisions to preserve neighborhood fabric

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

When renowned architect Henry Klutho first platted Ortega in 1909, he most likely didn't dream its residents would want to alter his design 110 years later. Now there are some in the community who are seeking waivers to divide lots, raze existing houses and build multiple new ones on the smaller lots.

According to information submitted to the National Register of Historic Places in 2004, the Old Ortega Historic District is an approximately 450-acre, primarily residential neighborhood consisting mainly of one-story and two-story single-family dwellings constructed between 1909 and 1953.

While Klutho may not be turning over in his grave over the latest development, some Ortega residents are not happy with efforts to change the eclectic nature of the historic community's landscape and architecture. Around 100 people signed a petition against the waivers, and several attended the March 20 meeting of the City Council's Land Use and Zoning Committee to speak against two specific applications.

New property owners at 3951 Baltic Street and 2841 Doric Avenue, which are zoned RLD-90 [residential low density 90-foot frontage], sought to reduce minimum road frontage from 72 feet to 50 feet on Baltic and from 72 feet to 62.5 feet on Doric in order to divide the lots. Although the City of Jacksonville's Planning and Development Department staff had approved the waiver requests, when it came time for LUZ to hear the applications, there was resistance from Ortega residents and from members of LUZ.

"This sounds like a re-zoning. That's a bad policy. Either re-zone it to RLD-30, -40, -50 or whatever, but don't play fast and loose with zoning rules," said Danny Becton, LUZ member, to which Chief of Current Planning Folks Huxford responded, "We could have gone either way but since it's RLD-90, instead of sprinkling it with spot zones, we thought it best to go through the waiver/deviation route." Becton replied, "It's a slippery slope both ways. We [LUZ] haven't seen a waiver we've refused here."

The discussion was augmented by the comments during the public hearing when eight people spoke against the waivers and companion administrative deviations seeking reductions in square footage as



One-story home at 3951 Baltic Street, built in 1947



One-story home at 2841 Doric Avenue, built in 1921

well as lot widths, some citing concern about clearcutting the properties and removing old trees, others concerned about increased traffic along Baltic Street.

During the hearing, District 14 Councilman Jim Love, who is not currently serving on LUZ, but represents Ortega, asked the representative for the Baltic Street property if there were any reasons they couldn't just build one home. The spokesperson, Cynthia Trimmer, an attorney with Driver, McAfee, Hawthorne & Diebenow, said there was an economical difficulty to limit the project to one building and it would be more practical to build two.

"This is such a historic neighborhood and people come to it expecting housing to stay much the same," said Love. "The economic difficulty was brought upon themselves by splitting the lot."

Becton agreed, stating, "If the property owner causes the problem, this is a violation of what a waiver should do at a minimum. I will not support any bill like this that comes before the Council. If it's a rezoning, rezone it."

LUZ members voted unanimously to deny both the waiver and the administrative deviation for the Baltic Street property, which prompted the representative for the Doric Avenue lot to request a deferral of the hearing. The request was denied so, rather than risk denials of the waiver and administrative deviation, the representative chose to withdraw both applications.

While pleased with the outcomes, some Ortega residents are still fearful of future efforts to subdivide lots and are considering ways to protect the historic nature of the community.

Community meeting scheduled for bill on short-term vacation rentals

Riverside Avondale Preservation will co-host a community meeting with District 14 Councilman Jim Love to discuss legislation he introduced recently on short term rentals, Bill 2019-238. The legislation will apply city-wide, and not just within Riverside and Avondale.

The meeting will be Monday, May 6, 6-7:30 p.m., in Bittinger Hall at Riverside Presbyterian Church, 849 Park St.

The legislation will have public hearings scheduled as follows (subject to change):

- Planning Commission, Thursday, May 9, 1 p.m.
- City Council Public Hearing, Wednesday, May 15, 5 p.m. (Wed. due to election)
- Land Use and Zoning Committee, Tuesday, May 21, 5 p.m.
- City Council, Tuesday, May 28, 5 p.m. (final vote if not deferred)

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Residents agree older neighborhoods' charm to be treasured

By Marcia Hodgson, Resident Community News

Historic neighborhoods have always been popular places to live and raise a family. The charm of their walkability, tree canopy, eclectic architecture, small businesses, and neighborhood schools lends to their appeal, but as real estate tightens and homes are harder to find, the trend to raze older houses to build multiple dwellings on one lot increases.

The Resident reached out to area residents with the following question: "Do you think buyers of homes in older platted neighborhoods compromise the integrity, look and feel and overall nature of historic areas when they choose to demolish homes and build two structures on what was historically a single-family homesite?"



I agree with that. It's bad for the neighborhood. I just bought a house seven years ago, built by a guy in 1940. I bought it from the original owner. On my street there were vacant lots, and a contractor bought up the land and put up two-story units, and they are all rentals. We have a beautiful neighborhood at the beginning of our street and at the end of the street we have this two-story modern stuff. I think it brings down the neighborhood. In Springfield, where they tear down a building what they put up looks like an older building. I agree with that, especially if it is more expensive to fix it up than to build it new. Things need to be architecturally in keeping with the neighborhood.

- HANK HANNAH AND HUGO, MURRAY HILL

Yes. I'm not in favor of subdividing the lots. I think it does take away from the original feel of the neighborhood and its charm.

- ROXANNE MILLER, MURRAY HILL



I would think so. They don't make them like they used to. The people who made those homes were craftsmen. They took their time and worked, and there was pride in what they did. Newer construction is put up very quickly. But I think this is regulated very well in Riverside.

- WILL BOYCE, RIVERSIDE



These neighborhoods have been around for a long time. They did it in my neighborhood and it may have upped the price of my house somewhat. I've noticed what you are talking about, but I haven't done enough research to form an opinion.

- MIKE MANUCY, LAKESHORE

It definitely affects the landscape, but it's hard to fight it because we have a capitalistic society. If somebody wants to buy it and split it in two and rent it, I guess that's their right. I don't support it, because I think it ruins the integrity of the neighborhood and the landscape and overall feel of the neighborhood, but I don't know how much we can stop it. I would love for them not to do it. I think San Marco and Atlantic Beach have the same issue. You can definitely feel it. It can be positive, and it can be negative. Sometimes they take homes down that are really ruined and broken down and by doing it they are improving the neighborhood and adding value. But obviously, we want to maintain our historic neighborhoods and their beauty. - ELAD GABAY, RIVERSIDE



Yes, I agree. It's hard to recreate the character of a historic neighborhood with newer structures. To create two structures on a single-family lot changes the density. You have more people living in a smaller area.

- WESLEY TAYLOR, MURRAY HILL



Yes. I love the old structures. They give character to the neighborhood and when they come in and bulldoze and build something modern, it just takes away the character. I'm not in favor of it at all.

- ROBIN NELSON, ORTEGA

I would say in general I'm not a fan of it, but there's some really worn out old homes that it might be cost prohibitive to repair. As long as the homes look and feel like the historic neighborhood, it's okay. We've had some new houses that look and feel like the neighborhood, and we've had some new houses that don't. I'm surprised the City allowed them to build those homes when I've had a hard time putting a window in my house because of RAP or the Historic Preservation Commission. I would prefer they refurbish a house unless it is cost prohibitive. If it is, then I'm okay with a new structure as long as it looks historic. To put two houses on a single lot, depends on the size of the lot. Some historic houses in Riverside are this close [gesturing]. - KEVIN CROWELL, RIVERSIDE



Absolutely yes. Half of the fun of living in places like Murray Hill, Riverside and Avondale is the old homes and keeping that feeling classic and more natural than the big structures. It's just part of the fun of living over here. I just bought a house a year ago, and I haven't done a thing to it. It was built in 1920 or 30 maybe. The inside has been redone, but the outside still has an old feel.

- ASHLEY COMBS, MURRAY HILL



I agree we need to keep the integrity of the neighborhood. I've lived here for 15 years, and I do not like that new homes are being built on old historic sites. I'm absolutely against subdividing lots. The houses are close enough together as it is. Two occupancies create more traffic and more discord among the neighbors.

- COLEEN RICKEY, AVONDALE

It depends on the builder. There are some builders who are very cognizant of the historic look and do a great job. That's why the RAP board is so important in the process. If there is a builder who doesn't seem to understand the appropriateness of the home that they are building, then I hope that RAP would stop them from proceeding. But I do think it is possible to build new homes on these lots that are in sync with the rest of the neighborhood. I don't worry about whether there are two homes on a single lot. If it's a house that is appropriate for Avondale, I don't see a problem with more folks moving into the area. I don't see a lot of owners' concern about the width of their lots and the space between the next home. That's a very suburban thing to think about. - ALAN APTHEKER, AVONDALE



ASK THE EXPERT

HOW DO I TALK TO MY CHILDREN ABOUT MONEY?

As a part of financial literacy month, this article provides a brief summary of how to talk to your children about money and you may even teach them some finances along the way. A great resource is www.consumerfinance.gov. Cut out this article and post it on your refrigerator as a quick summary.

Early Childhood (Ages 3-5): Up to this point, the main money lesson has been teaching them to not put pennies in their nose. Early Childhood is where children begin to build their foundational skills. This is where they can sort money, pretend to grocery shop, and learn why people work. A crucial skill is learning to wait to buy something and the importance of waiting. A fun activity is to create 3 jars: Savings, Spending, and Sharing. Then discuss reaching goals with each jar.

Middle Childhood (Ages 6-12): This is the age where children develop financial habits, attitudes, and shortcuts. Some helpful topics can be: What is on a receipt? Financial bingo where they learn how different buildings and services such as roads are paid for. Another key concept is understanding that the amount of money they have is finite. You can begin to include them on some financial decisions such as planning a trip or you can give them some money and have them pick out the fruit at the grocery store.

At any age, the best thing you can do is simply talk aloud while you are making any financial decisions, big or small

- Caleb Cronin, AAMS®, Financial Advisor

Teen and Young Adult (Ages 13-18): Though you may be feeling the financial strain of your children at this stage, this is where your children begin to practice their skills, habits, and attitudes. You can have them ask family members what their job is and what requirements there are to do the job. Explain what is on a paycheck. Use numbers to teach them compounding interest. This is vital in understanding the negatives of debt as well as the positives of investing. As they mature into their high school years, you can have them compare the costs of colleges and their net price when compared to the jobs they could look to have post-graduation at collegescorecard.edu.

Adult (18+): If you have lost your child's ear, you will more than likely find it when they run into financial issues. This is the stage to discuss budgeting (yes a concept from middle childhood they probably forgot) Talk about the proper use of credit cards, what a credit score is, and the importance of long-term savings.

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



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Property condemned, court case in flux delays Roost

By **Kandace Lankford**
Resident Community News

It's been four years since The Roost first attempted to settle into the Oak Street site that previously housed Deluxe Laundry and Cleaners, but the proposed 150-seat restaurant has yet to occupy the space.

The decision about their occupancy is still up in the air, pending the outcome of a court case filed by opponents who disagreed with the Jacksonville City Council's decision in 2016 to approve the Planned Unit Development (PUD) rezoning.

In April 2018, the First District Court of Appeals unanimously ruled in favor of a group of Riverside residents who petitioned against The Roost. The judges determined the opponents have the right to appeal City Council's decision to allow the PUD. The case has now been returned to the Circuit Court.

To complicate matters, the City condemned the building in February 2019, citing unsafe conditions such as a leaky and damaged roof, broken windows, mold and mildew, unfinished walls and other deterioration.

A statement prepared by Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) said they fully support restoration of the historic building, which has been in disrepair for a number of years.

"The maintenance of property is an owner's responsibility, and vacant buildings and blight is not anything the city, RAP or anyone else wants to see. While there is code compliance, it is usually a long and difficult process. The owner has deferred maintenance since he sold Deluxe Cleaners in 2006, which was long before the idea for a restaurant was born," said RAP representatives, in an excerpt from the statement.

After the City Council approved the PUD zoning in May 2016, RAP's board of directors chose not to take additional actions; however, they are following the lawsuit.

"We are interested in the outcome because there are important issues at stake as far as spot zoning," said Nancy Powell, chair of RAP's board. "We look forward to the building being renovated and an appropriate

establishment that's compatible with the neighborhood being there."

Property owner Anthony Saleeba said he plans to completely renovate the building, leaving only the four walls intact. He is certain that The Roost will be approved and is preparing accordingly.

"The judge has ruled in our favor once and we are confident that he will rule in our favor again. The lack of vision from some of the neighbors has drawn out the process. We are confident we are going to win in the end and look forward to getting the building developed," he said. "As soon as this is finalized with the courts, we are 100% ready to proceed."

Opponents from the neighborhood include the organization Positive Riverside Optimized Urban Development, or PROUD and other individuals. They say the proposed restaurant would be contrary to the character of the neighborhood.

"As always, the majority of the neighbors would be glad to see this building put to good use as specified by the Historic Overlay, which protects our important historic and residential communities from being undermined by out-of-scale and inappropriate development concepts such as this one," said Jennifer Wolfe, who lives near the site. "In short, a restaurant in the middle of a residential zone is not an appropriate use. We are, however, pro-development, and would love to see visionary retail, residential, and office units in that space one day. We wish the developers well and hope that our democratic process will prevail for a win-win for everyone."

While many spoke out against the restaurant, developers and supporters contend that The Roost would be a boon to the area, bringing a new vitality that would be beneficial.

"After starting this project four years ago, we looked forward to breathing life into a rundown building. It is sad that a lack of vision and leadership has delayed a project to the point where the building has become condemned," said Ted Stein, who, along with J.C. Demetree, is the developer of The Roost. "As someone who lives a few blocks from The Roost, it is unfortunate that less



Boarded windows lend to the derelict appearance of the former Deluxe Laundry and Cleaners on Oak Street in Riverside.

than a handful of neighbors feel they speak for the entire neighborhood, whereas the younger generation looks forward to building a progressive community with walkable options throughout Riverside. It is not if, but when, we will open our doors and serve our neighbors not only great food, but an amazing experience."

Clay Zeigler, who lives half a block from the Deluxe Laundry buildings, said the biggest threat to that area of Riverside is neglect.

"While it's clear some owners simply can't keep up with the significant demands of maintaining an old building, some of this neglect seems willful. Our local arbiters of preservation – public and private – seem uninterested in people neglecting properties and choose instead to focus instead on people investing in them. The Deluxe Laundry is an example of both this willful neglect and our city's neighborhood-impact-first approach to preservation.

"In order to save the Deluxe building, I personally am willing to endure the inconveniences that my close proximity to a restaurant would almost certainly bring. To me, saving our neighborhood's meaningful structures – the best way we can before it's too late – is paramount. Their uses can be effectively regulated later based on experience rather than endlessly debated beforehand based on assumption. But that's not the way it seems to work here. To me the choice here is not whether to open the restaurant, it's whether to preserve the building. I would prefer we preserve the building."

According to an email from Marjorie Dennis, a City spokesperson, the pending lawsuit will not delay the Municipal Code Compliance Division's (MCCD) enforcement process.

"The owner is still responsible to ensure that the units are structurally sound, which may be accomplished without completing the full planned renovations. If the owner fails to take corrective action to make the structure stable, MCCD may seek either a monetary penalty (daily rolling fine) or demolition of the property. With the units being attached to another occupied unit, MCCD would prefer the owner take action to stabilize the condemned units."

Dennis went on to say that since it's early in the condemnation process, the owner has time to stabilize the units before the City takes corrective action. However, if circumstances change and there is imminent danger, they may take immediate action to protect the health and safety of the public.

The neighborhood is currently zoned CRO. Under the current zoning and historical overlay, only small retail, mixed use and restaurants up to 60 seats may be permitted to be developed by exception while following standards that protect the character and historic appeal of Riverside.

"The overlay was written for a reason, but the first time somebody walks up and throws a wallet at it, it gets thrown away," said Kevin Pettway, founder of PROUD. "We don't feel like that's appropriate. We are interested parties and we are going to make ourselves heard."




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Baptist Health's new CEO coming from Texas

Beginning in early July, the baton will be passed at Baptist Health from Hugh Greene, FACHE, to Brett S. McClung, FACHE, currently an executive vice president and chief operations leader for Texas Health Resources in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area.

Greene, who has been with Baptist Health since 1989 and served as its CEO and president for the past 19 years, will retire.

"This 'passing of the torch' is of paramount importance to our faith-based mission and culture of care. We simply couldn't ask for a better person to build upon the incredibly rich legacy of leadership that Hugh Greene has continued over the past 30 years," said Baptist Health Board Chair Richard Sisisky.

McClung serves one of the largest faith-based, nonprofit health care systems in the United States, with 29 hospitals serving nearly 7 million people. The North Zone of Texas Health Resources, where McClung was located, comprises nine hospitals and more than 150 points of care, including outpatient diagnostic/surgery centers, imaging centers, sports medicine sites, primary and specialty physician practices, behavioral health and home health care.



Brett McClung

He partnered with developers and communities to create Neighborhood and Wellness Centers as well as health hubs near corporate campuses to increase access to preventive care. McClung collaborated with physicians to build The Ben Hogan Sports Therapy Institute from a single hospital department to the Texas Health Sports MedicineSM service line with 16 sites across north Texas, including sports physical therapy, concussion management, athletic training outreach, professional residencies, nutrition services, performance conditioning, and a research foundation. To improve community health, he pioneered an award-winning program, which dramatically reduced the infection rate among area school children.

"I want to add my own word of congratulations to Brett, who I had the opportunity to get to know during the selection process," said Greene. "Given his impressive background and accomplishments, I am most confident in the future of Baptist Health under his leadership."

McClung is recognized as a Wharton Fellow with the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and a Marshall Memorial Leadership Fellow with the German Marshall Fund of the United States. He is involved in numerous community and health care industry organizations and serves as faculty/moderator for the American College of Healthcare Executives (2017 Regent's Award).

McClung, originally from south Texas, earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business from Southwestern University and a Master of Science in Healthcare Administration from Trinity University. He and his wife Nancy, who is an accomplished CPA, have been married for 27 years and have two adult daughters.

"Given his impressive background and accomplishments, I am most confident in the future of Baptist Health under his leadership."

— Hugh Greene

Prior to this role, McClung served as the president of hospitals in suburban and large urban markets; vice president of ambulatory services; and director/network manager of the Harris Methodist Texas Health Plan. He has been associated with Texas Health Resources and Harris Methodist since 1993.

During his tenure at Texas Health Resources, McClung led many transformational efforts, accelerated the adoption of best practices and achieved top rankings in patient safety and satisfaction, employee partnership and physician alignment. McClung also led many consumer-facing initiatives designed to provide greater convenience, value and ease of use.

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Q. I've heard a lot about "encapsulation," but I don't know enough to make an informed decision. What is it?

A. Simply put, encapsulation is the attempt to completely line a crawlspace with a polyvinyl product to prevent mold, mildew and odors from permeating the home.

Q. Would you recommend encapsulation to contain a water problem under the subfloor?

A. With crawlspaces, dry is the key, not encapsulation. You can never completely seal the vinyl. There is no realistic way to affix 4-inch tape along all the seams – which are not flat and straight, by the way – to ensure the area is totally sealed off. Plus, over time, small holes occur in the lining, which allow water and mud to ooze up from under the encapsulation when the water table rises. Encapsulated liners are essentially a vapor trap, allowing contaminants to grow underneath and then get released through pinprick holes into the crawlspace.

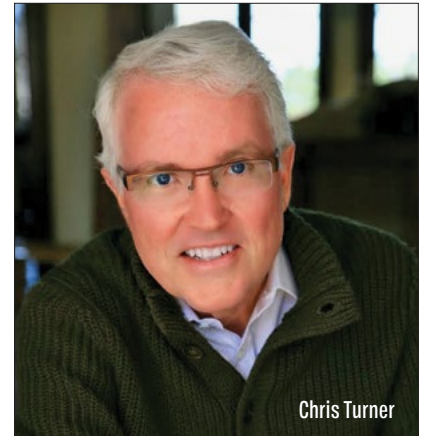
Q. I don't live in an area that's prone to flooding, so should I be concerned about a wet crawlspace?

A. Every home in Florida is in some sort of a flood zone, even if you've never experienced it. If you have a crawlspace, you will find moisture at minimum or water and mud at worst case. It's best to be proactive to avoid dampness coming up into the house from under the floor.



Q. Would it help if I insulate below the floor?

A. No, never put insulation or spray foam in the sub-floor because it adds to moisture problems and causes other issues.



Chris Turner

Q. What happens if a pipe in the house bursts and I have encapsulation in my crawlspace?

A. If your pipes develop a leak, the water would fill up in the encapsulated crawlspace and likely result in mold and mildew. If a sewage pipe is the culprit, the encapsulated liner would prevent it from being absorbed into bare dirt because there is nowhere for the sewage to run off. Rarely will you find a plumber who will fix the leak until the spill was cleaned up. It's usually less costly to rip out the lining than to try to clean it.



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Terry Woodlief

Central Riverside teacher receives 2019 Gladys Prior Award

Terry Woodlief, art teacher at Central Riverside Elementary School, was one of four Duval County Public School teachers surprised in their classrooms April 15 with the 2019 Gladys Prior Awards for Career Teaching Excellence.

Each teacher received a \$15,000 award which was established by Gilchrist Berg, founder and president of Water Street Capital, to honor teachers who have had lifelong careers in teaching and inspiring students.

As of this year, 88 teachers will have been recognized with a Gladys Prior Award, an award given for excellence in teaching for the last 22 years. To date, Berg has given more than \$1 million to honor Jacksonville teachers with an award named after his fourth-grade teacher, Gladys Prior, at Ortega Elementary.

The University of North Florida College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) manages this gift and coordinates the annual award competition.

In addition to Woodlief, who has been teaching for more than 40 years, the other winners include Amy Glendenning, a 34-year special education teacher at Seabreeze Elementary School; Mary Phillips, a 20-plus-years civics teacher at Duncan Fletcher Middle School, and Kevin Sullivan, a 33-year physical education teacher at Edward White High School. Together, these teachers have a combination of over 120 years of teaching experience.



Gina Schimpff gets ready to cut the ribbon at the ceremonial grand opening of her new Riverside business, Be Still Float Studio, as supporters and members of the JAX Chamber look on.

New business helps anxiety ‘float away’

While working as a stay-at-home mom, San Marco resident Gina Schimpff often found herself wondering how to help friends and family cope with stress.

“I was really looking for a way to help others deal with anxiety,” said Schimpff, who decided to create her own float studio rather than open a franchise. She worked with River City Contractors and Jason Fisher of Content Modern Architecture + Interiors to revamp the space formerly

home to the law firm Taylor, Stewart, Houston & Duss. Their efforts garnered the group the Adaptive Reuse Award at the Riverside Avondale Preservation 2019 annual meeting.

On April 9, Schimpff cut the ribbon for her new business, Be Still Float Studio, at 1050 Riverside Ave. Along with her design and contracting team, Schimpff acknowledged the support she received from her parents, Angelo and Rosario Valera.

Be Still Float Studio occupies 3,100 square feet of the 6,900-square-foot building and offers float therapy, an oxygen bar, a sound therapy chair, meditation, massage therapy chairs and more. The building’s other tenant is Dr. Shane Silver of Silver Chiropractic.

“Riverside is the perfect location for this kind of business,” said Schimpff. “It’s very accepting of this kind of concept. Everyone is welcoming.”

A night out for girls and their curls

Bruce Musser and his staff at Hairpeace welcomed women from all over the First Coast as the stylist and his crew rolled out the welcome mat for local ladies with curls. A recent Facebook post encouraged women to a celebration and embrace of curls, a unique style that deserves care and consideration. Instead of controlled chaos, stylists unveiled the latest DevaCurl product line, talked techniques for taming curls and offered advice for best results.

Trained stylists were able to showcase products, answer questions and tout the trips to New York City for training and qualifications for the DevaCurl Certified Stylist accreditation. Musser enthusiastically offered help to the curl community and inspired “curl talk” during the event. “We offer everything from curls [assistance] to lashes, cuts and waxing, it can all be done right here... isn’t that awesome!” Musser said. The meet and greet was held April 17 at the Riverside salon on Park Street.



Melody Choate, Andre Gavric, Brittiany Light, Molly Houlihan, Bruce Musser, Melissa Sandifer and Savanna Gutzwiller



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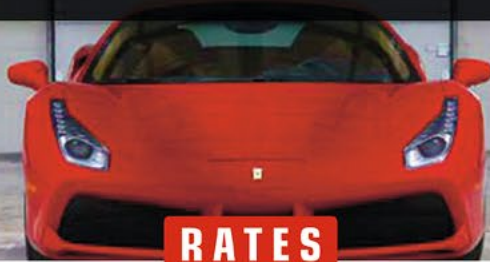
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Marsha Oliver

City of Jacksonville public affairs director joins PGA Tour

THE PLAYERS Championship brought on Marsha Oliver, formerly Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry's Director of Public Affairs, as the event's new Senior Director of Community Outreach, after the retirement of longtime Community Outreach Director Cathie Hurlburt, whose 28-year career with the PGA TOUR included overseeing THE PLAYERS' charitable and military outreach initiatives.

Prior to joining the City of Jacksonville in 2015, Oliver, of Ortega, served as Assistant Superintendent, Communications for Duval County Public Schools, for 16 years.

Additionally, Oliver spent four years at Hershey Foods Corporation, where she led and supported product launches, promotions, sponsorships, community and public relations programs, and special events. After returning to Jacksonville, Oliver worked as an account manager for advertising and public relations firm William Cook Agency, managing public relations efforts for a CSX Corporation subsidiary, served as a television co-host for WJXT TV4 (The Buzz) and newspaper columnist for the Jacksonville Free Press and founded O. Communications, LLC, a public relations firm that supported nonprofit organizations with strategic marketing communications services.



Goals set, chairs announced, Women's Board moves into new season

The Women's Board for Wolfson Children's Hospital held its annual spring luncheon April 11 at the Pirate's Cove waterfront home of Karla and Will Newton, who graciously served as hosts for the occasion. There the Board's members selected their

2019-2020 fundraising goals and announced the chairs for next season's Florida Forum. Serving as 2019-2020 co-chairs of the renowned 27-year-old Speaker Series are Heather Moseley, Anna Neal and Dearing Thoburn.

Nonprofit honors past president for contributions

The historic 1917 Doggett-Tucker House was the venue for the Planned Giving Council of Northeast Florida's spring soiree April 25. The riverfront landmark in Riverside is the home of the law firm of Purcell, Flanagan, Hay and Greene, P.A., which graciously hosted the event. The council honored past president Robert "Bob" Roberts for his contribution to the nonprofit. He retired from the American Red Cross, Hospice Care of Southeast Florida and the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. Growing up the son of a U.S. Park Service superintendent in Northeast Florida, Roberts attended the University of Florida and the University of Georgia, where he obtained his master's degree.



The Planned Giving Council's Board includes Ken Thompson, John Fishburne, Beverly Flanagan, Christine Bell, Martha Cox and John Zell; other board members were not available.



Teri Ketchum and Chandra Theodore



Kimberly Govan, Planned Giving Council boardmember, with Past President Bob Roberts, and Melanie Messer



Connie Stophel, Martha Cox and Lisa Amundrud

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Coldwell Banker, retail partners set bar high for community stewardship

More than 30 realtors and staff from Coldwell Banker Vanguard Avondale came together with other members of the business community for a CBV Cares event April 15. Hosted at South Kitchen and Spirits, and supported by Woodford Reserve, Peterbrooke of Avondale and the Avondale Gift Boutique, the silent auction fundraiser resulted in donations of \$750 each to The United Way



Coldwell Banker Vanguard agent Ed Akers and Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty President Pete Dalton with Coldwell agents Robert Van Cleve and Seth Kimball

of Northeast Florida and Downtown Ecumenical Services Council (DESC).

“As Coretta Scott King once said, ‘the greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members,’ and Coldwell Banker Vanguard Avondale is humbled to be part of a neighborhood that at its core, is compassion in action,” said Bonnie Upright, director of corporate communications. “Everyone has time, talent or treasure to share with others, and it’s an honor to work with agents, clients and community partners that assist us in creating a positive impact. Cheers to South Kitchen and Spirits and Woodford Reserve for their support of our charitable efforts; like so many of our neighbors and partners, they’ve set the bar high for community stewardship, and we can’t wait for the next opportunity to support local groups.”



Coldwell Banker Vanguard agent Judy Fields and Director of Market Development Mona Gardella

National group selects ILRC for statewide mentoring program

The Independent Living Resource Center, 2709 Art Museum Dr., has been selected as Florida’s host site for CORE, a national sign language mentoring program. Jacksonville will be the third metropolitan area to provide this program, joining Washington, D.C. and Denver, Colorado.

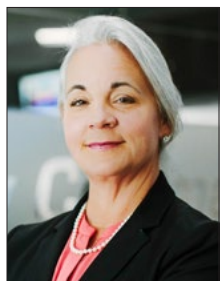
“The ILRC has hosted its own successful mentorship program for two years. Our partnership with CORE will grow the program and provide more opportunities for our interpreters,” said Stephanie Monroe, manager for the ILRC’s Sign Language Interpreting Program.

CORE Interpreters was founded in 2017 with the goal of filling the gap between new interpreters completing degree requirements and entering the profession.

“As the founder of CORE Interpreters, I am thrilled to announce our partnership with The ILRC in Jacksonville, Florida,” said Caitlin Ramsey Wolford. “My goal in establishing CORE was to provide support to other interpreters in the field. The ILRC and CORE both want to foster a supportive network for new working interpreters, in order to develop qualified sign language interpreters. I am excited to see how this partnership will push the sign language interpreting field forward.”

Recruitment for mentors and mentees has begun for the first cycle of the program. Interested candidates can apply by visiting coreinterpreters.com and selecting “Jacksonville, Florida” as their preferred location.

30th Annual Women of Distinction honors six Northeast Florida women



Kathleen Brandt



Lise' Everly



Paige Hakimian



Paola Parra Harris



Ann-Marie Knight



Ellen Wiss

Girl Scouts of Gateway Council (GSGC) held its Women of Distinction 2019 event April 30, at the University of North Florida University Center.

Celebrating its 30th year as GSGC’s signature event, Women of Distinction honors outstanding women in Northeast Florida for their professional

accomplishments, service to others and community impact.

The six 2019 Women of Distinction honorees are influential female business leaders who positively impact and support their communities. They include Kathleen Brandt, CSX senior vice president and chief information officer, Intracoastal;

Lise’ Everly, community volunteer, Riverside; Paige Hakimian, Hakimian Holdings, San Jose; Paola Parra Harris, founder/owner, Parra Harris Law, San Marco; Ann-Marie Knight, Mayo Clinic community engagement administrator, Springfield, and Ellen Wiss, community volunteer, Atlantic Beach.

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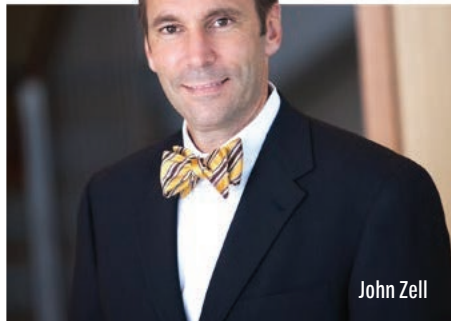
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Zell demystifies donor advised funds

When John Zell, vice president of development for The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, addressed the lunchtime crowd of Planned Giving Council members and guests April 11 at the San Jose Country Club, it was like cracking open a book entitled, "Donor Advised Funds – Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask."

Zell works with donors to maximize the return on their philanthropic giving. He gave an hour-long talk about donor advised funds, which was helpful both to those who use donor advised funds as a financial vehicle as well as nonprofits that may seek to approach donors for grants.

Zell joined the staff of the Community Foundation in 1997 and for the first eight years served in the grantmaking department, ensuring that donors' philanthropic intents were carried out by making grants in the communities where the Foundation serves.



John Zell

In 2005, he transitioned to the Donor Services/Development department, where he uses his prior grantmaking experience to craft giving plans for donors and provides staff support for the Foundation's four professional advisory councils.

He was an inaugural member of the Southeast Council of Foundations, Hull Leadership Program and has been the president of the Planned Giving Council of Northeast Florida.

He and his wife, Karen, are active in church where they sing in the choir. He also enjoys cycling, snorkeling, pipe organ tinkering and old house restoration.



Murray Hill preservation group elects new officers

New officers and board members were elected at a quarterly Murray Hill Preservation Association meeting April 1 at Maple Street Biscuit Company. Front: Len Burroughs, at-large member; Meghan Kopitke, president; Emily Suter, secretary; Kate Truslow, at-large; back: John Frazier, third vice-president; Ian Brown, at-large; Ryan Ertel, treasurer; James Coggin, at-large; Jose Lazcano, at-large; Will Morgan, at-large; Jason Tetlak, past president; Jay Stuckey, second vice-president; Bobby Kelley, first vice-president, Jeremy Kaneer, at-large. Not available: Lindsey Beates, at-large; Gayle Rice and Tony Nasrallah, past presidents.

Tasting event funds \$80,000 for Salvation Army programs



Jeff Sheffield, Jennifer Bryan, Steve Bacalis, Renee Livengood, John Cooksey, James Foote, Mark Woods, Thomas Lee, IV, Mike Buresh, Sheriff Mike Williams, Charles Wagoner, Jr., Deborah Tanner, Major Bert Tanner

The 33rd Annual Celebrity Chefs Tasting Luncheon and Silent Auction to benefit the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary served over 600 guests April 4 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center and raised enough to fund \$80,000 worth of programs and services for the nonprofit.

Celebrity chefs serving recipes from their own kitchens included Steve Bacalis, president/CEO of Tom Nehl Truck Company; Mike Buresh, Action News Jax chief meteorologist; John Cooksey, McCall Service's chief operations manager; James Foote, president/CEO of CSX; Thomas Lee IV, vice president for Lee & Cates

Glass; Jeff Sheffield, executive director of the North Florida TPO; Charles Wagoner Jr., 904 Happy Hour's director of sales and marketing; Sheriff Mike Williams, head of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, and Mark Woods, author and columnist for The Florida Times-Union.

Over the past 32 years, the Women's Auxiliary has raised \$1.908 million to impact the community and the lives of men, women and children who require housing in the emergency shelter, attend the Child Development Center or the daily senior programs, or seek substance abuse recovery in the Adult Rehabilitation Center.

McAfee's to chair annual FinFest

Jacksonville Speech & Hearing Center, a nonprofit celebrating 70 years of community service, announced its chairs for the annual fundraiser, FinFest, are Matt and Seana McAfee, of Ortega.

Honorary chairs for the May 18 event, to be held at the Timuquana Country Club, are Peter and Nancy Bragan, Jr.; Artis and Enola Gay Gilmore; Mark and Samantha Lowery; and Tom and Kathy VanOsdol.



Matt and Seana McAfee

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New Legacy Lodge chapel named for Brandenburg

Hardage-Giddens recently opened its brand-new Celebration of Life center, named Legacy Lodge, at historic Oaklawn Cemetery and named the new chapel after the company's longtime president, Jody Brandenburg.

For his years of dedicated service to the funeral and cemetery profession, Brandenburg was presented a bronze plaque commemorating the chapel in his honor.

"We are proud and honored to name our Celebration of Life space 'Brandenburg Hall' to preserve Jody's legacy for so many years of helping families during their most difficult times," said Matt Tucci, director of operations for Hardage-Giddens.



Jody Brandenburg at naming of new chapel

The Legacy Lodge is available for multiple functions, including celebrations of life, special events, and nonprofit fundraisers. The facility is state-of-the-art and preserves the architecture of the original Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home in San Jose.

Neighborhood barber opens shop in Murray Hill

A new barbershop opened its doors in the Murray Hill neighborhood in early March. Located at 928 Edgewood Ave. S., Sacred Trade Barber Co. is owned and operated by Tony Rosario, who lives in Murray Hill with his wife, Chastaney, and their 18-month-old daughter, Evelyn Lucia.

Rosario, a first-time business owner, chose to open his shop in Murray Hill because he wanted to be a true neighborhood barber and work near where he lives. He found his niche in a space in the Murray Hill strip, the former Esquire Barber Shop, where he is open Tuesday through Saturday.

Sacred Trade Barber Co. specializes in traditional and contemporary men's haircuts, straight razor shaves, and superior quality grooming products.



Tony Rosario

Doggie daycare and boarding business housed in former veterinary clinic

When Paul and Jennie Jameson visited the building formerly known as Edison Avenue Veterinary Hospital, owned by the late Dr. Vincent Kerr and his wife, Diane, they knew they had found the perfect place for their new doggie daycare and boarding business, Wagz on Edison. They were excited to reenergize the building and restore it to its former use – taking care of people's pets.

The Jamesons have traveled and lived in many places, including Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama. Most recently, they lived in Ft. Lauderdale, but decided to move to Jacksonville and open their business here after visiting the site at 2893 Edison Avenue.

"We looked at about 20 places in Ft. Lauderdale, but when we saw this property and did some exploring around the city, we knew it was the right place for our business," Jennie said. "We moved into the house right next door, where Dr. Kerr and his wife used to live."

Jennie is an avid animal lover. She grew up around horses and used to be a horse



Jennie Jameson and Lilly

trainer. Paul is a chef and a boat captain by trade, but he has always loved dogs. After living aboard boats for a number of years, the two decided they wanted to move back to dry land. They were accustomed to working together and wanted to continue doing so, thus the idea for a doggie daycare and boarding center was born. They are looking forward to this new venture and can't wait to meet your canine companions and give them a fun, safe place to exercise and play.

Wagz on Edison is located right off I-10, Exit 360, adjacent to Downtown and just minutes from nearby neighborhoods such as Historic Riverside, 5 Points, Avondale, Brooklyn and Murray Hill.

New business in Avondale offers yoga and more

Family is important to Heather Horrell, and it's reflected in the name of her business – Grow Family. As a mother of six children, Horrell's focus is on creating strong family bonds.

She had a mobile business for a number of years, but as of Feb. 1, Horrell opened a studio in Avondale, where she teaches yoga for pregnancy, kids and families. She also offers a variety of birth and parenting education classes.

Horrell said she loves the Riverside, Avondale and Murray Hill areas because they are "hip, yet family friendly." Grow Family is located at 4070 Herschel St., in the plaza next to Harpoon Louie's. For more information and for class schedules, visit growhappyfamily.com.



Heather Horrell

DESC welcomes new board member

The Downtown Ecumenical Services Council, also known as DESC, recently welcomed Claude Moulton as a new member of its Board of Directors.

Moulton is the Managing Partner of the Law Office of Moulton Bosshardt LLC. He is also the Vice Chair for Operation New Hope, where he has volunteered for the last 10 years, and is a member of the Vestry of St. John's Cathedral.

DESC was founded in 1981 when several downtown churches joined forces to help homeless people and working poor families. The organization seeks to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ by providing basic needs for those in emergency situations. The center is accessible on Ocean Street in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church and served more than 13,000 families with food, clothing and financial assistance last year.



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Space available in historic Southbank office building

Once upon a time, before the 20th century, the City of South Jacksonville was distinctive from Jacksonville and was incorporated into Jacksonville in 1932. Prior, South Jax was the pioneer's town with a huge railroad depot as a gateway for transporting goods throughout Florida. Today, possibly only three to five commercial buildings still exist in what was then the vibrant business district of South Jacksonville.

The Kings Building appears to be the oldest commercial building surviving today and dates to the late 1800s. In 2000, the building was recognized as a Jacksonville Landmark and also awarded the commercial renovation award from the Historical Society.

The open rafters and beautiful handmade brick walls create an inspiring atmosphere for unique boutique office space, a rare find in Jacksonville. Each of the building's three floors is 4,500 square feet. Lease price is around \$20 per square foot. Currently, the 4,500 square feet of second floor and 2,000 square feet on the first floor are available.

The history of the building at 1001 Kings Avenue is associated with at least two influential business leaders, John F. White and William P. Belote, both of whom were mayors for South Jacksonville.

White bought the Kings Building in 1902 after the Great Fire of 1901 and moved his business to South Jacksonville with his family while building a home in Avondale. White opened a grocery/feed store on the first floor where McCabe Law is located now.

White was a mover and a shaker. He would host the South Jacksonville Pioneers on

Saturday nights for family fun in and around the building. On Saturday night, there was candy for kids and pole-sitting contests outside while the second floor had dancing and music. On Sundays, the second floor was a church gathering. The church group meeting at the Kings Building went on to spawn three of the largest existing churches in San Marco.

White went on to be actively involved in real estate and developed subdivisions in South Jacksonville, including South Riverside, St. Nicholas Springs and San Jose Park (now called River Oaks). He was appointed clerk and assessor and then the first mayor of the City of South Jacksonville. He also served on its City Council, as well as governor of the South Jacksonville Board of Trade.

Belote, per his wife, ran a hardware store in the building from 1911-1927, after which he built his own building on St Johns Road (now Prudential) and stayed in business for more than 50 years in South Jacksonville. Belote served on the South Jacksonville City Council, then later as its mayor. He also served on the Board of County Commissioners and was chairman of the local draft board during World War II.

Nan Sutton, the current building owner, said research indicates the building was constructed in the late 1800s, since records show it was bought in 1902 by White.

The building was bought again in 1999 after being burned and boarded up in 1993. It took over five years to completely restore and renovate the beautiful diamond in the rough. The original red brick finish of the



exterior was covered by layers of coquina from 1960s and ugly rough gray stucco finish from 1980s with fire damaging the back half of first floor and some of the second. The old coatings were removed to reveal the handmade brick walls and exposed rafters. All the original openings were restored as well as replacing the windows and doors back to their original sizes. An elevator was installed, in addition to cleaning the interior brick, adding air conditioning and upgrading the electricity and plumbing. The structural integrity was reinforced with steel beams and pilings.

A decorative original central staircase is showcased under a skylight. Over the years, it had been painted and repainted. The old paint was stripped and the original staircase was restored. An atrium was created in the front to buffer the encroaching Kings Avenue that was originally

a one-horse path. The atrium has wrought-iron grills to open storefronts through which Confederate Jasmine weaves delicately under the canvas awnings.

The renovated and restored building at 1001 Kings Avenue offers the opportunity for businesses and organizations an iconic and distinctive space that preserves a piece of history of the vibrant South Jacksonville central business district. The three-story building located at the southeast corner of Prudential Drive and Kings Avenue has an elevator and ground-floor parking. The location is within walking distance to the Skyway's Kings Avenue Transit Stop, restaurants, Southbank Riverwalk, and the Jacksonville Water Taxi, giving it easy access to St. Nicholas, San Marco, Downtown and even the Brooklyn, Riverside and 5 Points neighborhoods on the west bank of the river.

LEASE SPACE AVAILABLE: Currently, the second floor's 4,500 square feet and the first floor's 2,000 square feet are available. Or, if you have any history to add to the story, email technologyjob@comcast.net or call (904) 571-7748.

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Weekend urban farm festival raises funds for campus programs, expansion

A trio of events at Berry Good Farms, an urban farm and culinary arts program on the campus of North Florida School of Special Education, offered a weekend of family, fun and food April 5-7. The first event, Farm to Family, included games, dancing to live music, a petting zoo, and concession stand as well as barbecue and a fish fry from Black Sheep Group on Friday.

The next day's event, Farm to Tap, paired food from Chef Kenny Gilbert and other local chefs with local craft beers. While guests enjoyed a corn hole tournament in the rain, others danced under the tent to tunes from regional and national musicians.

The culmination of the weekend was the popular Dinner on the Farm where Berry Good Farm's Chef Brett Swearingen and his culinary staff teamed up with Restaurateur and Chef Matthew Medure to present an al fresco dinner served by the school's transition and post-graduate students on Sunday evening.

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



Chyan Mencl and Molly Granick with Carly Bruening



Kit Thomas, Sally Hazelip, Delores Barr Weaver, Reed Veres and J. Wayne Weaver



Wendi and Will Howard with Michelle and Tucker Gilliam



Jake Scovill, Nick Mueller and Evie Shellenburg were greeters at the North Florida School of Special Education Dinner on the Farm April 7.



Tucker Gilliam, Heather Gilliam, Sharon and Hershel Vinyard

Cummer mystery dinner an artful affair

The "Captivating Caper" dinner party held April 11 at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens offered guests the chance to solve a crime by following a path through the museum and interviewing "suspects." The cleverly entitled dinner was based on Kota Ezawa's body of work, "The Crime of Art," which will be on exhibit at the Cummer until Dec. 1.

Ezawa's series consists of a group of light-boxes and video animations that narrate some of the most notorious and

high profile museum heists in history, including the unsolved Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum heist, where two men disguised as Boston police officers stole 13 artworks, including those by Degas, Manet, Rembrandt, and Vermeer.

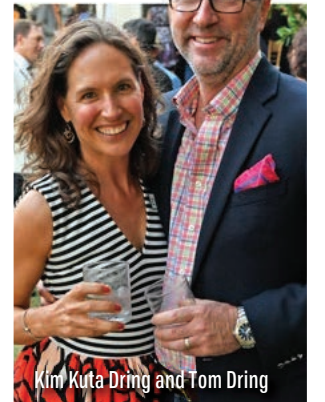
Dinner party guests enjoyed beer, wine, hors d'oeuvres, and aptly-named entrees that included "The Jewels of the Sea Heist" and "The Thomas Crown Affair." Themed music and artful experiences completed the caper.



David and Katelyn Johnston



Christy Valentino with Ashlee Correia



Kim Kuta Dring and Tom Dring

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Annual paint-by-wheelchair event raises awareness for disabled residents

The 6th Annual Abilities in Art was held March 30 at Riverside Arts Market, where visitors were invited to hop on a wheelchair and zip down a canvas, leaving paint tracks in a pattern. Placing the canvas on a slight incline also showed participants how difficult it can be for a disabled person to move a wheelchair up a ramp.

The annual event helps The Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC) raise disability awareness and provide an opportunity for the community to participate in creating art that will be auctioned at the nonprofit's annual Mystery Trip Suitcase Party, Saturday, June 30, at Malone Air Charter.

The ILRC also signs up new volunteers and introduces the general public to the programs and services provided at the center.



Jahaziel Rocha has fun putting paint on canvas with a wheelchair.



Bria Walker, a psychology student at Jacksonville University and volunteer for The ILRC, takes a turn creating wheelchair art at Riverside Arts Market March 30.



Bjorn Kovach with his sister, Neda Brown, and mother Traci Kovach-Brown, a refugee liaison at Catholic Charities



Teri Duke, left, and Margarita Maldonado, right, help Danielle and Luca Frei create wheelchair art on a canvas at Riverside Arts Market March 30.

Al Letson shares his Sanctuary summer one last time

Over 200 friends, supporters, and former students of the Sanctuary on 8th Street turned out March 31 to hear former Jacksonville resident and poet Al Letson perform his finale of "Summer in Sanctuary" at Theatre Jacksonville in San Marco.

The one-man show chronicles the summer that former Sanctuary Executive Director Vicky Watkins convinced Letson to work as a creative writing teacher during summer camp.

Told through monologue, poetry, song and sound-rich reporting, "Summer in Sanctuary" took the audience beyond the statistics to reveal the unseen challenges and complexities facing students in underserved communities, such as Springfield, across the country.

A reception at The Vault at 1930 followed the performance, which benefited its namesake, the Sanctuary on 8th Street.



Susan Ober chats with Al Letson at a reception after his finale performance of Summer in Sanctuary.

Letson got his start in Jacksonville and in New York City as a performance poet. After creating, hosting and producing "State of the Re:Union" from 2008 to 2015, Letson left Jacksonville to join the California-based Center for Investigative Reporting to help launch and host public radio's first hour-long investigative journalism show, "Reveal."



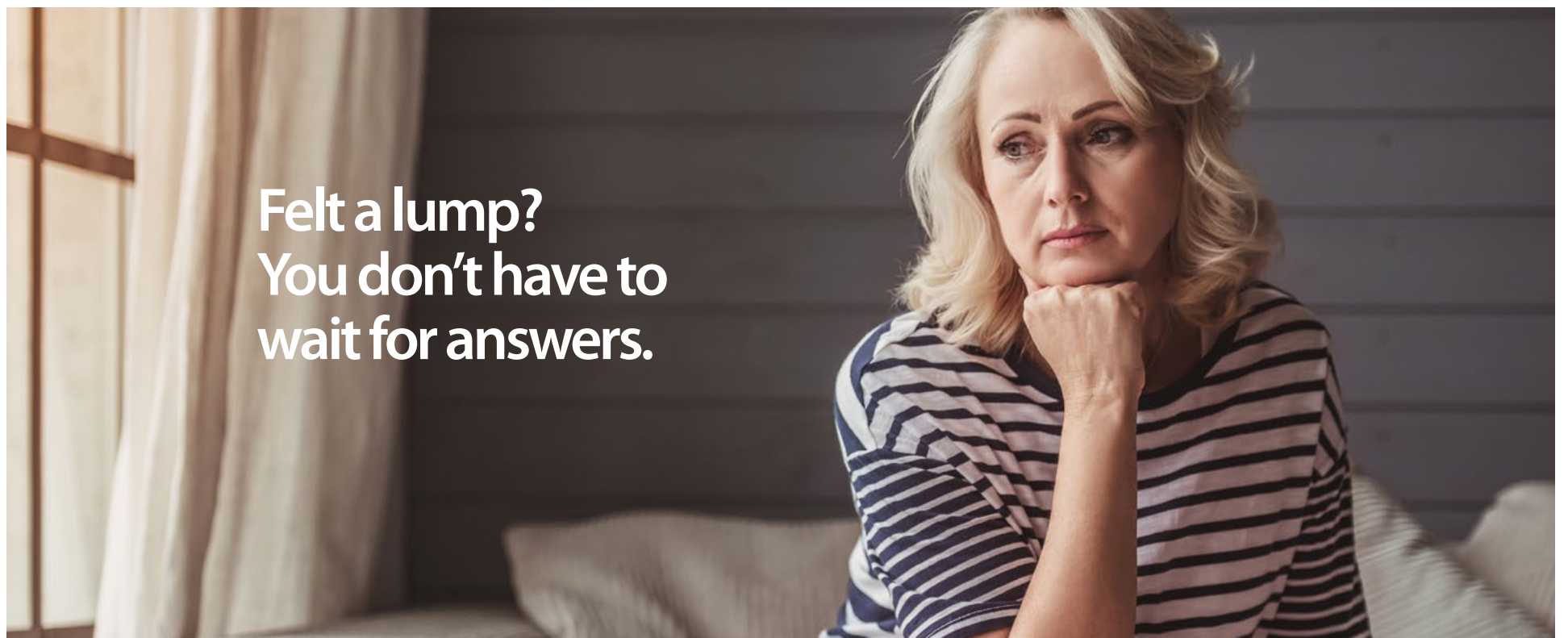
Margaret Julian, Biko Misabiko and Pat Gurley



Rick Cartledge, Maryanne Lindsey and Greg McMillan



Julie Howard and Beth Mixson



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Wiffle golf tournament challenges even best golfer

To ensure all residents have access to justice, the law office of Pajcic & Pajcic held its annual fundraiser to support Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA), which offers civil legal support to those who cannot afford an attorney for matters ranging from fair housing to employment and much more.

Challenging even the best duffer, the 7th Annual Yard Course & Back 9 Wiffle ball golf tournament held April 27 was a dual-location event. The famous “island green” stymied golfers at the Avondale home of Steve and Anne Pajcic, where the Pajcic firm matches the dock-to-lawn hole-in-one, a \$6,000 win, for JALA. This year Camilo Ramirez hit the hole in one, and Jaguars Kicker Josh Lambo won \$6,000 for his favorite charity for getting closest to the pin in a celebrity shootout with Frank Frangie, Artis Gilmore, Keelan Cole and Allen Hurns.

At Michael Pajcic and Katy DeBrier’s home – just a stroll away – children enjoyed a water slide bounce house, face painting and other games. Hot dogs at the turn were offered on the front nine at Steve Pajcic’s home, while barbecue was served on the back nine.



Annie Pajcic tees off at the infamous hole-in-one challenge from a dock at Steve Pajcic’s Avondale home.



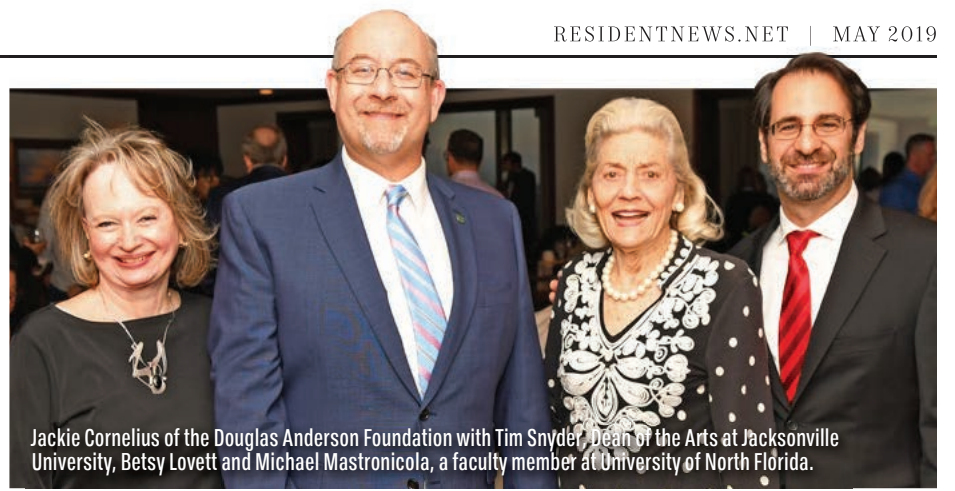
Scott Powell and Robert Van Cleve with Sam Van Doren, Charlie Van Doren and Tucker Van Cleve



Coach Toby Frazier, with his wife, Robbin, presented Steve Pajcic with a framed photo of the Paxon High School basketball team, which made it to the Final Four for the first time in 54 years, since Steve and his late brother, Gary, were students at Paxon. The team ended up third in the state with a 25-4 season.



Mia Newton and Steve Pajcic with leadership from Turning Point Riverside: Don Jackson, Altreus Bell and Rashad Brown



Jackie Cornelius of the Douglas Anderson Foundation with Tim Snyder, Dean of the Arts at Jacksonville University, Betsy Lovett and Michael Mastronicola, a faculty member at University of North Florida.

Collaborations in the arts bring leaders to town

Douglas Anderson invites guests to return in the fall

Hosted by the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Foundation’s executive director, Jackie Cornelius, members of the Arts Schools Network made a pre-conference planning trip to Jacksonville to check out venues for their Oct. 22-25 gathering.

While in town in early April, the group of arts school advocates and arts education leaders was treated to a river-themed evening, which kicked off with a cocktail party at the waterfront home of Betsy Lovett. Guests enjoyed a river cruise from Lovett’s Ortega home to the Southbank, where they had a buffet dinner above the clouds at the River Club.

The conference for leadership development and creation of innovative best arts practices is being hosted in a partnership between the DA Foundation, Jacksonville University, Mayo Clinic and Florida Blue.



Jeff Dunn, Chair, Douglas Anderson Foundation with Patty Watson and Slovakian exchange student, Matúš Kianička, a rotary youth exchange student who attends Douglas Anderson School of the Arts.



Patti McMillen with Principal Melanie Hammer and Patti Cowgill

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net

Home Tour kickoff features ‘twilight’ party, guest speaker

Two days before the 45th Annual Home Tour, Riverside Avondale Preservation hosted a Twilight Party April 25, in lieu of the traditional Preview Party. Held at the Albright home, a 1926 two-story brick home on Richmond Street, the Twilight Party was launched to focus on interesting people living in the historic district. RAP Executive Director Warren Jones introduced Avondale Street newcomers Dr. James Delgado and his wife, Ann Goodhart, to over 100 guests.

Delgado’s career spans nearly five decades of investigating the past and sharing discovery and history with a global audience. An archaeologist, historian, journalist, educator, museum director, television host of international documentaries on ABC, National Geographic, Discovery, History, and many other networks, Delgado

said of the historical events he has studied that were significant to the history of the world “that when you think about it, took place in someone’s backyard.”

“I know for Anne and myself...we came with the understanding that our responsibility as new homeowners was not to just join RAP or open our the house for the next couple of days but to understand that in this grand progression of history...our goal is to be caretakers of this house, in this neighborhood, as members of RAP to ensure we do the best with this house and to pass it along to the next generation of owners making sure we have done all we can to ensure it lives on, and passes on a legacy that future generations, perhaps in this same backyard, will appreciate.”

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



RAP Home Tour Chair Kyle Williams with Jim Delgado, Twilight Party speaker, and his wife, Ann Goodhart, with RAP Executive Director Warren Jones and his wife, Faith, and Nancy Powell, RAP board chair



Ed and Joy Walker with Lorri Reynolds



Alan Wilson and Angela Schifanella with Susan Painter and Rick Pariani



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Women's Board President Katherine Forrester with her father, George Armstrong



Darnell Smith and Evelyn Colón with Sunny Gettinger and Bruce Fafard



Terri and Mac McGehee with Susan and Jere Pitman



Mary Love Strum with Mary Virginia Terry



Carey and Brad Officer with Patricia and Dr. Gary Josephson



Missy Peters and Deanna Brown



Lori and Jack Shad with Susan Greene



Ryan Jones and Tom Tiner



Nicole Bryan, Jill Dame and Megan Folds



Connie Hodges, Martha Barrett and Alicia Somers

Famed NFL player, coach delivers for audience at Forum

Over 1,200 supporters of the Women's Board and fans of the Florida Forum attended the 2018-2019 Speaker Series season finale to hear from Pro Football Hall of Fame Member and Coach Tony Dungy. Around 350 attended the cocktail reception following Dungy's talk about his championship years as a player for the Pittsburgh Steelers and as head coach for the Indianapolis Colts.

The Women's Board has produced the Forum since 1992, hosting renowned speakers from around the world to raise awareness and funds for Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Leadership Jacksonville honors three in community

Leadership Jacksonville held its 24th Annual Celebration of Leadership April 16 at the Jessie Ball duPont Center to honor three leaders in the community. Alberta Hipps, LJ Class of 1993; David Miller, LJ Class of 2008, and Darnell Smith, LJ Class of 2000 were celebrated for their contributions to the nonprofit and the community at large.

Serving as master of ceremonies was Assistant State Attorney Ashleigh Brooks, member of LJ's Next Generation Class of 2018. Cecilia Molis, a student at Allen D. Nease High School, and member of the Youth LJ Class XXIX, provided some inspirational thoughts.



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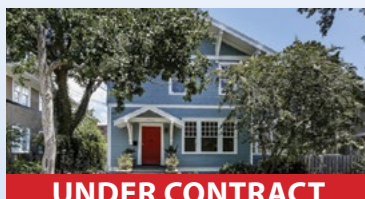


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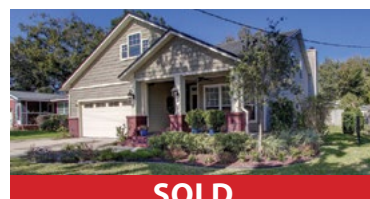


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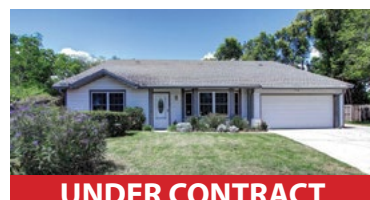
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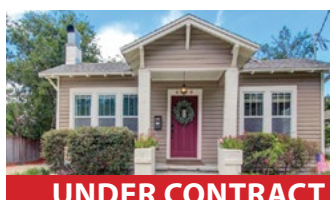


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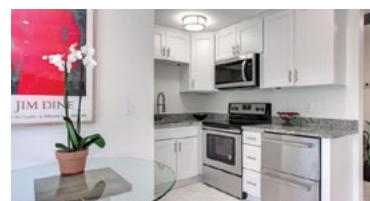


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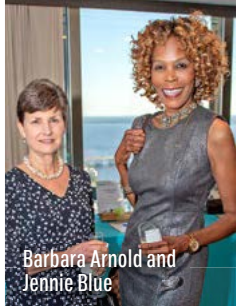
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Seth and Kathleen Pajic with Camilo Ramirez



Jennifer Glock and Michael Ward



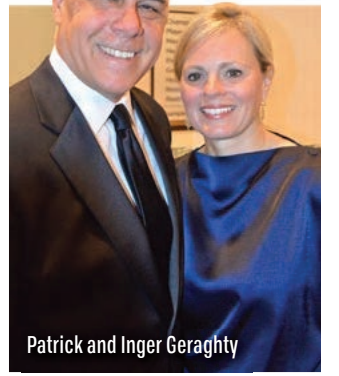
Barbara Arnold and Jennie Blue



Megan Goulette and Marie Shello



Leah and Chad Pester with Heart Ball Chairs Claudia and Russ Thomas



Patrick and Inger Geraghty



Elias Demetree with Donna Geiger and Chris Boetcker



Janyce and Mark Dawkins with Celestine and Darnell Smith



Kimberly Hyatt, Darnell Smith and Beth Jennison



Jill and Marc Triebwasser



Dr. Bill and Jackie Putnam



Jami and Paul Bueker with Tiffany and Chris McGraw

San Marco philanthropists named Guardians of the Arts

Jennifer Glock and Michael Ward were honored by supporters of Cathedral Arts Project as the 2019 Guardians of the Arts during the 15th Annual Spring for the Arts April 26 at The River Club. CAP Board Chair Beth Jennison was event chair for the fourth year in a row, inspiring all with her passion for and dedication to CAP's mission to unleash the creative spirit of underserved young people in the community. Major sponsors included FIS, Black Knight, Fidelity National Financial, Monica and Bob Jacoby, Marisa and Frank Martire and Karen and Greg Montana.

Heart ball celebrates mission, donors, volunteers and saved lives

Generous donors opened their hearts and their pocketbooks to raise a whopping \$1,063,000 during the 2019 First Coast Heart Ball at the Sawgrass Marriott April 13. The record-setting amount was the most ever raised by the American Heart Association gala, said Lisa Craig, communications director. The glamorous event was chaired by Russ and Claudia Thomas, and honored Darnell Smith, the market president for Florida Blue of Northeast Florida. Speaking at the event were heart disease survivors Koralee Jacobs and Oscar Munoz. Florida Senator Aaron Bean served as moderator. Guests also had an opportunity to view images of a heart on an anatomage machine, courtesy of The Mayo Clinic.

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Chops for Charity supports Ben's Place with barbecue cookoff

The 3rd Annual Chops for Charity barbecue competition, organized by Chris Thomas of Paul Davis Restoration, drew more than 100 supporters of Ben's Place, a Community of Friends, on March 30 to taste ribs, brisket, chops and pulled pork lunch at the Fire Union Hall on Stockton Street.

Five barbecue teams cooked up ribs and pork for tasting by visitors, who voted for the People's Choice award by "feeding the pig," donating money to the teams they liked best. Over all, it was estimated the event raised about \$2,000.

Five judges, including Norm Abraham, former owner of Two Doors Down Restaurant, David Joudi of Riverside Liquors and Wine, Scott Conroy, Jackie Walding and Cathy Heffernan determined the winners of the competition.

Nearly 20 years ago, what began as a Friday evening social club for adults with



Eat Sleep BBQ's Akeem and Brittney Berkel, Laurette Green and Maurice Adams. This was the catering company's first time participating in Chops for Charity.

developmental disabilities, now serves about 50 adults with special needs 12 hours per day during the week and three hours on Saturday and Sunday. Ben's Place, located at 1956 Blanding Blvd., provides activities such as arts and crafts, games, dances, physical fitness, music, movies, and a kitchen for cooking instruction.

More importantly, the organization offers a unique opportunity for adults with developmental or acquired disabilities to have friends, as well as interact and learn life skills with their peers in a social environment.



Tony Jackson, Mashieka Thomas and Trenton Thomas of BBQ Done Right participated for the second year in Chops for Charity.



Robert Yarbrough, Ben's Place Executive Director Anne Yarbrough, Leonardo and Alexander



Doug Fry, Jennifer Ivey, Carole and Nicole Demery, Jimmy Fricke, Megan Bell, with Jenn Fry and Susan Bell

Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville celebrates 30 years

Down Syndrome Association Jacksonville celebrated 30 years in style when it held its Illuminate the Night, A Toast on the Coast gala at Atlantic Beach Country Club March 30.

More than 250 guests enjoyed the sold-out event, which offered an open bar, awards ceremony, dinner, dancing, a silent auction and a raffle drawing.

"This anniversary means a lot. We've made a lot of changes through the years and now offer a totally different community for those with Down Syndrome," said Executive Director Debbie Revels. "These 30 years have made such a difference in their lives."



Members of the Down Syndrome Association Young Professionals Board include Danielle Frei, Ashley Clark and Desiree Barrentine



Ashley Wilkinson with Down Syndrome Association Board Chairman Jeff Leach and Peyton Miller



Danny Kane, Matt Kane, Mary Kane and April Kane with Anna and Shauna McElhenny

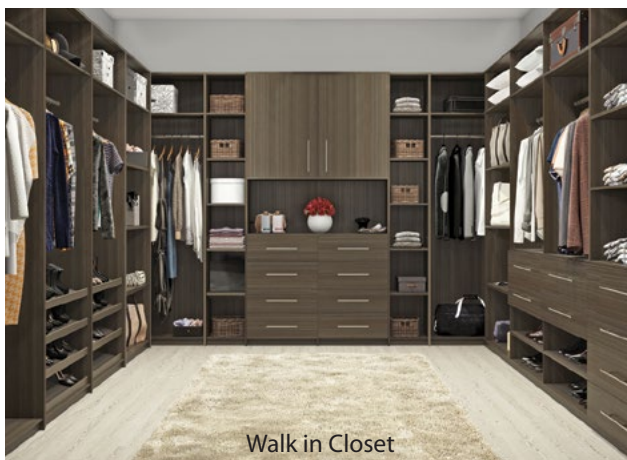
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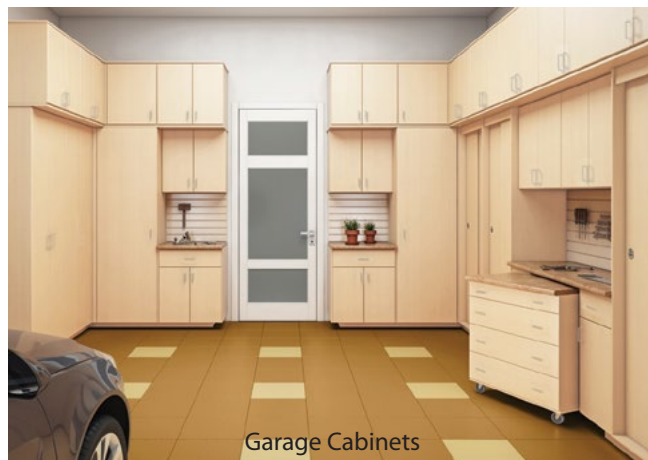
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Honorees acknowledged at humanitarian awards dinner

Five honorees were recognized at the 49th annual OneJax Humanitarian Awards Dinner April 11.

The 2019 Silver Medallion honorees included Myron Flagler, former executive director of the Jewish Community Alliance; Patrick Geraghty, chief executive officer, GuideWell Mutual Holding Corporation, Florida Blue and GuideWell Group, Inc.; Janet Owens, executive director, Jacksonville Office of Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC Jacksonville); and Julia Taylor, community trustee. The Silver Medallion is awarded to recipients in recognition of their outstanding dedication and community service.



Janet Owens with Kevin Gay

The 2019 Acosta-Rua Young Professional Award was presented to Basma Alawee, Florida refugee organizer, Florida Immigrant Coalition (FLIC). This award is periodically given to young professionals who are making a significant impact in their community by promoting understanding and awareness, furthering the cause of social justice issues and providing leadership that encourages responsible action by others in the community.

Howard Korman, CEO of bestbet and Joy Korman, community trustee and volunteer, served as chairs at the event, which was held at the Prime Osborn Convention Center.

OneJax, an Institute of the University of North Florida, is an interfaith organization dedicated to achieving civility, understanding and respect for all through education, dialogue and community-building. Their vision is an inclusive community where difference is welcomed and celebrated.

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



Ali Aljubouri with Basma Alawee, Rodina and Donna Aljubouri



Nancy Felton with Bobby Abramson, Susan Rodil and Ira Abramson



Judy DuBose with Davy Parrish and Dr. John Parrish and Jennifer Ryan



Steve and Diane Halverson with Darnell Smith



Beth and Chris Kane with Vanessa and Dr. Vaughn Holland



Jeff and Jenny Dunbar with Julie Bennett, Jennie and Ben Stephens, Lisa and Kenny Saitow



Beverly Eng (in hat) and Dawn Geer with John and Lisa Wright

Urban safari raises funds for beloved zoo

The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is always an exciting adventure and provides the perfect backdrop for its yearly benefit. Rainy weather did not deter supporters who attended the 24th Annual ExZOOberation, themed Sippin' Safari, April 6.

Dressed casually in safari or resort-style garb, guests enjoyed a variety of live music from Calahoney, Let's Ride Brass Band, Junco Royals, and the Paul Lundgren Band in the Savanna Blooms Garden, the African Forest and the Range of the Jaguar. As they strolled through the exhibits, the zoo's enthusiastic supporters enjoyed craft cocktails and culinary creations from nearly two dozen purveyors and restaurants, while participating in a silent auction to raise funds for one of Jacksonville's best tourist attractions.

View more photos at photos.residentnews.net



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Ortega River Club holds mortgage burning ceremony

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

The Ortega River Club, the second oldest private club in Jacksonville after the Florida Yacht Club, has nearly as many names as a cat has lives. Under its current identity, members celebrated a mortgage burning ceremony April 14 at the club on 4165 Lakeside Drive.

Originally organized as the Germania Club in 1903, the certificate of incorporation was amended on June 18, 1918, changing the club's name to the Metropolitan Club. After World War I, it became the German-American Club, then the Metropolitan Club again during World War II. In 1961, the name was amended again to the German-American Club and remained so for the next 50 years.

The club's first location is now the site of Haskell Company on Riverside Avenue. Dedicated in 1913, it was designed by renowned architect Henry Klutho. The grand opening spanned six days of festivities. After membership dropped drastically during World War I, the property was sold in 1921 to a labor organization



Elaine Atchison and Larry Alford with Lajana Hill holding the paid mortgage for the Ortega River Club.

which subsequently defaulted in 1923. The building on Riverside Avenue was then owned by Seminole Milk Co. (1924-1928), Foremost Dairy (1928-1932), and Faith Temple until the early 1940s, at which time it was purchased by an insurance company.

The property on Lakeside Drive was purchased in 1916 for \$6,000. The building cost \$20,000 to build and was dedicated in 1928, at which Mayor John T. Alsop, Jr. and City Commissioner T.C. Imeson gave the welcoming addresses. An addition was built in 1934 and the caretaker's quarters were constructed on the second floor.

The run-down property became the Ortega River Club in 2011. Members mortgaged the building for \$260,000 to invest in much-needed renovations. On April 14 over 100 club members celebrated paying off the mortgage eight years early with afternoon festivities including barbecue, dancing and music by Lori Capozzi and Matt Greene of Top Shelf Band and, of course, burning the mortgage.



Becky Rood, Wayne Turner, Elaine Atchison, Larry Alford, president Lajana Hill, club president, Tom White, vice-president, Rick Gehret, board chair, Chris Atchison, Ken Atlee

Greenscape gives away trees to keep Jacksonville green, beautiful



Live Oak Contracting, presenting sponsor for the Arbor Day Festival and Greenscape Tree Giveaway

Greenscape of Jacksonville held its third annual Arbor Day Festival and Greenscape Tree Giveaway April 6 at Jessie Ball duPont Park under the Treaty Oak. The family-focused fundraising event recognized Jacksonville's official Arbor Day. It was sponsored by Live Oak Contracting, JEA and International Papers. Activities included children's arts and crafts and educational talks on trees and the environment.

The Arbor Day Festival has replaced Greenscape's former annual tree sale, instead offering thousands of free trees to visitors on a first-come, first-served basis. This year the nonprofit offered 3,000 trees of four species: Live Oak, Dahoon Holly, Southern Magnolia, and Bald Cypress. Helping tote trees to vehicles were members of Noles in Action, a group of volunteers who are alumni of Florida State University, who chose the Arbor Day event as their community service project for the month of April.



Joe and Michelle Maylon



Noles in Action: Valerie and Steven Smith, Catherine Silsby, Adam Mason, Marty Blue, JEA Forester Joe Anderson and Danielle Mason



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LISA ANTHONY TUCKER


ELLEN WILSON

In times of grief, Naugle Funeral Home & Cremation Services has provided a century of caring for families

Dealing with the passing of a loved one and what is required of you to lay them to rest can be a daunting process while grieving.

There are so many decisions to be made. Did your loved one want a traditional funeral, or would they have preferred cremation? If there is a burial, do you want to have a funeral service prior to the burial, or would you prefer to have a memorial service after the burial? Additionally, where will your loved one be laid to rest?

In Florida, nearly 70% of surviving family members or friends will choose to have their loved one cremated. For some it is a financial decision, for others a personal choice. Regardless of the reason, Naugle Funeral Home & Cremation Services is experienced in helping you handle this

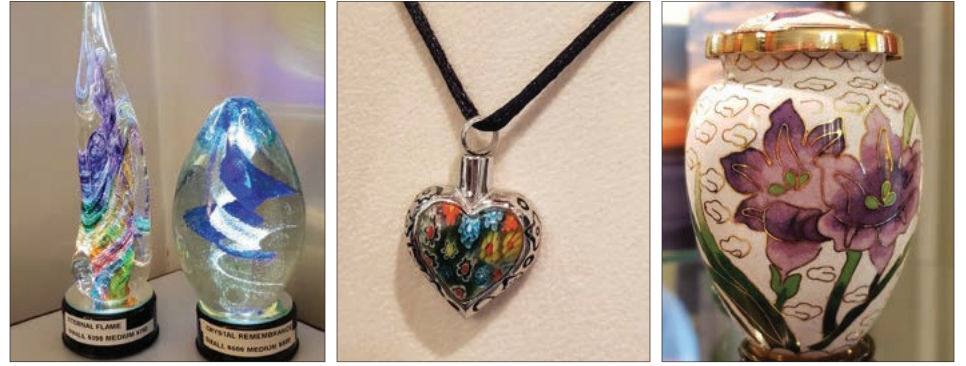
emotional and delicate task. They are able to bury at all cemeteries in Jacksonville and throughout the State of Florida.

“One of the most important reasons to have a crematory onsite is being able to assure our clients that their loved one is in our custody at all times during the cremation process,” said Roger Delaney, one of three licensed funeral directors at Naugle Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

To some this may not sound like a big deal. But knowing that your recently departed loved one is being taken care of by Jacksonville’s oldest family-run funeral home from start to finish adds to your peace of mind in this time of grief.

“Our intention is to help people make the decision that is best for the family at the time of their loss,” said Delaney. “Naugle is in a unique position to be able to offer a variety of cremation services, from the simplest cremation to a full cremation or funeral service. Additionally, we can assist with the purchase of a cemetery plot or niche, or we can arrange burial at sea services.”

With over 100 years of experience between them, Naugle’s three funeral directors agree it is important to provide closure for the families they serve. This is most often done through a final viewing or a funeral or memorial service. “A funeral service or memorial service lets the family tell their loved one goodbye,” said Delaney, who has over 30 years’ experience in the funeral business. Company President Cameron Naugle and his father, Paul, each began serving in the family business when they were teenagers,



Roger Delaney and Roy Schnauss, III

helping provide Jacksonville residents with comfort at this stressful and emotional time.

Adding a crematory to their services provides Naugle Funeral Home’s families with a variety of cremation choices. “We can offer a full-service cremation, which includes the traditional viewing in a beautiful oak casket, a simple cremation, or anything in-between,” said Roy Schnauss, III, one of the company’s owners and brother-in-law to Cameron Naugle.

The “in-between” includes a full viewing – also in a casket; a limited, family-only viewing, or a memorial service with the cremated remains safely encased in a beautiful urn. “We have an almost unlimited variety of urns, jewelry and keepsake pieces in which to secure some or all of your loved one’s remains,” said Delaney. Naugle even offers biodegradable and eco-safe salt urns for sea burials.

The cost of cremation is less expensive than a full burial, said Delaney. With a cremation, family members are not required to purchase a plot, a vault, a casket, and a monument. You also do not incur the

additional expense of interment at the cemetery. “Cremation can be half as costly as traditional burial,” Schnauss added.

Another service to help grieving family and friends, especially those living out of state, is Naugle’s online arrangements portal. While more than willing and able to meet with local families to handle their loved ones’ arrangements by phone or in person, Naugle’s funeral directors realize the convenience of arranging a cremation online for some families. “We want to offer our families all of the conveniences that we can in this day and age,” Delaney said.

With two locations to serve you and your loved ones, Naugle Funeral Home & Cremation Services is proud to provide a century of comfort. Call (904) 396-1611 for the San Marco location, (904) 683-9288 for Riverside, or visit cremations.nauglefuneral.com for more information about the alternatives to burial and to discuss how they can assist you in pre-planning your funeral or cremation.

Jacksonville Health Centers

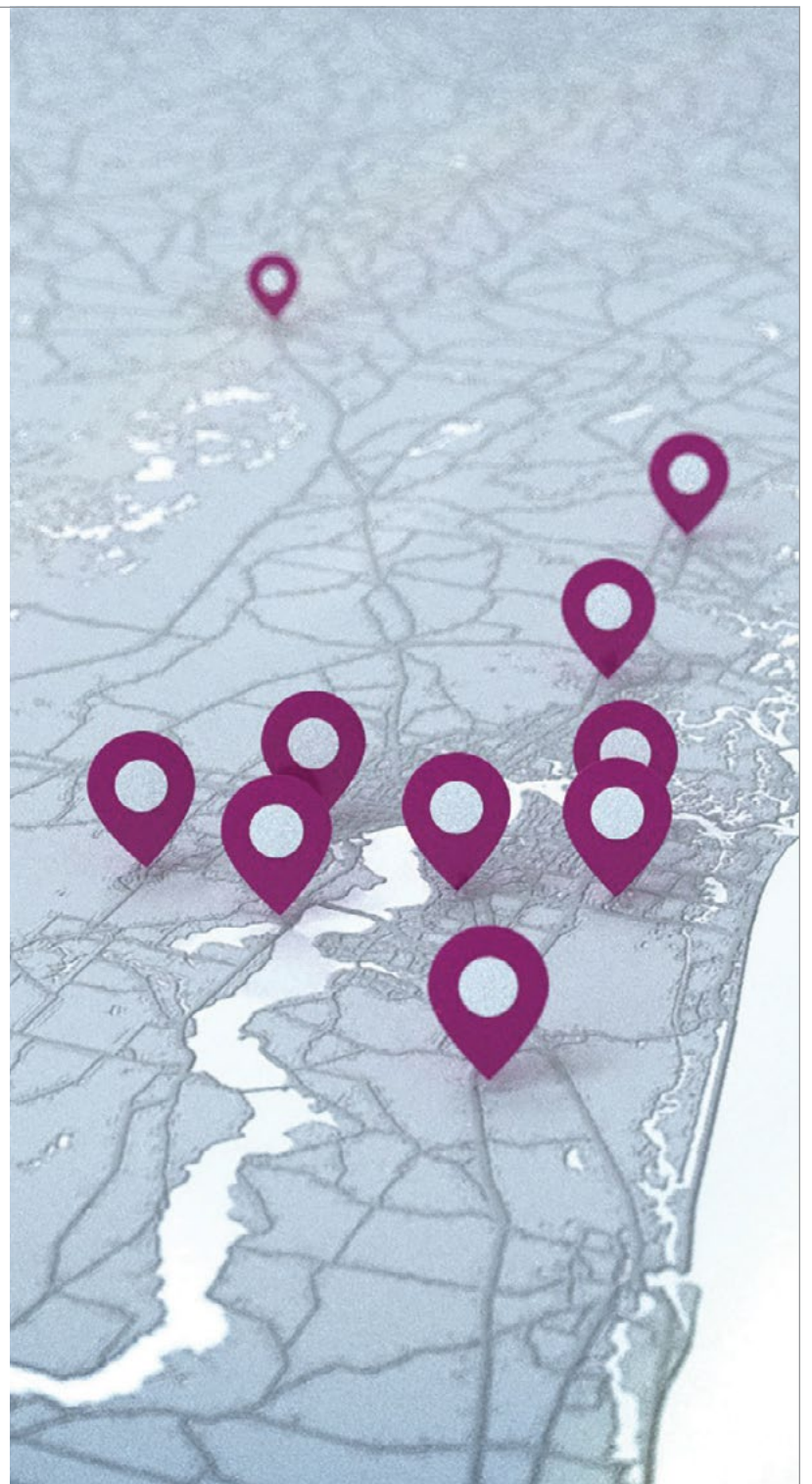
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Ascension St. Vincent’s



Bridging cultural conflicts with open conversation

Submitted by Sabeen Perwaiz

“To think, just a few short months ago, most of us didn’t know each other,” said Jill Metlin. “Today, we grieve together, support each other, share our pasts and hopes for our future. We are brave sisters coming together for greater understanding and a greater purpose. I look forward to our unfolding story.”

Eight Muslim women and eight Jewish women have been meeting once a month since October 2018. Lev B’lev, heart to heart in Hebrew, started as an idea in the fall of 2017. After a trip to Israel and Palestine with the Muslim Leadership Institute, I wanted to explore ways in which Muslim and Jewish women in Jacksonville could connect, learn from one another and be there for each other.

Jacksonville has such a large and dynamic Jewish and Muslim population and they share so many commonalities. The two communities often avoid speaking to one another in North America because of a conflict that is very far away but one they feel deeply connected to. Imagine what a

group of women could accomplish if they learned to trust each other and work toward peace, together. By creating a space in which they could speak honestly about what they cared about most while also listening to one another turned into a powerful experience.

The topics of the monthly conversations ranged from the history of each religion, to holidays and prayer to politics, incorporating a time of personal sharing as each woman reflected on how the topic influenced them in their lives. The discussions were always lively, heartfelt and difficult.

The participants represented an array of backgrounds, cultures and religious denominations. The Jewish women range from secular to modern Orthodox and include both Israeli and American born. The Muslim women vary from American born to first generation immigrants and hail from India, Iraq, Kuwait, Pakistan, and Sudan.

“I loved the open discussions. Getting to know all the women has truly been an amazing experience. Not only learning things that I had never known about the Muslim faith, but also challenging my own



Tehila Menahem, Sumra Rathore, Jeanine Hoff, Ameera Sayeed, Manar Ahmed, Roxy Garcia Marcus, Sabeen Perwaiz, Sunny Gettinger, Ellen Cottrill, Leah Palestrant, Edrea Porter, Anita Sheikh, Savana Parveen, Jill Metlin, Basma Alawee

ideas and how Judaism has played a role in my own life,” said Ellen Cottrill.

Basma Alawee said, “When I heard about this program, I got so excited because of the opportunity to learn from Jewish women while connecting and sharing my beliefs and lived experiences in a safe space. I was yearning for a place for both of our groups to learn, connect and share with one another.”

The participants were fully engaged from the beginning. They requested a WhatsApp group so they could continue the discussions outside of the scheduled meetings. Much to my surprise, members were vulnerable from the very first meeting and always shared honest and painful truths. They challenged each other at every meeting and everyone always left with a new perspective.

At the end of the programmed six-month period, a bond was formed between the

group and a realization that, first and foremost, they are all women, wives, and mothers – things that know no cultural boundaries. And, despite the many varied differences, what stands out the most is exactly what I had hope for; through open dialogue and discussions, they discovered that there is so much that unites these women.

The success of the program can be seen in each participant’s desire to continue to build their relationship, find new ways to meet and make a difference together in their community. They have been there for each other through the Pittsburgh and Christchurch tragedies. They have broken bread together, supported each other and celebrated together. Sometimes a little heart to heart is all it takes to stepping up for a better Jacksonville and a better world. This is just the beginning.

The Salvation Army dedicates garden in Charlie Towers’ memory



The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida with the family of Charlie Towers at the dedication of the Charles D. “Charlie” Towers Memorial Garden at the Towers Center of Hope: Major Bert Tanner; Sally Towers Ragsdale and Cathy Towers Harbage, daughters of Charlie Towers; Katy Towers, widow of Charlie Towers; and Bennett Brown

A visionary and tireless champion of The Salvation Army was honored when The Salvation Army NEFL Area Command, Advisory Board and The Lord’s Foundation dedicated the Charles D. “Charlie” Towers Memorial Garden at the Towers Center of Hope on West Adams Street March 22. The garden is meant to honor the Avondale resident’s life of service to the Jacksonville community as well as to provide a peaceful respite for prayer and reflection for those seeking life-changing assistance through the services and support offered at The Towers.

“The ceremony was just perfect,” said Towers’ daughter, Sally Towers Ragsdale.

Towers was a leader in securing the funding to build the Towers Center and a visionary for seeing that it was constructed

and operational as a place to provide housing for single women and families as well as transitional housing for men. Meals are also served at the complex to families and individuals in need of assistance to transition to a successful life.

Designed by Jamie Ross, the garden was made possible through The Lord’s Foundation, which was established by Towers and is now led by his widow, Katy Towers, and his family.

Towers was a long-time member of The Salvation Army Advisory Board and a member of the William Booth Society, a nationwide program established by the Army to recognize and honor individuals who donate \$5,000 or more annually to support Army programs and services in their local community.

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Baseball comes indoors during first annual Walkers vs. Hoses competition

It was “root, root, root for the home team” March 22 at Riverside Presbyterian Home when a team from Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Engine Company and EMTs from Station 5 joined RPH residents in the First Annual Walkers vs. Hoses cornhole baseball competition.

As a crowd of residents, complete with face paint and pompoms, cheered on the Walkers, the Hoses team, led by David “Home Run” Howell, edged past its host, 36-35. Everyone took a time out after the fifth inning so that spectators and players alike could sing a robust rendition of “Take Me Out to the Ball Game.”



Patsy Parker celebrates making a home run during the Walkers vs. Hoses competition.



Muffet and John Corse with Betsy Lovett

Celebrating a special day for one unique couple

Generations of family joined with long-time friends to celebrate milestone birthdays of two Avondale residents John Corse, who turned 95 on March 16 and his wife, Margaret, better known to friends and family as Muffet, who turned 90 on March 15. With the St. Johns River providing a gorgeous backdrop, the April evening soiree was held outdoors under a tent, where guests mixed and mingled as they toasted the couple, married 67 years, and raised glasses to good health.



George Varn with Russell Newton



Dink and Kathryn Foerster



Heather Courtney with Lane Courtney, Will Courtney, William Courtney IV, Lambert Lane and Margaret Hicks

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Hope Haven offers touching reunion between physician and burn victim

By Marcia Hodgson
Resident Community News

More than 50 years ago, Randy Highsmith, then only 16 months old, endured severe burns over 40 percent of his body during an accidental kitchen fire at his family home. Wanting to thank the doctor who literally saved his life at Hope Haven Hospital in 1967, Highsmith recently contacted the staff at the St. Nicholas facility to see if it was possible to reconnect with now-retired pediatric surgeon. The result was a touching reunion between Highsmith and his wife, Kelley, with Dr. H. Warner Webb and his wife, Sherrie, of Riverside, at Hope Haven March 22.

“Randy made a point of wanting to meet Dr. Webb,” said Nancy Weaver, a spokesperson for Hope Haven. “When I told Dr. Webb about it, he said there are people in his life that he’s always wanted to thank and didn’t. He said he regrets that, so he really wanted to give Randy this opportunity to speak to him.”



Dr. H. Warner Webb greets his former patient, Randy Highsmith, during a special reunion at Hope Haven March 22.

Highsmith, who lives in High Springs, did not know whether Hope Haven still existed when he looked up the facility online in March. In 1967, when his accident occurred, Hope Haven was the only pediatric hospital serving the Jacksonville community. In the 1980s, Hope Haven sold its inpatient services to Nemours Children’s Specialty Care and realigned its mission to focus on children with developmental and special needs. It also moved its facility from Atlantic Boulevard to its existing location on Beach Boulevard.

“We have a grandson named Jude who turned 1 year old in September and that got me to thinking, he’s about the age I was when I got burned. Then I wondered if Hope Haven was still in existence, and I looked them up online and wrote them a note,” Highsmith said.

Too young to recall the exact circumstances of his accident, Highsmith said his mother told him he had already been put to bed before the accident, while the rest of the family socialized in the living room. “We lived on a chicken farm in Orange Park. There was a gas hot water heater going in the house with copper tubing. I had gotten out of my bed and was heading to the kitchen, which I associated with my mom. I was holding myself up in the doorway and the hot-water heater was to my right. The pilot light came on and gas that was in the kitchen ignited. My dad had recently painted the kitchen walls, so it immediately caught on fire,” he said.

The fire burned the back of young Highsmith’s legs, hands, and the side of his face. His parents immediately transported him to Baptist Medical Center, where he met Webb who injected him with painkillers



Kelley and Randy Highsmith with Dr. H. Warner Webb, Hope Haven Chief Executive Officer Stella Johnson, and Sherrie Webb.

and arranged to have him transported to Hope Haven. Over the following years, up until he turned 18, Highsmith endured more than 30 surgeries, with Dr. Webb conducting skin grafts on his legs and hands at least twice a year from 1967 to 1976. Eventually Highsmith’s family moved closer to Gainesville, and he resumed his medical treatment at Shands Hospital.

“He is the doctor that saved my life,” Highsmith said. “During one of the surgeries I died. My mother told me my heart stopped beating for something like two minutes. He literally saved my life.”

Although Webb said he couldn’t recall the specifics of Highsmith’s condition so long ago, his young patient’s name was familiar to him when he was contacted by the Hope Haven staff. “I don’t recall the specifics of all that, but I’m glad things

worked out,” he said. “You were a pretty sick child when you had extensive burns at your age. That’s a pretty tough battle to fight.”

Growing up disfigured was tough, said Highsmith, who added that he was teased and bullied in school. “It’s made me conscious of that when it comes to other folks,” he said. He eventually graduated from Santa Fe High School, received a degree in accounting and processing from Webster College and is currently employed by Moses Engineering.

Webb, who began practicing medicine in Jacksonville in 1966, said he was grateful Highsmith wanted to reconnect. “I’m very humbled. I practiced surgery here for 45 years and never had a day when I got up and dreaded going to work. I did what I loved to do. Part of that was taking care of you the best I could,” he said to Highsmith. “I appreciate the remembrance, I really do.”

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1817 Willowbranch Terrace
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\$545,000



2535 Forbes Street
3BR/2BA with rocking chair front porch. Original hardwood floors, high ceilings, lots of charm. This property has been a rental home in the recent past and is ready for a new owner to love it and make it their own. 2,185 sq. ft. \$299,000



2038 College Street
3BR/2BA with a large front porch welcomes you into a spacious living room with fireplace and tall coffered ceilings, natural wood work, hardwood floors, gourmet renovated kitchen. Owner’s suite with super large closet. 2,530 sq. ft. \$419,000



1650 Boulder Street, Unit 1
Minutes from San Marco, and a block away from the Hendricks Ave. Elementary School. Upstairs is 1BR/1BA. Downstairs is a 2BR/1BA. Both units rented with good long term responsible tenants. 1,182 sq. ft. \$179,000



2203/2205 Gilmore Street
Updated side by side one story duplex within walking distance of 5 Points. Each unit has separate living room with fireplace, separate dining room, 1BR/1BA, kitchen and inside utility room. Both units are rented.
1,743 sq. ft. \$249,000



2249 Forbes Street
2BR/2BA historic bungalow, living room with fireplace, open dining room, bonus room can be an office or mud room. Gleaming hardwood floors throughout, wood deck in back, 420 sq. ft. garage. 1,300 sq. ft. \$295,000



4517 Hercules Avenue
3BR/1BA cottage in Murray Hill. Beautifully refinished wood floors throughout, renovated bath, eat-in kitchen, large entry foyer and spacious living room. Covered front porch and large storage building. 907sq. ft. \$117,000

THE WAY WE WERE: THE LARSON SISTERS

BY SUSAN D. BRANDENBURG
RESIDENT COMMUNITY NEWS

Sue Jordan of Riverside joked that she and the movie, "Gone with The Wind," came out the same year – 1939. Although she was raised in Riverside, Sue was born in Miami. "My mother was a 'Conch' (born in Key West, Florida), and she had gone down to visit her family while Daddy was in the South Pacific on the Navy Ship, USS Arizona," said Sue, whose parents, Alberta Audrey "Bert" Elwood and Robert Frank "Bob" Larson, met in Jacksonville.



Ivan and Sue Griffin Elwood

"Mama and her sister, Aunt Dot, had moved to Miami and then to Jacksonville in the late 1930s. There were no jobs in Key West, and they needed to find work." Sue's mother found a job as a sales clerk at the Rexall Drug Store on the corner of Main and Forsyth Streets and found a handsome sailor named Larson at a dancehall across from the Florida Theatre in downtown Jacksonville.

A few years later, when her mother went to St. Luke's Hospital in Jacksonville and brought home a new baby sister named Iva, 4-year-old Sue asked her parents if they could please take that baby back and replace it with one that didn't cry. They insisted on keeping Iva.

"Daddy was transferred back to Jacksonville in November of 1941, just three weeks before the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and killed so many [1,177 sailors and Marines] aboard the USS Arizona," said Sue, noting that he always marveled at that timing, and considered himself a lucky man.

Both Sue Jordan and her sister, Iva Larson, were named after Key West Conchs – their maternal grandparents, Sue Griffin Elwood and Ivan Elwood, who was police chief in Key West for 30 years.

After leaving the Navy, Bob Larson worked briefly as a manager at Sears, Roebuck and then pursued his true calling of interior design, opening Larson's Interiors on Lomax Street in 5 Points. In addition to raising their two daughters, Bert Larson became an interior decorator and worked with her husband at Larson's Interiors, which became quite popular with homeowners in South Florida as well as throughout Jacksonville.



The Larson Family, 1970s: Bert, Iva, Bob and Sue

The Riverside sisters, Sue and Iva, both attended Ruth N. Upson Elementary, John Gorrie Junior High and Robert E. Lee High School, Sue graduating in 1957 and Iva graduating a few years later, at age 16. Sue attended Florida State in Tallahassee for a year and then returned to Jacksonville and



Sisters Iva Larson and Sue Jordan

got a job at the Florida Theatre "missing Elvis Presley by just two weeks!"

Soon after Iva graduated from Lee High School, she saw an ad for the Miss Jacksonville Contest, first prize being a scholarship to Jacksonville University. That looked promising and, at age 17, nearly 6 feet tall, slim and attractive, the natural blonde thought she might have a chance at the scholarship. Local broadcaster Dick Stratton was one of the judges and the contest was held at the Florida Theatre. "I placed and got a nice little statue, but I didn't win," recalled Iva, adding that when her photo appeared in the paper as one of contestants, it garnered her several local modeling jobs (Ivey's and Furchgott's fashion shows) but not enough to avoid getting a full-time job.

and was demoted to gift-wrapping in the basement. Her next job was at Prudential Insurance Company. Not only was the Prudential Building the tallest high-rise in town, it was "the place" to work. Iva became an executive receptionist on the eighth floor, working for Charles Campbell, and attended Jacksonville University at night. Soon she was asked to be Prudential's tour guide, taking visitors through the state-of-the-art building (putting green, library, etc.) and talking about the history of Jacksonville as well as the company.

Iva's first job was at H. H. Gage & Company on Forsyth Street. She was paid \$15 per week and spent her days counting and sorting coffee beans...really. She then got a job at Furchgott's Department Store as a salesgirl, but "failed" at cash register training

Always enterprising and community-minded, Iva also became a docent for the Children's Museum in Riverside, now a bed-and-breakfast on what used to be called "Millionaire's Row."

In the meantime, Sue worked as an executive secretary for Tom Sawyer, booking acts at the Florida Theatre, and later became an executive secretary with the civil service,

CONTINUED ON **PAGE 37**

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where she worked the remainder of her career. She married and had a son and daughter, James R. Jenkins and Iva Sue Jenkins, both still living in Jacksonville. Sue, a lifetime Riverside resident, now has three grandchildren, Aliya, Sierra and Dakota, and a great-grandson, Anthony.

The wanderlust hit Iva Larson when she was still a teenager, and having saved \$100 from her job at Prudential, she informed her parents that she was headed for New York to become a model. "I had a New York City map and \$100, and knew no one in town," recalled Iva. "My parents were, to say the least, a bit fearful, but I was young and invincible – so off I went on the train to New York!"

Iva moved into the Ferguson Residence for Women at 80 68th Street. The rent was \$30 a week, and there were no men allowed above the first floor. She could see the Chrysler Building from her window and spent many nights gazing out the window and crying herself to sleep. She saw an ad in the paper about Janzen Swimwear hiring models in the garment district. When she walked into the Janzen headquarters, wearing a Saks 5th Avenue outfit she'd bought on sale, she was greeted by a chic receptionist with a British accent and ushered into the office of John Hamilton. She later discovered that Hamilton was from Spokane, Washington, and had two daughters. "I reminded him of one of his daughters and he could tell that I was a 'hayseed,' and totally naïve, which really endeared me to him. I got the job and Mr. Hamilton became my protector."

Soon, Iva had moved uptown, sharing a brownstone apartment at 19 E. 76th Street with two roommates, who were secretaries. When her mother came to New York City for Iva's 21st birthday, Iva was at work and had ordered a chicken dinner to be delivered but when her mother answered the door, several movers came in and hauled out the



furniture. The landlord of the brownstone had not paid the rental fee for the furniture and it was being repossessed. Iva and her roommates came home to a bewildered lady from Jacksonville sitting in an empty apartment eating a chicken dinner. It was just one of many adventures in store for Iva Larson and her family.

Iva later moved up to 19 46th Street, next to the U.N., between 2nd and 3rd Avenue. She, of course, became a tour guide for the United Nations, and learned interesting facts to tell tourists, such as the fact that Manhattan is an Indian word for "Island of Hills."

"The Carlyle was right across the street, and that was where the Kennedys stayed. We often saw John and Caroline Kennedy with their Secret Service men, and I got my hair done at Kenneth's, where Jacqueline Kennedy got her hair done," said Iva. Soon becoming the Southeastern promoter for Janzen Swimwear, Iva appeared in radio and television interviews and commercials. She met many celebrities, including Gloria Steinem, Shirley MacLaine, and others, and became a model for the Wilhelmina Agency, appearing in McCall's magazine and in myriad television commercials over the years, in New York, Philadelphia and around the world.

While on a visit to Jacksonville, Iva met a Navy man, Edward Harry Duggan, Jr., on a tour of a destroyer at Mayport and married him. "Ed was a graduate of the Naval Academy

and an Admiralty Attorney. He was from Brooklyn, New York, and we moved back to the City, where my son, Ivan, was born." Sadly, Iva's husband, Ed, died of cancer at a young age, and Iva brought Ivan back to Jacksonville, where he was raised in Riverside.

Inheriting his mother's looks and personality, Ivan was a natural for the camera and began modeling as a baby. "Ivan once complained that he had been working all his life...since the day he was born!" laughed Iva. In fact, of Iva's three children, only her daughter, Francesca, has not appeared on a billboard. Both sons, Ivan and Jason, have modeled since they were boys.

And, after working most of her life, when Sue Jordan reached her 64th birthday, she took time off from her work with the federal government and was finally able to follow her lifelong dream of traveling to Africa. "I remember, as a child, listening to the Lone Ranger and the Shadow Knows and, especially, Tarzan, on the radio," she said. "At first, I wanted to go to Africa to see Tarzan, but later I read and studied everything I could about Africa. I especially loved the book, 'Gorillas in the Mist,' by Dian Fossey. I decided to go to Uganda and Rwanda and follow Dian's trail."

With two porters helping her and forest rangers guiding the way, Sue climbed 12,000 feet into the mountains where the Silverback Gorillas lived. Porters used machetes to

slice through the thick bamboo and Sue walked on shards of bamboo as she crept closer and closer to where Fossey had been. She and those with her all wore surgical masks to protect the gorillas from human disease. She was warned, if she came close to a gorilla, not to look him in the eyes, as that would be a sign of aggression. At one point, a porter signaled for quiet and, sure enough, there was a huge gorilla just six feet from them. They stood perfectly still for an hour and the gorilla finally ambled off. Sue was in Africa for a month and considers that trip one of the highlights of her life.

"We drove through Uganda and Rwanda in a land rover and slept in tents," she recalled. "We saw a lioness in the bush and so much more. It was everything I had dreamed it would be." A follow-up trip to Amsterdam was the icing on the cake.

As a model, Iva Larson traveled extensively around the globe and became accustomed to the finest of cuisine. She eventually was one of the first women to be invited to join La Confrérie de la Chaîne des Rôtisseurs, an international gastronomic society originally founded in 1248 at the time of French King Louis IX. "I wasn't there when they founded it," joked Iva. However, she did establish the first chapter of the society here in Jacksonville back in the 1990s, and because it was known as a predominantly male society – "the men wore all the ribbons and the women did all the work" – three of the five officers she chose were women. Iva was Bailli Commandeur (president), Dr. Maria Victoria Acosta-Rua and Yvonne Corey were the other female officers. Plastic surgeon Bernie Kay and Restaurateur John Curington were the original distaff members. There are over 20,000 members worldwide and Iva now serves as Vice Chancellor/Argentier, Confrerie de la Chaîne des Rotisseurs as well as the founding president of the Jacksonville branch.



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Brewing company pours passion into products, invites you to explore more



Randy, Jackie and Ryan Peterson



With the exponential growth of the brewing scene in Jacksonville, there's a buzz in the air about the latest and greatest suds and the unique locations where you can enjoy them. Handcrafted with creativity and inspired by a thirst for finely crafted concoctions, the scene continues to grow. For one local, family-owned-and-operated brewing company, Tabula Rasa, not only are the beers brimming with flavor, but the family behind the business pours their passion into more than just pints.

Along with being heavily invested in brewing the best beer, they've also put their heart and soul into the building, the neighborhood, and the experience for visitors and fans of their craft business.

Tabula Rasa Brewing is an original, hence the namesake. It alludes to the unadulterated, clean slate of the [tablet] or 'tabula rasa', where waxes could be imprinted with ideas and thoughts, then freshly melted and scraped clean of inscriptions, allowing

fresh content and ideas to flourish. In this case, it applies to their craft creations, where the delivery of fresh, original ideas in the creative application of ingredients and process delivers originality and uniqueness, along with great flavors.

The original 'blank slate' for this brewing company dates to the 1990s when Randy Peterson was gifted a book on brewing beer by his wife, Jackie. This thoughtful present helped kick off the journey into craft beer exploration and freedom from the mundane, mass produced brews on the shelf at that time. Alongside his wife, Randy engaged the help of his son, Ryan, who learned everything he could from his father, eventually taking off for college with craft creations and methodologies all his own. He continued to fine-tune his skills taught in the family home. The rich history and family pride in recipes and fresh ideas have led them to today's successful venture.

Twenty-seven years later and an investment in North Riverside's burgeoning scene in the Railyard District, the brewery is making massive strides along McCoy's Creek on Stockton Street, neighboring Eco Relics and Darsco Plumbing Supply.

The latest in a series of growth and progress, Tabula Rasa recently inked a deal with Champion Brands, known for their expansive distribution channels for local and imported beer, liquor and the beverage industry for North Florida. With the new deal, the local brewery's beer is now served in bars, pubs and restaurants near you and continues its trajectory of growth. The distribution deal is a huge stride for the family business and it's a testament to quality, exceptional flavor profiles and sound business planning.

The Tabula Rasa family knows that the experience when visiting the brewery must be for the entire family, not simply for indulging in craft beer. The importance of enjoyment and relaxation is incorporated

into each visit, where an air-conditioned, comfortable taproom offers inside seating and private parties and other gatherings have plenty of room to entertain. The outdoor space at the brewery invites the game of Frisbee or a cornhole tournament, and a bonfire in the firepit gives ambiance to evenings along McCoy's Creek. The greenery is teeming over the banks of the creek, as patrons can sip, kick back in lawn chairs and relax with their pets.

The brewery is upping the ante for guests that seek a weekday refuge or special events to enjoy - from food trucks and 5Ks to Thursday Night Trivia or Tuesday Night Beer Bingo [both at 7 p.m.] as well as Wheels Up Wednesdays, where cycling enthusiasts are embraced with deals and specials for biking to the brewery. The availability of taproom space for events, private gatherings, wedding and engagement parties, as well as nonprofit events and fundraising functions are endless with the right plans in place.

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In Memoriam James Patrick Thornton

August 8, 1935 to March 15, 2019

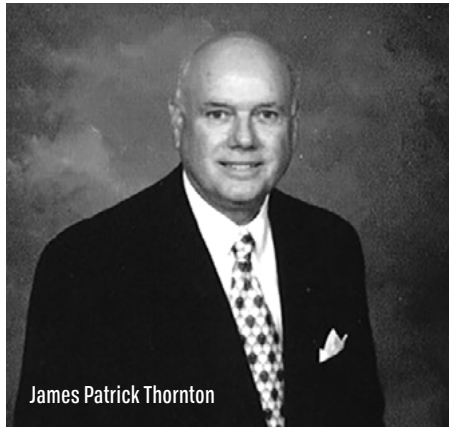
He was a man who thought of others before himself, and he was “the most exemplary man as far as living Catholic values and faith.”

That is how St. Vincent’s Foundation President and Health System Chief Development Officer Jane Lanier summed up the life of James Patrick Thornton, a man she knew well, who died on March 15.

A member of Bishop Kenny’s graduating class of 1953, the first graduating class of the Catholic high school in St. Nicholas, Thornton went on to serve in the United States Army and graduate from the University of Florida in 1960. After graduation he had a successful career in commercial real estate and was chairman of The Development Group. One highlight of his career was his work bringing The Ritz-Carlton to Amelia Island and the development of the golf course nearby, said Lanier.

“The Amelia Island Ritz-Carlton is only there because Pat Thornton and Jim Winston negotiated to bring it there,” she said. “They had the land and were going to develop it. They talked to several different hotel chains, and they decided they just weren’t going to do the project unless they could get the Ritz-Carlton to come in because the piece of property was on the ocean front, and it was the prettiest thing you could ever imagine. It is here today because Pat Thornton and Jim Winston had the foresight to say we are not going to have any other hotel there but the Ritz-Carlton.”

A San Jose resident, Thornton was a staunch Catholic. A man of faith, he generously served his church, his family and his favorite charities – San Jose Catholic Church and School, St. Vincent’s Medical Center, the Knights of Malta and the Diocese of St. Augustine. Lanier recalled that at one time he was chair of the St. Vincent’s



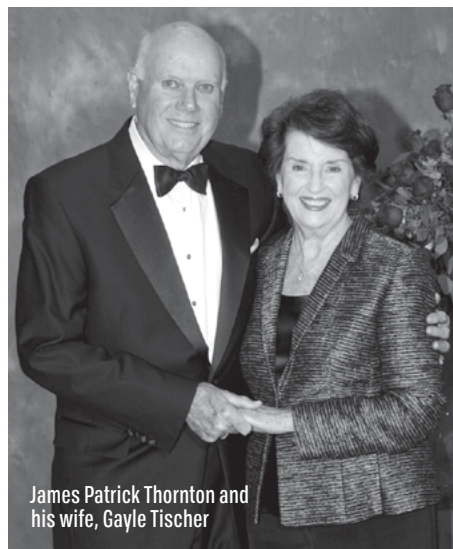
James Patrick Thornton

Health System Board and chair of St. Vincent’s Foundation Board.

“It all started when he was 11 years old. When Pat was very young, his father passed away,” she recalled, noting Thornton sold The Jacksonville Journal, the city’s afternoon newspaper, to earn money to help care for his brothers and sisters and assist his mother. “He figured out he could sell it at St. Vincent’s by going into the patient’s rooms, so at age 11 he had quite a little business going selling newspapers room to room until the Sisters caught him doing it. They said, ‘You can’t go into the patients’ rooms.’ Pat listened and thought about it but knew when he brought the newspapers into the rooms, he cheered the patients up. They were so happy to see this darling little boy who had quite a personality, so he went right back on doing it,” Lanier said, adding that he would duck down the hallway if he saw one of the Sisters approaching. “Little did he know he would become one of the Sisters’ – The Daughters of Charity – greatest champions. He became their biggest fan and advocate and served them right up until his death.

“Last year, four of the Daughters of Charity wanted to come to Jacksonville for a spiritual retreat, a brief retreat, just for a week, and Pat said, ‘I’ll take care of that. I’ll get them a place up on Amelia Island,’ and he did,” she continued. “He did it along with Bob Shircliff. He was always thinking of ways to thank the Sisters for bringing St. Vincent’s to Jacksonville 103 years ago. Pat was loved by everybody at St. Vincent’s. He did so much to make St. Vincent’s what it is today. He chaired every committee and was just a great, great leader for us.”

Thornton is survived by his wife, Gayle Tischer, his sisters, Mary Anne Kuelbs and Linda Harris, his brother, Bill, and his five children, Patrick (Mary), John, Greg, Katie (Jere Smith), Tommy (Tiffany) as well as 12 grandchildren.



James Patrick Thornton and his wife, Gayle Tischer



Suzanne Mailloux, Katherine Eicher, Lorrie Reynolds and Norma Basford

Clergy, laity ‘lunch and learn’ about mental health

NAMI Jacksonville (National Alliance on Mental Illness) gave a dynamic presentation about mental health issues at a March 27 Lunch and Learn event at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Ortega.

Panelists for the “Ending the Silence” program included Leigha Tiple, Lorrie Reynolds, and Katherine Eicher, Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. NAMI Program Director Suzanne Mailloux introduced the panelists and spoke on the various programs available through NAMI.

There was a great lunch and a follow-up session for questions and answers. With a conservative estimate of 45,000 people a year committing suicide, and suicide being the seventh leading cause of death among men and the second leading cause of death in people under 21, the need for education is great.

“We want to show clergy that mental health is an issue that needs the church’s full attention,” said Norma Basford, NAMI spokesperson.

For more information on NAMI or Lunch and Learn, visit NAMI Jacksonville.org or st.marksjacksonville.org.

Aging True rededicates Cathedral Towers residences



Rebecca Berg, The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead, Teresa Barton, John Corse, Shawn Williams, Councilman Reginal Gaffney, and LaTasha Green-Cobb.

After years of planning and months of construction, Aging True Community Senior Services celebrated the successful completion of renovations to the Cathedral Towers Residences April 3 with a ribbon-cutting and rededication ceremony, which was followed by a reception and tour. The affordable housing community is one of three of the agency’s high-rise independent senior living facilities, which includes Cathedral Terrace and Cathedral Townhouse.

The Cathedral Towers, located at 601 N. Newnan St., provides a healthy social environment for independent senior residents. Among the renovations are complete refurbishments of the living spaces, including new furnishings, windows, and flooring. Activity areas like the reading room and fitness center were also updated.

“In 2017, we celebrated the renovation of our Cathedral Terrace residences and

we quickly moved on to the next building in need of updating. Our newly renovated apartments at both the Cathedral Terrace and Towers make us one of the most attractive and desired senior living properties on the First Coast,” said Rebecca Berg, Aging True Board Chair.

Taking part in the rededication were Berg, board members The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead, Teresa Barton and John Corse; Shawn Williams, president of Blue Sky Communities, District 7 Councilman Reginald Gaffney and LaTasha Green-Cobb of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.

“The renovations have been a true labor of love,” added Barton, Aging True CEO. “While every project has inconveniences and delays along the way, everyone was so excited to see the completion of the renovations and the sheer joy it has brought the residents who live here.”



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One of nation's youngest antiquarians brings old-time treasures back to life

William Nash carrying the torch of antiques restoration locally and beyond

William Nash loves restoring the relics of bygone eras, but he's a hard man to catch these days. The 33-year-old father of four, whose name has become synonymous with all things antiques, is reflecting back on his first decade at E.W. Nash & Son, LLC, where he apprenticed under his father, the renowned antiques appraiser and restorer Bill Nash.

"It's been a wild ten years," said Nash, as he removed his apron in his Riverside workshop. "We've come a long way and I'm excited about the future."

The nature of his business requires Nash to wear many hats. Some days you find him getting mic'd up for a lecture, other days he's at the River Club with a client. Some days he's crawling around a museum storage unit, and most days he can be found in his shop with stained hands and grubby jeans, a kid or two in tow, restoring some of the First Coast's masterpieces.

The workshop, located in the heart of Riverside, is a place Nash has known all his life. The young antiquarian grew up with the smell of stain and furniture polish, and like his father, his love of antiques sprouted early. When he turned 14, he relished working alongside his father and grandfather, William Nash Jr., the former president of Prudential's South-Central home office. But it wasn't a job his family particularly wanted or expected him to pursue. In fact, his grandfather and father discouraged it strongly and suggested he pursue law school or finance.

"It's funny. Growing up and when I was in high school at Episcopal my dad and granddad used to say, 'Whatever you do... don't go into this business.' I never dreamed I'd be here and yet I can't imagine doing anything else," he said.

Part of his family's hesitation about his career choice was the financial uncertainty and ebb and flow of the antiques market, combined with the grueling manual labor that comes with restoring antiques.

"I'll never forget where I was the day I officially decided I was going to work with my dad," recalled Nash. "I was sitting in an auditorium at the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia and my professor was talking about supply and demand and creating a niche business. Midway through the lecture I realized, 'This is what Dad built! A niche business where there's a demand and little to no supply!' I couldn't wait to get out of there and go change my major to something I actually liked."

Nash went on to major in history, where he also soaked up as many interior design and art history classes as possible. While at Georgia, he dually enrolled in a certificate program that UGA offered in partnership with the American Society of Appraisers.

"It actually worked out great and I graduated with a degree in history and certificate in Appraisal Studies of Antiques and Fine Art," Nash said.

Nash joined the family firm upon graduation in 2008, and today he and his father run an integrated business that offers restoration and conservation of antiques as well as appraisals and consulting

work in the field of antiques, fine art, and decorative arts.

"When I first started here 10 years ago, I was trying to be all things to all people. I worked on everything from a broken chair leg or watermark on the bedside table to the appraisal of an oceanfront estate at Sea Island and French polishing an 18th century commode," he said. "But, over time, Dad and I got overwhelmed and have had to make difficult time and cost analysis decisions."

As a result, Nash and his father have recently decided to be more selective in the services they offer, and as Nash begins his second decade with the firm, his father is choosing to pass the baton.

"We're not getting out of the repair business completely," Nash explained. "I just have to be more careful going forward. Taking house calls and small repairs is now on a case-by-case basis depending on the situation rather than as a standard norm."

As he enters his thirties, Nash is seeking a comfortable balance between spending more time with his growing family and serving private collectors, designers, and museums, as well as cultivating relationships with the children and grandchildren of the firm's longtime clients. As both an appraiser and a craftsman, he works hard to continue his education in fine art and learn new skills such as woodcarving and caning.

"Skilled labor everywhere is getting harder and harder to find. I see so many guys in our industry - restorers, decorative painters, carpenters, wallpapers, upholsterers- getting run down and burned out. They're in high demand and can't always find good help," said Nash.

As he navigates the uncharted waters of the continued decline of the antiques market, Nash wants to stay fresh and inspired, and he hopes to cultivate a love of antiques and quality craftsmanship among others any way he can.

"One of the things that keeps me going is getting to interact with our customers. There were about seven men that really inspired me when I was in college and they still inspire me to keep at this business today. Jim Howard and James Mussallem had a big impact on my life and my pursuit of the antiques world. Olivier Flaire is someone I've known since I was three and I would be lost without his knowledge and encouragement. The other four were private collectors and friends of my dad that I got to interact with during the summers while I was in high school and college. Watching their collections grow and their desire to have everything brought back to perfect, original condition was really inspiring. It was these men, each in their own way, that impacted my decision to pursue this career and encouraged me that this was a trade that did not need to be lost," said Nash.

"It's really gratifying when you can bring a quality piece back to life," Nash continued, referring to the family dining table refinished for the next generation or the chest of drawers that was almost thrown away but now holds a place of honor in the foyer. "Seeing the look on people's faces when you



"Seeing the look on people's faces when you bring the piece off the truck is so cool. In fact, many times, bringing the old, pine farm table back to life for a young couple is just as satisfying and exciting as bringing back a masterpiece for a museum."

— William Nash

bring the piece off the truck is so cool. In fact, many times, bringing the old, pine farm table back to life for a young couple is just as satisfying and exciting as bringing back a masterpiece for a museum."

The Nashes' specialty is in French polishing, the finish of choice for most fine pieces throughout the 19th century, as well as traditional waxing and refinishing.

"We use modern finishes too," Nash said, "Lacquer, varnish - it depends on the piece. We like to use natural based stuff if we can, but sometimes designers want something to have a certain look and shellac isn't the right product for that particular job."

No stranger to interior design, Nash and his father frequently work with designers Juli Catlin, Phoebe and Jim Howard, Stephanie Jarvis, Jennie and Richard Hugo, and Dee Loop.

"There's only a handful left who still use antiques and need us on a regular basis, but the ones that do are wonderful," he said. "Their work is beautiful, and they still believe in integrating antiques into the modern mix."

One of Nash's favorite assignments is an annual lecture he gives with Juli Catlin benefitting the Wolfson Art and Antiques Show in December.

"Working with Juli is one of the highlights of my year. She has taught me so much and has become a mentor and a friend," Nash said.

Another favorite project was the restoration of the antiques damaged by Hurricane Irma at the Florida Yacht Club.

"Jennie Hugo of Crosby Designs did the interiors, and she did a fabulous job of making the Club feel fresh and modern while retaining all their old pieces," he said.

While most of the Nashes' work can only be seen in privately held collections and homes, there are several examples on display for the public at the Cummer Museum in Jacksonville, as well as the Lightner Museum, the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum, and the Governor's House Library in St. Augustine. The Nashes also recently completed restoring an entire collection on display at Windsor Manor at Asbury University in Kentucky.

"Antiques restoration is really one part science and one part art, and so the shop is both a lab and a studio. No two assignments are exactly alike. It's wonderful to have customers who want that and appreciate that," said Nash. "I just want to thank everybody, and especially my dad, for these last 10 years and I'm excited about the next 10."

Greenwood School prepares students to be great people, contributors

At Greenwood School, students receive an exemplary education. Practical experience in and out of the classroom sets Greenwood apart from other area schools. An average student-to-teacher ratio of 12:1 enables in-depth group investigation and discussion. Collaborative inquiry connects classrooms and hands-on curriculum application helps Greenwood students develop individual strengths with the purpose of making a positive impact upon the community and beyond.

Greenwood School often exceeds Florida high school graduation standards, using specialized delivery of instruction in a relationship-based, strengths-centered, personalized and cooperative partnership, enabling students with specialized learning needs to achieve their potential through opportunities not offered by other Northeast Florida schools.

Greenwood students have made significant contributions to environmental and conservation research through partnerships with the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens, St. Johns Riverkeeper, the Jacksonville Arboretum, the Universities of Florida, Kansas, Minnesota, and Cornell University and the National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration. They also helped educate the community about population tracking and the spread of invasive and endangered species, environmentally responsible control of invasive plant species and prevention of mosquito population growth, water quality and health of the St Johns River, and the effects of microplastics upon our environment and health.

The 2019-2020 school year promises to be even more exciting, with greater opportunities for students. Grants from The Community Foundation for Northeast



Florida and the Weaver Family Foundation at The Community Foundation will allow Greenwood School to expand their environmental and conservation work within their 10 acres of wetlands property.

The funding will also be used to add classroom resources. Interactive touchscreen technology, one-to-one student devices, practical application of curriculum, robust coding and programming course offerings, and integration of creative, graphic, and performing arts – all led by highly qualified, compassionate, and skilled faculty – produce successful, well-rounded graduates dedicated to making a positive impact in their communities.

Students also develop leadership and advocacy skills to ensure personal success and to protect the rights of others. Each summer, a number of Greenwood high school students spend a week in Tallahassee

as delegates and staff facilitators for the Florida Youth Leadership Forum, sponsored by the McKay Scholarship Foundation. Of the 50 statewide delegates in 2018, seven were Greenwood School students – one served as a staff member. Students spend part of their summer vacations learning to advocate for educational supports and legislative budget processes to provide programs for students with specialized educational needs.

In 2017 and 2018, juniors and seniors beat the state average ACT scores, and several grade level cohorts exceeded the national averages in English, Mathematics, and Science on the ACT ASPIRE exams.

Approximately two-thirds of graduates attend college, with most others entering career-path trades and technical schools or seeking military service. The graduating class of 2019 has earned acceptance to the

Greenwood School at a Glance

- Founded in 1985
- Head of School: Dr. Anthony D. Mortimer
- Accredited by Florida Council of Independent Schools
- Enrollment: 180-190, limited per grade level to maintain small classes.
- Full standard academic program for grades 6-12 enrichment, STEAM, and guidance course selections integrated for each grade level.
- Tuition for 2019-2020: \$14,000, no additional fees for extracurricular activities
- Greenwood accepts funding through the McKay and Gardiner Scholarship programs, the Hope Scholarship, and other similar foundations and programs.
- High school students contribute over 3,000 hours of service to their communities annually.

University of North Florida, Valdosta State University, College of Charleston, Beacon College, Santa Fe Community College, and Florida State College of Jacksonville. Additional schools attended by graduates in the past several years also include Landmark College, Flagler College, Jacksonville University, and Lynn University.

Greenwood School is a nonprofit, independent school, accredited by the Florida Council of Independent Schools. Enrollment is open to students in grades 6-12, although the school specializes in the education of students with specific learning differences.

For more information about enrollment or to support Greenwood School financially, visit greenwoodjax.org and become an integral part of the team. The school is located at 9920 Regency Square Blvd. Call (904) 726-5000 to schedule a visit today.

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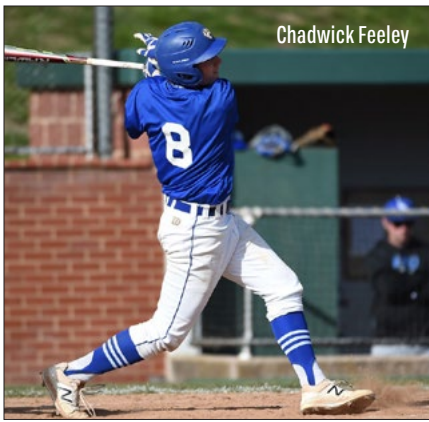
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*Feeley logs 190 career hits,
breaks school record*



Chadwick Feeley

Chadwick Feeley of Ortega, a senior at Washington and Lee University, registered 190 hits to break his school's baseball career hits record March 23.

Feeley's achievement came during an 8-4 loss to Guilford College during the first game of a double header. In addition to setting the school record, game two of the twin bill marked Feeley's 139th game played for Washington and Lee, setting a new program record for career games played.

In the game against Guilford, Washington and Lee's final run came in the top of the ninth when Feeley, a shortstop, doubled off the wall in left field, allowing his teammate to score.

"I was very proud of the accomplishment and very relieved to get it behind me," said Feeley. "I was a little more nervous than usual, but I just took a deep breath and tried to treat it like a normal at bat."

Feeley grew up in Ortega, attending St. Mark's Episcopal Day School and the Episcopal School of Jacksonville. He honed his skills playing ball in the Navy Ortega Lakeshore Little League and at Episcopal. This spring he will graduate from Washington and Lee with a bachelor's degree in accounting before spending three months as an intern at Price Waterhouse Coopers LLP in McLean, Virginia.

In the fall, Feeley will head to Wake Forest University where he will work to earn a master's degree in accounting.

College prep students gain creative confidence through public art

Members of the James Weldon Johnson College Preparatory Middle School Public Art Club put their creativity on public display in two community mosaic murals produced by former Avondale residents Kate and Kenny Rouh, of RouxArt.

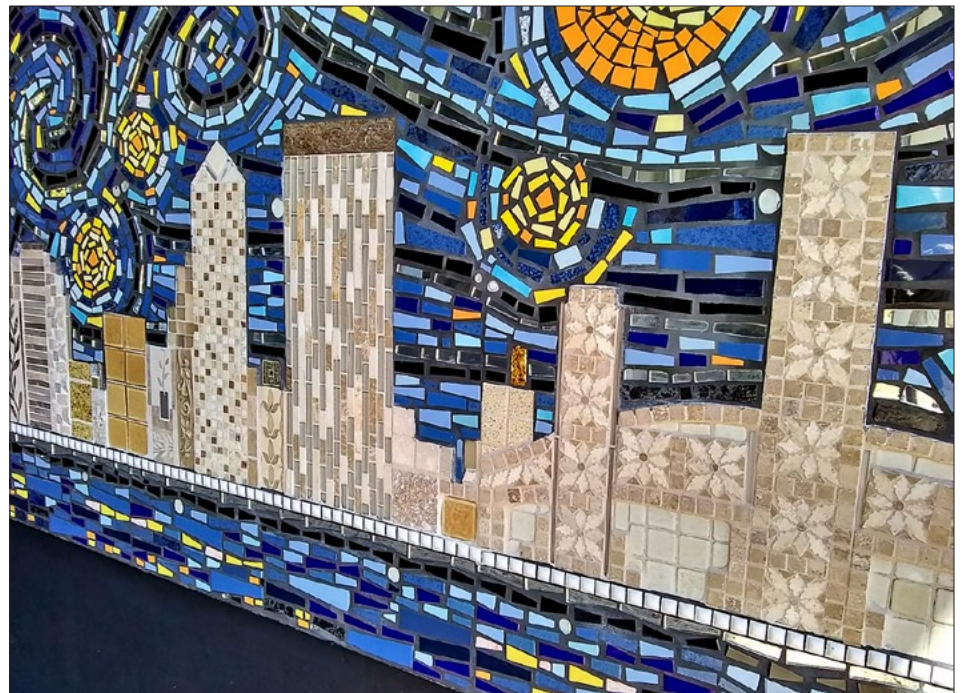
The opportunity began in 2018 when their art teacher, Amanda Holloway, found a grant that would enable them to work with RouxArt on a mosaic mural at Main Street Park downtown.

"The design was created by JWJ students and executed by JWJ students over several Saturdays with the assistance and guidance of both Kate and Kenny Rouh, and me, of course!" said Holloway.

"I am huge on involving my students in the community and getting them creating outside of the classroom so I knew right away that working with RouxArt would be a perfect pairing," she said. "After completing the Main Street Park project with us, RouxArt saw how incredible our students are, and invited the JWJ artists into their home studio over the summer to help with the beginnings of the Sugar Hill Mosaic."

The Sugar Hill Mosaic is the brainchild of and was funded by Groundwork Jacksonville. Alyssa Bourgoyne, a project manager at Groundwork Jacksonville, was instrumental in bringing the project to life.

Students worked on several of the large-scale panels for the 120-foot mosaic mural



A portion of the Sugar Hill Mosaic created by students of James Weldon Johnson Public Art Club

using mortar, tiles, marbles, and mirrors to complete the scenes. There are eleven panels total, and they depict community members on bikes, and a tiled rendition of the city. One of the segments the JWJ art students worked on was the Jacksonville skyline with the Main Street bridge. The end result included a colorful "Starry Night"-inspired background in blues, with the moon and stars above.

Holloway's art students include Julia Allen of Avondale, Jack and Anna Kate Wheeler of Ortega, and Lily Milu of Ortega Farms.

"Art at JWJ serves as a creative outlet for all the students. I think it helps us all to relate and take a little break from our school work," said Wheeler, a sixth grader and vice president of James Weldon Johnson's art association.

Holloway said involving JWJ students in public art projects nudges them outside of their comfort zones and into a creative confidence that they may not have found in the classroom or otherwise.

"The type of students we have don't tend to be the most naturally creative because they are the type that prioritize grades and



Jack Wheeler, vice president of James Weldon Johnson Public Art Club

scholarly achievement as opposed to their own unique expression and personal growth," she said. "When the art club gets out in the community and works with different types of people on creative endeavors, I watch them grow into more well-rounded little humans just by default."



Meera Sindhuvalli, James Weldon Johnson Public Art Club president, and Lily Milu, member

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Douglas Anderson dance troupe performs in Montreal

Submitted by Sheldon White and Jasper Darnell

Douglas Anderson Creative Writing Students

Students from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Dance Theatre traveled to Montreal, Canada, in March to perform with ballet master Eddy Toussaint and his world-renowned dance company. This was the first time a DA dance troupe has performed outside the country.

During their six-day stay in Montreal, the students participated in workshops and performed with the company's professional ballet dancers. The students also attended classes at the headquarters of another famous repertory company, Les Grands Ballet Canadiens de Montreal.

Toussaint, who founded his company – Ballet Eddy Toussaint – in 1974, has conducted master classes at Douglas Anderson for more than 20 years. However, this is the first time DA students were invited to come to Montreal and perform with his dancers. The cost of the trip was subsidized by the Douglas Anderson Foundation.

Jennifer Turbyfill, chair of the DA Dance Department, described the workshop and performance as “a unique, once in a lifetime opportunity.” The dancers had a chance to



Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Dance Theatre troupe in Montreal, Canada

work directly with Toussaint and with Timothy Tompkins, the company's general director.

“Monsieur Tomkins brought a professional approach to all our workshops and performances,” said Reece Weaver, a senior at DA. “We really got a sense of what it means to be part of a professional company, and the dedication that entails.”

“It was a challenging week because we frequently needed to be at the studio at 7 a.m., and often would not finish our work until 10 p.m.,” said Amanda Trujillo, also a senior. “Plus, the instructors and dancers spoke in French or heavily-accented English, so we really had to focus.”

When not participating in the ballet workshops, dancers had time to experience the French-Canadian culture of Montreal, despite freezing temperatures all week.

“I was so impressed with the Canadian people and culture,” said Simone Matchett, a DA senior. “In addition, the lessons I learned about the dance profession are something I will take back to Douglas Anderson and to my dance studies next year at Alabama State.”



Rhonda Stampalia and Gary McCalla, a member of the Douglas Anderson Foundation, which helped underwrite the trip

At the conclusion of the workshops, the DA dance troupe performed before a live audience at the Leonardo DaVinci Center, wowing the appreciative crowds with “Say Something,” choreographed by DA Ballet instructor Rhonda Stampalia; “Sonata Cantata,” choreographed by instructor Ellie Potts Barrett; and “Dream State,” choreographed by Turbyfill.

“The trip truly prepared us for the future,” said Weaver. “Stepping into such a profound, elite company was so rewarding.”



Eddy Toussaint, Rhonda Stampalia and Timothy Tompkins



Annie Adams

Fifth grader catching waves as ‘next gen’ surfer

Annie Adams, a fifth grade student at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, was recently named one of the next generation of North Florida surf standouts by Void magazine. “New to the game, but she's come on strong. She has a natural feel for the wave. She's got a low center of gravity and I think she's going to be a force in years to come” said Jason “Iron Man” Motes, a local surf legend, ESA All-Stars coach, and 21-time East Coast champ next generation of North Florida surf standouts. Motes also happens to be Adams' coach.

When the surf report at the beach is favorable, you can find Adams out in the waves before school training with a professional surfer. Traveling from Ortega to the beach calls for an early morning for a child her age but, this isn't a surprise for those who know Adams, because when she sets her mind to something, there is no stopping her.

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Episcopal junior wins scholarship from state science fair

Eight students from the Episcopal School of Jacksonville Honors Science Seminar earned cash prizes and place awards in the categories of Animal Science, Biochemistry, Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry, Environmental Science and Plant Sciences at the Florida state science fair.

The Episcopal winners at the State Science Fair were Jake Barker, Sally Barksdale, Ashton Body, Julia Downes, Spencer Huie, Julia Kagiliery, Cole Nigro and Kaya Olszewski.

In addition, Body, a junior who is conducting her research at the Mayo Clinic on nanoparticle drug delivery, was the recipient of an \$8,000 four-year scholarship at the New College of Florida.



Front: Daniel Wong, Spencer Huie, Cole Nigro and Jake Barker; back: Julia Downes, Aston Body, Kaya Olszewski, Sally Barksdale and Julia Kagiliery

Body has also been selected to present her project at the International Science and Engineering Fair, May 12-17 in Phoenix, where she will compete with approximately 1,700 students from over 75 different countries.

Sophomore Kagiliery, who conducted her research on motor oil phytoremediation at Texas Tech, was the recipient of a \$150 award from the Florida Society of Environmental Analysts.

Avondale resident awarded merit scholarship

St. Johns Country Day School announced Grayson Moody, of Avondale, is among the 2019 recipients of the prestigious Merit Scholarship Award, a selective, merit-based opportunity that recognizes students entering Grades 7 and 9 who demonstrate both outstanding academic promise and a desire to make a significant contribution to school life.

Moody, a sixth grade student, has been awarded one of four prizes bestowed upon rising Grade 7 students. Moody has attended the Orange Park school since 2012.

In order to be eligible for the Merit Scholarship, a student must maintain a weighted grade point average of 3.5 or higher, earn superior scores on the Independent School Entrance Exam (ISEE), and complete a competitive application.



Grayson Moody, far left, is one of four Grade 6 recipients of St. John's Country Day School's Merit Scholarship Award.

"The criteria for the Merit Scholarship program are intentionally set high," said Acting Head of School Mary Virginia Fisher. "Grayson and all of the Merit Scholarship recipients are to be commended for leaping over that bar and for the hard work that it undoubtedly took to do so."

Wearing their Easter finest

Adorned in handmade Easter bonnets, Parker Ruben of Avondale and Grace Finn-Schultz of Riverside enjoyed an Easter egg hunt with their classmates at South Jacksonville Presbyterian Preschool April 18. The girls were among 70 students and their parents and siblings who followed the Easter bunny in a parade through San Marco Square prior to the school's annual egg hunt.



Parker Rubin



Grace Finn-Schultz

Year-long fundraiser culminates with dance marathon



Episcopal School in blue, Bishop Kenny in gray, front: Xander Magevney, Charlotte Rosenberg, Knox Greene, Tori Zlatanoff, John Adams, Emma St. John, Patrick Patangan, Mary Hassan, Hope Pitman, Caroline Chappano; back: Connor Murphy, Elizabeth Riggs, Cadee Cooper, Brooke Tollett, Alston Rachels, Charlie Swain, Adrianna Gjergji, Daniel Maher, Brock Hinson; not available, Mark Khadour

Bishop Kenny and Episcopal School of Jacksonville students united their efforts March 30 to hold the second combined Dance Marathon event for both schools. The six-hour dance was held in the Carla Harris Center for the Performing Arts at Bishop Kenny. Approximately 260 students in grades 9-12 raised \$51,384, a 51% increase over the previous year's total.

The students, united by one mission to help sick and injured kids in the local Jacksonville community, raised funds and created awareness through Dance Marathon for two local Children's Miracle Network hospitals: Wolfson's Children's Hospital and UF Health Jacksonville.

The Interact Club sponsored the event. Bishop Kenny Senior Emma St. John, Dance Marathon chair, along with nine other BK Interact students and 10 Episcopal students, set out to make this the best dance marathon to date. Lively music, fun decorations, delicious snacks, and fantastic dancing filled the night. The

students are thankful for all the donors who gave so generously to help the cause.

"Dance Marathon is part of a nationwide movement involving college and high school students around the country, all raising money for the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals in the community," said Patrick Patangan, a BK student. "Students spend a year raising money and interacting with patients and families. The year culminates with an event in which students stay on their feet through dancing, games, and entertainment in celebration of the total amount raised that year."

Along with the students, various businesses in the community helped raise funds, including Black Knight Financial Services, Roberts Pharmacy, Medtronic, Maple Street, Wicked Barley, Brusters, and Mudville Grille. All proceeds will be used to purchase medical equipment, child life activities, and educational resources for both pediatric programs in the community, Patangan said.



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Fourth graders solve world crises

Fourth grade students at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School recently established world peace, although not technically, but by solving 23 crises scenarios during The World Peace Game.

The 40-year-old political simulation game provides an opportunity for students to tap into their imaginations and creativity. Together as a team of countries (creatively named by the students), fourth graders were tasked with solving complex real-world problems with no background or historical context. Without a deep understanding of the historical similarities between the made-up countries and the crises they faced (water shortages, refugee crises, weapons shortages, and more), they were forced to tap into their hearts and their minds to think of ways to right the wrongs.



Kailyn Ryals and Ann Commander ponder strategy during a war exercise.

The World Peace Game is an incredible learning opportunity that is also very challenging to facilitate. Although around 3,000 teachers have been trained to facilitate the game, there are only about 100 games being played in the world and only five in the state of Florida.

Service Day event helps dozens in community



All 900 Episcopal School of Jacksonville students participated in the school's annual Celebrating Service Day event April 17, a school day dedicated to community service. The organizations the students helped included Wounded Warriors, North Florida School of Special Education, Arlington Community Academy, Salvation Army, American Cancer Society, Williams Family YMCA, Wolfson Children's Hospital, Farm Share, Hope Haven, Dupont YMCA. They also served breakfast at Clara White Mission and, on campus, about 400 Middle School students completed a food packing project for Hunger Fight, packing meals in the cafeteria.

Bulldogs take spring break invitational by storm



The Bolles Bulldogs baseball team wins invitational over spring break.

The Bolles baseball team spent Spring Break, March 18-22, in Sanford, Florida participating in the Florida High School Invitational, a tournament which features some of the best teams in the nation and attracts college and professional baseball scouts and coaches.

The Bulldogs dominated the FHSI Classic competition, going undefeated and outscoring opponents 30-2 in four games. In pool play, Bolles defeated Christian Academy of Knoxville (Tennessee), 2-0, March 18; Grandview High School (Aurora, Colorado), 8-0, March 20, and Colonial High School (Orlando), 10-0, March 21. The Bulldogs advanced to the championship

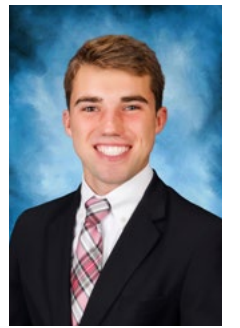
game March 22, defeating University High School (Orange City), 10-2.

Six Bulldogs earned recognition for outstanding play during the tournament. Patrick Libby, a senior, was named the Co-Cy Young winner for his pitching against Grandview. Libby pitched a complete game shutout, scattering four hits, allowing one walk and striking out 12 batters. Jackson Mayo and Chance Moore were selected to the All-Tournament Offensive Team, Hunter Barco and Jackson Baumeister were named to the All-Tournament Pitching Team and Will Shepherd was named to the All-Tournament Two-Way Player Team.

Hicks, Rivera tear up track in successful senior year



Charles Hicks



Chase Rivera

Ortega resident Charles Hicks and Chase Rivera of San Jose are tearing up the track during their senior year at The Bolles School. Both young men recently posted outstanding performances at the Arcadia Invitational in California on April 6. The meet annually attracts some of the top high school track and field athletes in the nation.

Hicks placed fourth in the 3200-meter run in a Florida all-time best 8:49.62, bettering his personal best by 10 seconds. The time is the fifth-fastest in the nation this year. Rivera won the Invitational Mile in 4:11.24, a personal season-best and the fourth-fastest time in the nation this season.

Prior to the meet on the West Coast, the students earned All-America honors at the New Balance Indoor National meet, held March 8-10 at the Armory Track in New York City. The top six finishers in the high school championship division races earned All-America honors. Hicks placed third in the boys' 2-mile run championship race, clocking a personal-best time of 8:59.81. The time converts to a new school record time of 8:56.68 in the 3200-meter run. Rivera placed sixth in the boys' 1-mile run championship race in an indoor personal-best time of 4:11.24. They also competed in this annual meet in 2016 and 2018.

In February, Hicks was named Gatorade Florida Boys' Cross Country Athlete of the Year, an honor recognizing not only athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character. Hicks is the third Gatorade State Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Bolles following Caitlin Collier in girls' track and field in 2018 and Chipper Jones in baseball in 1990.

Hicks also won his second consecutive Class 2A individual state championship this past season with a time of 15:29.2, leading the Bulldogs to their second consecutive state title as a team. Hicks won the Nike Cross Nationals Southeast Regional championships in 15:04.5 and placed 14th nationally at the NXN Final, earning All-American status. He also broke the tape at the Manhattan Invitational, the Region 1 championships, the Alligator Lake Invitational and the Bale-n-Trail Cross Country Original, while taking fourth at the Great American Cross Country Festival.



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After four years, Lee High School ‘youth at-hope’ program still going strong

By Peggy Harrell Jennings
Resident Community News

Four years ago, in school year 2015-2016, a young white female English teacher was tapped to develop a curriculum for a class in leadership, primarily for at-risk sophomore and junior males at Robert E. Lee High School.

Together with Pastor Jay Harris of The Ville Church and Pastor Boyd Bettis of The District Church, who have served as class mentors, Amy Donofrio and her young men have made great strides in their lives and for their futures.



Vicente' Waugh, Dequan Franks and Nick Burgess at Harvard

E.V.A.C., which stands for Evacuating the Cave of Hopelessness, is making great strides again this year, presenting lectures at Harvard University three times on various subjects. Their next presentation will be in Washington, D.C. for a conference of superintendents of schools from all over the country who graduated from Harvard, including former Duval County Superintendent Dr. Nicolai Vitti, who was a strong supporter of EVAC.

Last December two EVAC youth were the only African American males to be part of a 20-member National Harvard Youth Advisors program. Recently, Donofrio and

one of the EVAC students were chosen to be two of a 40-member City Safety Task Force, whose goal is reducing violence in the city.

EVAC youth have spoken at the White House where they met President Barack Obama, and have also received national media exposure on programs such as Good Morning America and PBS NewsHour, and in The New York Times, but they haven't let the spotlight go to their heads.

The class, under the direction of Donofrio and Harris, is currently creating a Podcast for a national competition titled “Why is it so hard to get from the ‘hood to Harvard?” EVAC students won a national award in 2017 for their program on promoting kindness through their project #YourStoryIsMine.

The group has participated in the Harvard AAOC Conference, Juvenile Justice, MLK Parade, TEDx Jacksonville, and Moving Juvenile Justice Forward at FSCJ, as well as many other events. They frequently host guest speakers from the local community, including political candidates and representatives from government and law enforcement agencies.

Donofrio said the class helps the students “crystalize their vision” and participation at such events promotes a better understanding of various issues involving youth, while inspiring organizations to reach out and help.

Vicente' Waugh, a junior, is in his third year of EVAC. “I don't think I would have finished school without EVAC. It gave me a better understanding of why I needed an education,” he said. “You can't do or know what you've never been exposed to. This program lets youth know it's possible to achieve. It gives us hope. It's a safe place. It



Five members of EVAC, along with Amy Donofrio, Pastor Jay Harris and mentors Sevan Johnson and Loyce Nelson, met President Barack Obama in 2016.

wasn't that I didn't want to do something, I just didn't see a benefit or have a goal.”

Nick Burgess, also a third-year EVAC student, remarked that through the sharing of individual stories and talking to people in the classroom and with the public helped him get over his problems and take his education seriously. The program showed him more opportunities were available personally and throughout the community. He explained that the program creates better understanding of life issues.

“I joined EVAC to make a change. I wanted to give all teens that grew up like I did a voice, and EVAC was the best platform to do that,” said Burgess, who was one of the creators of #YourStoryIsMine.

As a group, their personal achievements also cannot be taken lightly. Several doubled

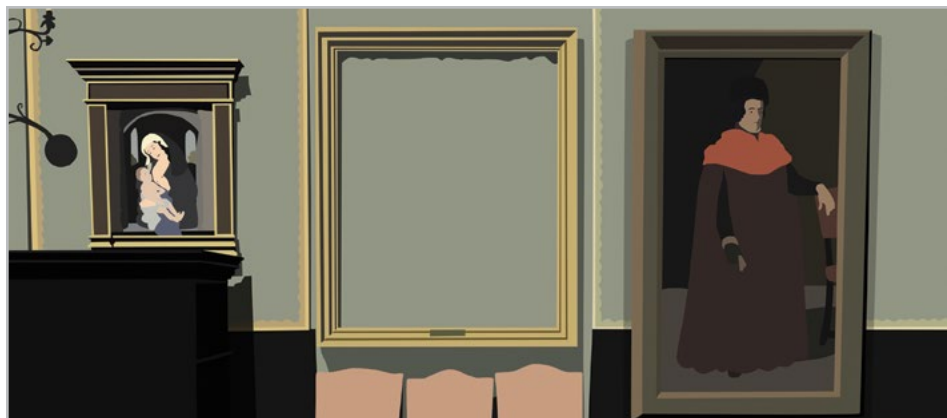
their GPAs and considered college for the first time; others got their first suit and dress shoes, traveled by air for the first time, or left Jacksonville for the first time; all got jobs and hosted a job fair at Lee High School. They have avoided violence and arrest; comforted each other through loss of a parent, shared with each other when they were homeless; built positive relationships with law enforcement, and successfully fought for a classmate to be returned to juvenile court after receiving a 10-year sentence in adult prison. After serving two years in a youth program, he was released this past March with no adult record.

For more information and an extensive list of community involvement and media coverage check out this Brotherhood of Hope at EVACMovement.com or evac@gmail.com.

Students meet state representative in capital



Fourth grade students at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School recently visited the state's capital in Tallahassee. During their tour of the State Capitol building, they met up with District 15 State Representative Wyman Duggan, an Ortega resident and attorney and shareholder at Rogers Towers.



KOTA EZAWA: THE CRIME OF ART

MARCH 12 THROUGH DECEMBER 1, 2019

Kota Ezawa's *The Crime of Art* series explores themes of ownership and access through the lens of high-profile art heists. This multimedia exhibition includes new and recent works inspired by infamous thefts, including a collection of 13 masterworks stolen from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and the disappearance (and subsequent recovery) of Edvard Munch's *The Scream*.

For more information, visit cummermuseum.org



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Successful women help empower high school girls

Students at Robert E. Lee High School write letters to their younger or future selves at a private Generation WOW conference March 26. Founder Donna Orender and the team at Generation WOW presented a workshop completely centered on empowering female students at Lee High School, where the young women had a chance to hear from successful women in the community, as well as complete their own vision boards.



Picnic in the park brings community, school together



More than a long-standing institution of education, the 102-year-old Fishweir Elementary School is also a springboard for family friendships and community relationships. Several times a year, current and former school families get together to have a picnic and social time at nearby Fishweir Park, opening the potluck to the community as well. The April 7th event was fun for all as children of all ages enjoyed the playground.

High Five campaign nearly doubles goal to raise funds for new technology

The Friends of Stockton successfully held its 2nd Annual High Five Campaign in March. The yearly campaign is a two-week push to raise capital funds for materials, equipment, and technology to benefit John N.C. Stockton Elementary School students and support the faculty.

Students were encouraged to buy hands at \$5 each and then write their names on the paper hands. All hands are hung by classroom teachers in the cafeteria to create a warm rainbow of fingers reaching out to build a stronger school.

Parents and grandparents volunteered to hold signs, run hand-selling booths, and reach out to the community to help reach the goal. Classes were encouraged with daily updates and promises of ice cream and pizza for top earning classes.

Top individual earners won the opportunity to be principal, PE coach, or art teacher for the day and the excitement and competition was contagious. Winning principal for the day was second grader Noah Barnett. PE coach for the day was kindergartner Betty Hogan, and art co-teachers for the day were Blake Holland and Jay Ballard, both in first grade.



Fundraising campaign winners Noah Barnett, Betty Hogan, Blake Holland and Jay Ballard

Last year, the campaign raised enough money to buy three iPads with cases for each classroom teacher. This year the goal was to raise \$10,000 to help buy four All-In-One technology carts to replace the old Smart Boards, of which many are not working properly, if at all. Eighteen first grade through fifth grade classrooms are in need of the carts, which cost about \$5,000 each. FOS intended to replace the old boards with the new carts as funds were available over the next few years, however, with the overwhelming support from students, parents, and business partners the goal of \$10,000 was far exceeded. In just two weeks, \$17,765 was raised.

Teachers, students, and parents are eagerly anticipating the arrival of the new technology carts. FOS and the entire Stockton community are thankful to all who contributed.



The cafeteria at John N.C. Stockton Elementary School was festooned with signed paper hands in a fundraising campaign.

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School dance brings in donations for food pantry

West Riverside Elementary School's Parent-Teacher Association hosted its first family dance to bring families together to have fun with their kids and give back to the community. The April 5 Spring Luau was free with a suggested donation of one food item per person to be donated to Feeding Northeast Florida's food pantry. The PTA collected 66 lbs. of food, which equals 55 meals. Students and parents had fun dancing the night away and participating in limbo, hula hoop, and dance contests, even for the adults. The parent dance-off ended in a three-way tie between Tyrome Douglas, Amanda Bullard and Christian Thomsen.



Phoebe and Malcolm Harmon pose with some of the 66 lbs. of food collected for Feeding Northeast Florida.

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Whitehurst drama course wins national award

The Bolles Lower School Whitehurst Campus was honored with one of the Global Education Benchmark Group's most prestigious awards. The school won the primary school category GET Prize, which "recognizes students for their learning and growth in the field of global education."

Global Education Benchmark Group, a St. Louis-based nonprofit organization comprised of 250 K-12 member schools, specifically acclaimed this year's drama productions under the direction of Daniel Austin, with music direction by Beth Zerkowski and art instruction by Elizabeth Miron. The submission included works from the entire year, representing all grade levels. Written by Austin, all seven of the lower school campus plays this year have been based on themes and stories from continents each grade level has been studying collectively. Fourth-grade students, for example, have been studying the continent of Australia this year. Their show, "Aboriginal Dreamtime Stories," was based on and adapted from dream folktales and creation myths of the Aboriginal people of Australia. "It has been an incredible learning experience for our students," Austin said in the prize application. "In class, we work on improvisatory exercises to explore our themes – the culture, animals, story-telling



In their recent game show-themed play, "Past/Forward," Bolles Whitehurst Campus fifth-graders exhibited their knowledge about historical fine artists of Europe.

elements and more. Then as we work on the script and assign parts, we discuss different aspects of the culture we are portraying. This opens the opportunity to have conversations comparing our culture and the one we're depicting."

The GET Prize is awarded annually at three levels: primary, middle and high school. As part of the prize, Austin received \$333 to use for global learning activities. Winning projects were required to examine two or more cultures, languages or families. Winners were selected by a panel of members of the Global Education Benchmark Group's curriculum working group.



Showcasing their study of North American cultures and countries on the McGehee Auditorium stage, Whitehurst third-graders shared a colorful performance about Mexican folklore and traditions.

Urban Plan course introduces students to city planning



Patrick Patangan, Scott Thompson, Caitlynn Lucey, Nancy Gilreath, Bryanna Racke, Donna Lewis, Ramzy Bakkar, Michael Rukab, Eric Partain, Elias Hionides (Not pictured: Vincent Fetchero)

In what was a first for Bishop Kenny High School, 27 economics students took part in Urban Plan, a hands-on, 15-hour course created by the Urban Land Institute of North Florida to teach urban planning concepts to high school and college students.

At the end of the course, the students presented their redevelopment vision on March 22 to a fictitious city council made up of ULI volunteers. Taking home certificates as the winning team were Michael Rukab of San Jose and his classmates, Eric Partain, Bryanna Racke, Vincent Fetchero, and Caitlynn Lucey.



Volunteering to sit on the fictitious city council were Patrick Patangan, from Medronic, Nancy Gilreath of Van Metre Companies, Donna Lewis, a retired urban planner, Ramzy Bakkar, The Bakkar Group, Elias Hionides of Petra Management and Dan Jackson. Bakkar, Patangan and Jackson are all Bishop Kenny alumni.

Bishop Kenny is the newest North Florida school to add ULI's program to its curriculum. Other area schools that incorporate the course into their curriculum are The

Episcopal School of Jacksonville, and The Bolles School.

The students, who study under economics teacher Scott Thompson, worked in development teams to analyze and respond to a hypothetical Request for Proposal for the redevelopment of a specific urban area. Each student was then asked to take on a specific role in their development team, which consisted of site planner, financial analyst, marketing director, city liaison, and neighborhood liaison. Through the program, the students explored how the forces of a market economy worked with and against non-market forces in a democracy to create the environment in which they live.

In completing their plans, the students considered economic, social, cultural and political goals of the fictional city and its residents. Some of the items they considered were zoning and design regulations, market demand for different types of land uses and real estate products, traffic patterns, quality of life and the needs of investors and lenders providing capital for the project.

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Exercise made fun at annual duathlon

The 4th Annual Daily's Riverside Kids Duathlon & Tot Trot on April 13 was a huge success, with over 220 children, along with family and friends, from the Jacksonville community taking part in the Saturday morning event, followed by a Celebratory Festival. All who participated were congratulated for their accomplishments. Next year's duathlon is planned for April 4.



Kyle Horne gives it his all during the Tot Trot at Riverside Presbyterian Day School.

Fishweir takes stand against underfunded public education



Teachers, staff, parents and students at Fishweir Elementary School wore red in solidarity April 17 for the Florida Teachers Walk-In to protest the lack of state funding for education. Because Florida public employees, such as teachers, are barred from striking under state law, the walk-in was held to raise awareness of funding issues, such as increased funding for charter schools, that may have a negative effect on public education.



Susanna Ball

Sixth grader attends state geography bee

Congratulations to Riverside Presbyterian Day School sixth grade student, Susanna Ball, who participated in the National Geographic Geography Bee State Qualifier March 29. She was selected for the competition after winning the school's fourth to sixth grade Geography Bee in January, as well as for her high score achieved on the state written exam. Ball is the first student at RPDS to advance to the state competition since the school started participating in 2014.

PE coach teaches students to ride bikes

Each year, second grade students at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School participate in the Bike Rodeo, an annual tradition to learn the "rules of the road" and bike safety from an expert. Each student's bike is inspected and, once they complete the obstacle course, they receive their official bike license. Not only is this a rite of passage for most students at St. Mark's, it is also their official "permission" to ride their bike to school – if their parents approve, of course.

For the students who already know how to ride a bike, this is an exciting experience that they start talking about in first grade. For those who have not yet learned, it can be intimidating. Learning to ride can be a daunting challenge and for some, is not easily overcome. Each year, there are a growing number of students who do not know how to ride their bike and it can be stressful for both the parents and the student. Sometimes children just need that special

person that is a positive influence to help them out.

St. Mark's Episcopal Day School physical education teacher, Taylor Harnden, was that person for five students this year. In the months leading up to the Bike Rodeo, Harnden spent 30 minutes each day during their PE time running around the track holding onto the back of the bike, guiding, and encouraging each student to ride. "I have never heard of another school where the PE teachers help students learn how to ride a bike! I appreciate this so much!" said Sharyn Nelson, mother to a student who has benefitted from Coach Harnden's incredible generosity.

In addition to every student being able to ride their bike in the Bike Rodeo this year, it has helped bring the class closer together as a team. As the students were on the track learning to ride their bike, their classmates were standing on the sidelines cheering them on.



Coach Taylor Harnden watches Beckham Davidson navigate the circuit at a Bike Rodeo.

'Annie' charms audience at Upson performance



The Ruth N. Upson Elementary School cast of "Annie JR."

Based on the popular comic strip and adapted from the Tony Award-winning Best Musical, "Annie JR." was performed by third, fourth and fifth graders at Ruth N. Upson Elementary last month.

"The students did an outstanding job," noted Upson principal Yvonne Spinner. "It was an ideal production for different grade levels."

The stellar performance, narrated by Cheyenne Knight and Xavier Mahr, featured everyone's favorite little redhead under the direction of music teacher Lindsay Adkins and media specialist Margaret Dubas.

The musical included featured roles and ensemble parts for servants (Khia Adkins, Liam Donald, Grace Kollar, Quinton Scott) and orphans (Justice Adkins, Teanna Carlisle, Serenide Davis, Sabella George, Kyleigh

Hague, Emily Hall, Ariel Stokes) and police officer Ward (Jade Crockett).

Little Orphan Annie (Claire Boales) charms everyone's hearts in 1930s New York City. She is determined to find the parents who abandoned her at an orphanage run by the cruel Miss Hannigan (Astrid Henry).

Annie eventually foils Miss Hannigan's evil machinations, finding a new home and family in billionaire Oliver Warbucks (Landen Lopes) his personal secretary, Grace Farrell (Kerinn Minor), and a lovable mutt named Sandy (Gabriel Cruz), also on the run from a dog catcher (Clinton Martin).

Art students designed the sets under the direction of art teacher Tamara Bettes. Teachers Sara Henry, Retha Dixon, volunteer Amy Martin and Assistant Principal Jeffrey Royal also assisted in the production.

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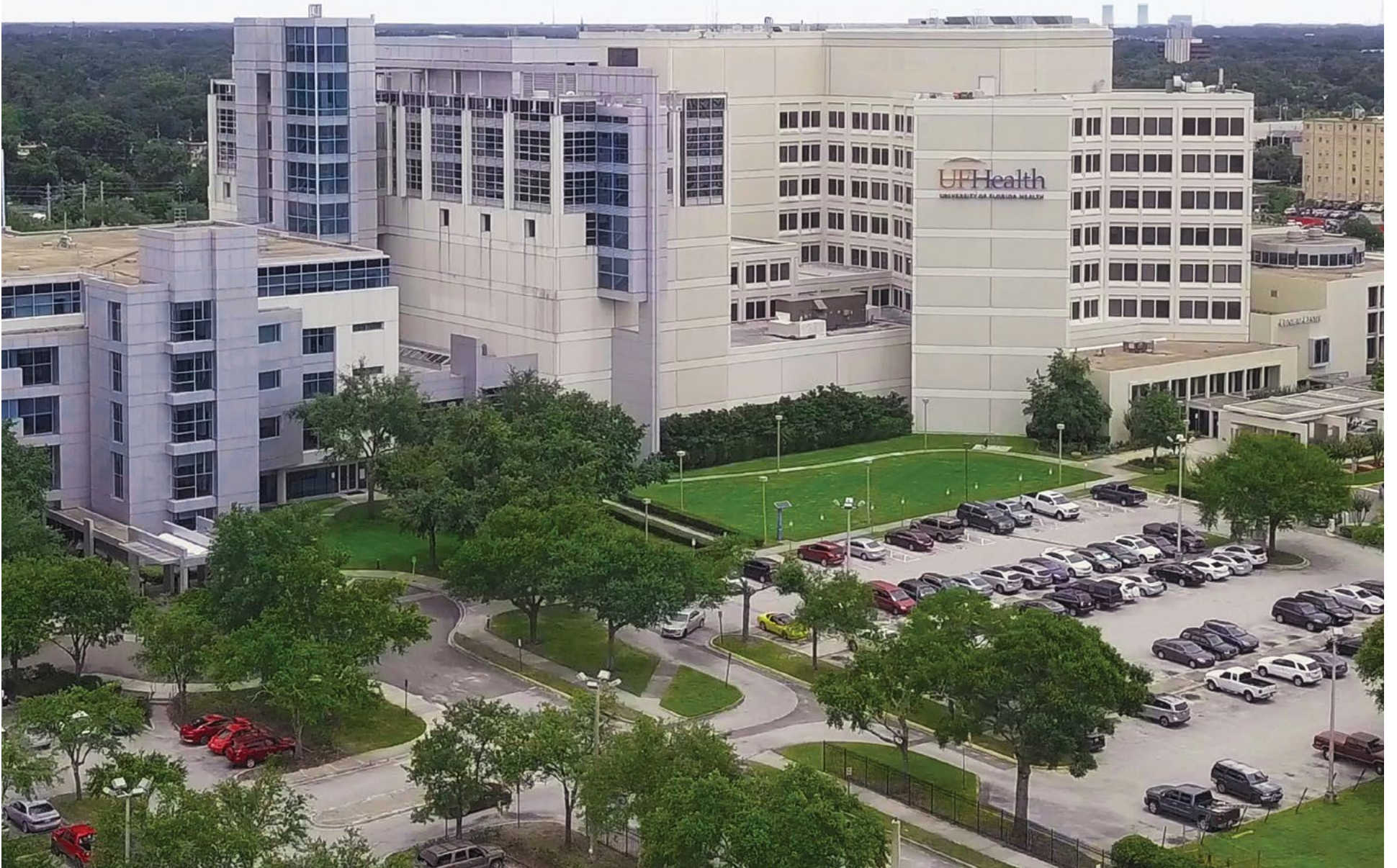
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