Meet the Butlers:

World travelers believe there's no place like home

By Martie Thompson

John and Ann Butler have visited all seven continents — and their bucket list keeps growing. Yet they are happy to call The Hammock their home base and appreciate the area's natural beauty and friendly neighbors.

John grew up in Illinois and after graduation with a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Illinois, joined the United States Marine Corps and headed to Officers Training in Quantico, Va. — which just so happens to be near Fredericksburg. There he met Ann, origi-

nally from Williamsburg, Va., who was attending Mary Washington University (at the time, the women's division of the University of Virginia). The two continued their relationship through John's tour and injury in Vietnam. After

his recovery, they had a military wedding in Fort Eustis, Va. This year, they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

John left the Marine Corps in 1970 and then joined the FBI. The Butlers lived again in Quantico and also in New Jersey and back to Virginia, with John working on the FBI's hostage rescue team and Ann, who had earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and masters degree in social work, working as a social worker.

By 2000, they were looking ahead to retirement. They said that despite a multi-year search down the East coast, looking at areas like Charleston and Savannah, they had not found the perfect spot.

"We knew we wanted to live near the ocean and we knew we wanted to move South," John said.

Then they attended a retirement expo and came across representatives from Ginn, who offered a three-day trip to St. Augustine and a look at property in Ocean Ham-

mock. They bought their lot in spring 2000.

John retired in 2002 and they moved to The Hammock in a rental home in Grand Haven while they began construction on their home, which was completed in 2005.

The Butlers on a hot air balloon ride over the Serengeti. completed in 2005.

"We love being near the ocean and since our lot is one of the estate lots, we enjoy some privacy," John said. "We also like the amenities."

Ann, a recently retired Master Gardener, is very active with the OHPOA Maintenance Committee, particularly as pertains to land-scaping. In her spare time, Ann goes to the gym for "fun and work" and plays canasta every Monday. John is an avid hunter and fisherman and belongs to several clubs for these activities. But most importantly, Ann

said she "plans exciting trips." WIth a father in the Army and parents who loved to travel, Ann comes by her travel bug honestly. This year, the Butlers have three big trips planned: to Japan, to California and the Canadian Rockies, and to India and Nepal. They are keeping a close eye on the current international health advisories associated with the coronavirus.

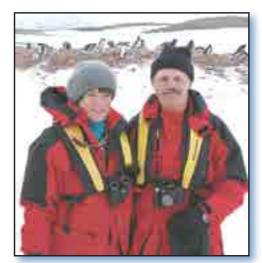
The Butlers have visited Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Africa and their first "real" adventure, which was to the Galapagos Islands and Machu Picchu. Perhaps their most adventurous trip was about five years ago to Antarctica.

"It was one of those trips I dreamed of," John said. "I broached it to Ann and fortunately she agreed."

John said they visited South America and added a week to visit Patagonia. Then it was off to the tip of Argentina, where they boarded a smaller ship with only about 100 people. There is a short, two-month window (January and February) each year where the trip to Antarctica can be made and it includes four days with eight possible landings on Antarctica from a zodiac boat in survival gear. Favorable weather permitted the Butlers to participate in seven landings.

"We saw penguins, seals, walruses and whales," John said. "It was so different from anywhere else. There was no noise at all — the quiet is surreal."

The couple said that they like adventurous trips best.



Photos courtesy Ann Butler The Butlers in Antarctica

"Our motto is, don't put these trips off! Just go!" John said.

But the Butlers agree that they love returning home to The Hammock.

"It's so beautiful here," Ann said. "We love the birds and the vegetation. And of course we love the people and have lots of friends. We are very happy here."

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President's Message By

By Charles Kerr

This edition of The Ocean Breeze marks the first time in seven years that the President's Message column hasn't been written by Paul Pershes. Paul is, however, still a member of the board of directors and remains a great resource. It is an honor and major responsibility for me to succeed him as president of your board of directors for 2020. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities facing the board and association in the coming year.

I'd like to take a moment to introduce our new board members for this term. Andrea Kelly was elected as a new director and will be replacing Beth Kelly. Jim Ulsamer and Roger Cullinane were each reelected to the board. All three have extensive board experience and are long time volunteers in the community. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, feel free to contact any member of the board. If your topic is specific to one of our committees, please visit the OHPOA website for the chairperson's contact information.

The association has several issues that carried over from 2019.

President's Message cont. on pg. 3





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Dunes CDD Water Cooler Corner

By Gary Crahan, DCDD Board of Supervisors

Each year at this time I encourage everyone to check their landscape irrigation system to ensure proper spray flow/coverage and make sure there are no leaks, especially those caused by broken sprinkler heads. Even though the source is treated reclaimed water, we don't want to waste it and have you spend money unnecessarily. We run the supply pumps during the daytime hours to provide pressure for you or a vendor technician (lawn guy) to check all aspects of your system.

Flagler County weather monitoring stations: I am sure you have probably noticed by now the presence of wind and temperature sensors on the south side of the Hammock Dunes toll bridge. This equipment is part of a Flagler County system that will assist in assessing conditions during weather events such as hurricanes and tornadoes. The readouts are available to you by visiting DunesCDD.org and scrolling down and clicking on "Weather Stations" under "Helpful Resources." Then select "Hammock Dunes Bridge Weather Station." There you can select the "Weather STEM Units" button at the top of the page to see the other stations in the Flagler system, such as Marineland. I found it useful during our gusty weather in late February.

Toll bridge pass ("sticker") accounts: I noted recently on "Nextdoor Ocean Hammock" some discussion about having dormant accounts closed out. I would like to shed more light on this. The Terms and Conditions governing the toll bridge accounts say that accounts that have been dormant (no activity) for greater than one year will be closed out and the funds moved to the bridge general fund. After about 10 years of neglecting to take this action, we began an extensive review of the approximately 25,000 pass accounts in January 2019 and found about 6,000 where no activity had occurred. Therefore, we have begun a quarterly routine of reviewing the accounts that have been dormant for 18 months (giving a cushion of six months) and closing those accounts. Approximately one third of the initial 6,000 closed accounts had residual fund balances of less than \$1. These accounts typically had old contact information due to holder death, moved out of area, etc. Leaving a large number of inactive accounts requires carrying a financial liability on the books and will require additional staffing that will result in additional toll fee levels. If you currently have multiple accounts, you should consolidate them into a single account with multiple pass numbers (there is no limit) to ease your

management and avoid accounts becoming inactive. Please refer questions to the Toll Bridge Office at (386) 446-5593.

Advance planning for Hammock Dunes Bridge intersection: We are conducting early planning for the potential signalization of the intersection as you exit the bridge at the main entrance to the Ham-

President's Message cont. from pg. 1

Two, in particular, are the ongoing process of dune restoration and short term rental regulation.

It's no secret — dune degradation and restoration will continue to be a part of The Hammock experience for years to come. As for future beach restoration efforts, there is a plan being considered to piggyback on the dredging and pumping operation in the southern part of the county. Unfortunately, for the those of us living on the northern end of the island, it will take years to get by the bureaucratic red tape and find the necessary funding for the project. Your board and neighboring communities in The Hammock continue to work with Flagler County, the State of Florida and federal agencies to find the best immediate path forward to minimize the damage to our beaches from future storms.

While Ocean Hammock doesn't currently have vacation rental issues, Tallahassee lawmakers continue their assault on POA communities with bills friendly to the vacation rental industry. So far, homeowners associations and impacted municipalities from around the state have been successful in fighting back those attempts. The fight to maintain our quality of life here in The Hammock is ongoing.

Our association continues to be in great financial shape due to several strategic moves by the Finance Committee last year. With several new procedures put in place by Access Control, we expect much easier access during the high season at the Hotel Trace gate. And, finally, the Maintenance Committee has several new projects scheduled to 2020 that should enhance the natural beauty of Ocean Hammock.

Until next time, there's no excuse for not getting out and enjoying all that we have here. Have a great spring!

mock Dunes community. During certain times of the day, the traffic level "clogs up" that intersection causing backups. Additionally, some drivers have difficulty navigating a four-way stop by knowing how to yield or take their turn. This planning process will also consider adding turn lanes to facilitate traffic flow. More information

The 2020 **Ocean Hammock Board of Directors**

Charles Kerr - President charleskerrpoa@gmail.com

Jim Ulsamer - Vice President jimulsamer@me.com

Roger Cullinane - Secretary rcullinane@gmail.com

David Bull - Treasurer davebull@bullcommunicationsinc.com

> Paul Pershes - Director pcp10022@gmail.com

Thomas Howard - Director thomaschowardmd@gmail.com

> Andrea Kelly - Director agkel@aol.com

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Ocean Hammock Main Gate (386) 447-1809

Discovery Center Gate (386) 986-1154

> North Shore Gate (386) 986-1129



Publisher

Mark Pettus Publisher@FloridaNewsLine.com

Editor

Martie Thompson Editor@FloridaNewsLine.com

Creative Director

Julie Gerona Graphics@FloridaNewsLine.com

Bookkeeper

Emily Whitehead Accounting@FloridaNewsLine.com

Social Media

SocialMedia@FloridaNewsLine.com

Advertising Sales

Linda Gay Linda@FloridaNewsLine.com (904) 607-5062 cell

Rebecca Thomson Rebecca@FloridaNewsLine.com (724) 968-7602 cell

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Meet your new Board Members

By Beth Kelly

In December, the Ocean Hammock Property Owners Association (OHPOA) held its annual meeting and elected three members to its board of directors, including two incumbents, Roger Cullinane and Jim Ulsamer, and Andrea Kelly, a newly elected board member.

Roger Cullinane has been a board member for four years and has been instrumental in representing our homeowners association in Tallahassee protecting our homeowner rights. He was on the Covenants Committee for five years, and now works tirelessly on the Access Control Committee. Roger is a CPA and moved to Ocean Hammock 13 years ago after 38 years with Deloitte in Washington D.C., New Jersey, and most recently, Cincinnati, where he was also president of his homeowners association. Roger and his wife, Jan, bought their lot 21 years ago after discovering Ocean Hammock doing research for Jan's first book on retirement. In the past few years, Roger and Jan have traveled to all seven continents, and to many of our national parks.

Jim Ulsamer has been an active board member for the past three years. He has been very involved in the community Dune Restoration Project and is also involved in protecting our homeowner rights at both the county and state levels. Jim previously was president of a large book and media company before relocating with his wife, Mary Kay, to Ocean Hammock where they have been residents

for 15 years. Jim has also served as chairman of the Flagler County Library Board of Trustees for the past 10 years. His wife, Mary Kay, recently became an FAA certified drone pilot and many of you will recall that, through her drone photography skills, she kept full and part-time property owners apprised of the recovery of the Ocean Hammock Golf Course from the damage inflicted by Hurricane Matthew. In the past few years, Jim and Mary Kay have traveled to such far away places as South Africa, Iceland, Australia, New Zealand, Scotland, Ireland and the Christmas markets of Europe.

Andrea Kelly has also been an active part of the community. Since 2014, Andrea served as a director on the Cinnamon Beach Condo Association Board. She has also actively served on Cinnamon Beach and OHPOA committees. Andrea has worked for more than 25 years in major international confectionery companies and has had extensive experience with homeowner associations in New Jersey. She and her husband, Frank, have been residents here since 2005 but they travel extensively — it usually involves golf or wine and, if they're lucky, both! Once Frank retires, they are hoping to travel more. (Please see Andrea's article in this same issue on their recent venture to Northern Portugal and Spain, where they visited and stayed in Santiago de Compostela.)

We welcome their service to the board and our community.

New investor at

Hammock Beach Golf Resort & Spa

By Beth Kelly

Tampa billionaire Dr. Kiran Patel, through his private equity group, KDG Capital, paid \$18 million for Hammock Beach Golf Resort & Spa. While Patel, a cardiologist, made much of his money in healthcare, including his sale of WellCare

Health Plans in 2002, he has recently accumulated a hospitality portfolio that includes JW Marriott on Clearwater Beach, the Wyndham Grand Clearwater Beach and hotel properties in Colorado, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Wyoming. In ad-

dition, Patel owns golf course properties in New Jersey and Oregon.

In addition to the initial investment and additional investments required to turn the property around, two industry leading companies have been hired to take over operations of the resort and the golf club. Aimbridge Hospitality, a leading third-party hotel management company, will now manage the hotel operations and resort's food and beverage establishments. Aimbridge also manages hotels at more than 1,400 properties, including Hilton, Hyatt, InterContinental Hotels, and JW Marriott. With the addition of Hammock

Beach, Aimbridge Hospitality now manages four KDG Capital properties.

Troon, the world's largest golf management company, providing services at more than 465 locations around the globe, will oversee the golf operations and club/member-

ship experience.

"Troon's track record of managing other courses for us has proven their vision to focus on providing the premier golfing experience," said Greg Ogle, partner, KDG Capital.



Photo courtesy The Club at Hammock Beach

According to Bruce Glasco, chief operating officer of Troon, "The opportunity to manage a tremendous property like The Club at Hammock Beach is very exciting. We are confident that our management practices and dedication to outstanding service will make an already exceptional property even better."

Club members of Hammock Beach will also enjoy privileges at many Troon operated golf courses.

More about the investor's vision for the resort and club will be shared with club members on March 25.

Hammock Community Association works to protect The Hammock; new members needed

By Joy Ellis

The Hammock Community Association (HCA) has big plans for 2020. In addition to providing informational programs, the Hammock Community Association has fought to prevent county actions that could endanger the natural beauty and peaceful character of The Hammock.

Much of the old Florida, maritime appearance of The Hammock was preserved when Hammock Dunes, Yacht Harbor, Ocean Hammock, Hammock Beach and Sea Colony were required to set aside the greenways bordering State Road A1A. The county now owns most of these greenways. The county provided further protections for The Hammock when it enacted the Scenic A1A ordinance in 2004. This ordinance created unique Land Development Code requirements for The Hammock, and its purpose is to "protect and enhance the natural and man-made environments of this unique and special portion of Flagler County, thereby preserving quality of life and property values within the County." It accomplishes this objective by limiting residential density

and building heights, by limiting the types of business, as well as the height and size of commercial buildings in The Hammock. Further, it requires commercial developments to establish landscape buffers on A1A and side streets.

Planned unit developments are exempt from these requirements, if they meet certain criteria. The Beachwalk development utilized the planned unit development approach to increase the number of residential units. Their initial proposal provided for limited landscape buffers on A1A and Jungle Hut; the Hammock Community Association was successful getting the county to require a 50-foot buffer on A1A, but was unsuccessful in its efforts to require a landscape buffer on Jungle Hut. There have been other recent threats to The Hammock:

On at least two occasions, county staff and commissioners attempted to trade portions of the greenway to commercial enterprises for land in other parts of the county. County commissioners voted to devote a major portion of Bing's Landing to a privately-owned restaurant.

The Hammock Community Association's primary focus for 2020 is a multifaceted, proactive plan to protect and preserve The Hammock and its natural spaces. The primary projects are:

Obtain legal protection for the greenways;

Seek grants to be used to acquire large parcels in The Hammock that could be used for high-density development;

Propose changes to the Land Development Code which would impose appropriate limitations on planned unit developments.

The Hammock Community Association will continue to support all efforts for local control of short-term rentals as well as support all dune restorations activities.

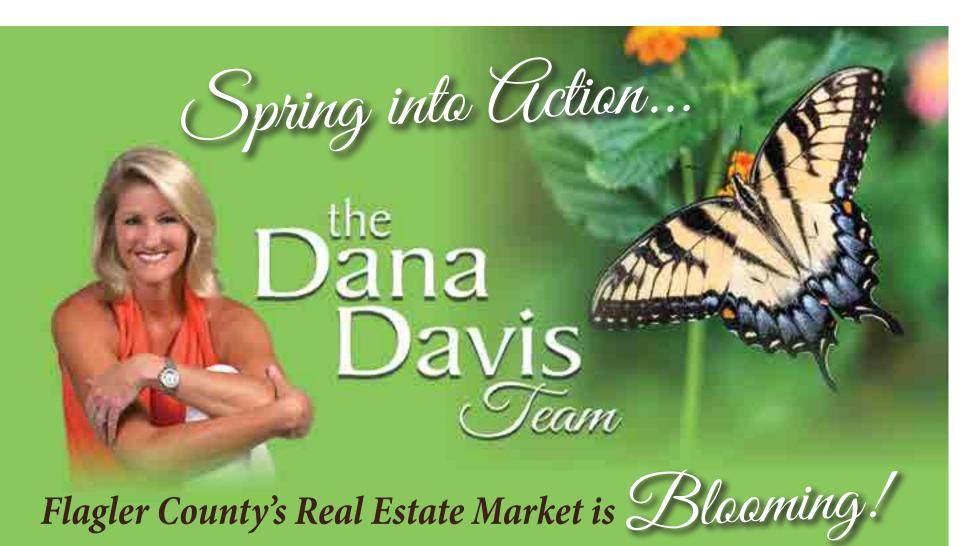
The Hammock Community Association meets the first Tuesday of every month except July, August, and December at

the Hammock Community Center at 79 Malacompra Road at 7 p.m. for the meeting with social time at 6:30 p.m. New members are welcome. The Hammock Community Association has a \$15 individual, \$20 family and \$100 business annual membership fee, but costs for advertising and professional services far exceed membership fees so the organization relies heavily on tax-deductible donations. (The Hammock Community Association is a 501c3 nonprofit organization so it does not take political positions or endorse candidates.)

The April 7 meeting will be on the UF Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience located in Marineland. Brenda Cannaliato, Education and Outreach Program Manager, will give an update of the Whitney's activities.

Visit www.TheHammock.org to become a member, volunteer and donate.

Joy Ellis is president of the Hammock Community Association.



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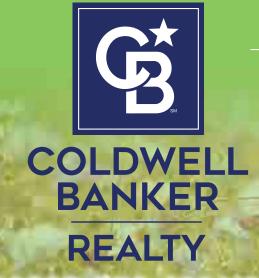
6 Ocean Dune Circle



6 Cottonwood Trail

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Lomo de Cerdo Almendrado (Pork tenderloin with almonds)

I have cooked as a hobby since the mid-1970s. This is a dish I first cooked Feb. 15, 1998, and has become a go-to recipe for dinner get togethers ever since. Pork

2 pieces of pork tenderloin, about 2 lbs

where vast quantities of very high-quality almonds are produced.

Make two incisions along the length of each tenderloin without cutting right

each tenderloin without cutting right through. Sprinkle in a little salt and press some crushed almonds evenly into each incision. Tie the tenderloin neatly with a string and roll in well seasoned flour. Heat the lard in a heavy, shallow pan. Brown the tenderloin carefully, turning gently, then add the chopped scallions (use the green parts as well) or the shallots, and cook for one to two minutes. Add the sherry and the stock and cover the pan. Cook on a low heat for about one hour, turning the meat once.

When the meat is quite tender, remove and cut off the string. Slice neatly and arrange on a hot plate. Stir

the cream into the sauce in the pan, without boiling, and pour it over the meat slices. Garnish as desired.

Lomo de Cerdo Almendrado

Serve with mashed or baked potatoes or wide noodles.

(Note: This can be scaled for one tender-loin but prepare the same amount of liquid to cook in.)



Photos courtesy Ken Neu Pork tenderloin tied and floured

1 tbsp. flour 1 tbsp. lard (such as Crisco)

almonds lightly toasted

1 cup chopper scallions or shallots (I have always used scallions)

1 1/4 cup broken, slivered or sliced

½ cup dry sherry

1 cup chicken stock

1 tbsp. cream

Ingredients:

½ tsp salt

Pepper

(see note at end)

tenderloin is popular all over Spain. This dish is a particular favorite in Mallorca,

Stay Connected: Archived recipes are available on the OHPOA website. Click on "Members Only," then, on the drop down menu, click on "Stay Connected," then choose "Hey Man! What's Cookin'?"

Enjoy! And remember, new cooks always welcome!



Experience Malacompra

By Chris Klinvex

mountain bike trails

Many people reading this article likely do not own a mountain bike or realize that right here in our community we have more than seven miles of trails. The main Malacompra Trail head is located across from Publix on 16th Street, making it easily accessible for all Hammock Beach

residents. It meanders along A1A, from 16th Street to Malacompra Road, and even provides trail access to the ocean for those who want to include a

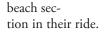


Photo courtesy Chris Klinvex Chris Klinvex riding his mountain bike.

But I'm ahead of myself, so let me answer a few common questions regarding mountain biking and the Malacompra trails.

What is mountain biking? The sport began in the '80s with kids modifying their play bikes to ride in the woods. By 1996 it was an official Olympic sport, with the first event ever taking place near Atlanta, Ga. The Europeans dominate the sport and medal count, where mountain biking is ubiquitous. Riders traverse rigorous mountainous terrains, racing to complete the course. For the masses though, most mountain biking is more akin to trail riding and purely recreational. It is a wonderful way to get interval exercise in pristine

Can we walk the Malacompra trails? There are two trails here, a red and a blue trail. The red trail you can walk, run, or bike.

quina Cavern at Hammock Beach. The theme for this winning photo

was "Can u find me?" Residents were

asked to take a creative shot of some-

where local, (within the 30 mile radius

The blue trail is only for mountain bikers.

Is mountain biking dangerous? Like most sports, it is to the extent you make it so. If you have good balance, quick reaction times, solid cardio fitness, and strong riding skills, then you are a good candidate

> for this sport. With the Malacompra trail being mostly flat, much of the danger associated with downhill speed is gone. Trails are purposely built tightly through the preserve, making it important to stay

in the center of the trail at all times. For safety, the blue trail is directional, meaning everyone must ride in the same direction as indicated by trail markers.

Are mountain bikes different than normal bikes? Yes. For starters, they cost more. New bikes range from \$2,000 to more than \$12,000. What you get for that money often includes full suspension, hydraulic disc brakes and seat post, tubeless knobby tires, carbon fiber frame, and more — but weighing under 30 lbs. These bikes are engineered to handle rough terrain with ease.

While having the Malacompra trails in our neighborhood provides convenient trail riding, there are eight other trails close by - the Graham Swamp Trail on Colbert Lane is the next closest.

To learn more, visit flaglerbiking.com or contact Chris Klinvex.



Photo courtesy Fred Folco Coquina Cavern at Hammock Beach

of Ocean Hammock) and we have to figure out where it was taken!

The winner of the most recent Ham-

mock Hot

with his shot of Co-

Shot photo contest is Fred Folco

The next challenge is "Make a splash!" We are surrounded by water. You don't have to look far for a unique water shot, but we want to see a splash! (fountains, ocean, pool ... be creative!) Remember to keep it within a half hour of our Hammock area and no recognizable people's faces, please. Now, get out there and shoot something! Hit us with your best shot. Send all entries to hammockhotshot@gmail.com.

Battle for The Hammock Cup

During mid-February, many of you may not have realized that there was a battle taking place between Hammock Dunes and Hammock Beach for possession of the coveted Hammock Cup trophy.

The Hammock Cup is a version of a Ryder Cup golf format, pitting 16 twoman teams from each club in a 36-hole event played on courses from both clubs. The winner is awarded the honor

of maintaining the trophy until the next annual event.

The tournament originated in 2009, and was played

through 2016, with a three year hiatus caused by storm damages. Hammock Dunes won the cup the first year, and has kept it ever since, despite valiant efforts by Hammock Beach teams each year it was played.



Photos courtesy Brad Hauer Field of competitors

The 2020 event in February started with the men from Hammock Dunes taking a one point lead over the Hammock Beach team after playing the Creek Course: 24.5 to 23.5. Despite being behind, the Hammock Beach men were encour-

> aged, knowing that home Ocean Course experience for the final round would be beneficial. The Hammock Beach men performed brilliantly, achieving 31 points and

Hammock Dunes accumulated the remaining 17 points. The overall match score was Hammock Beach: 54.5 and Hammock Dunes: 41.5, so Hammock Beach will proudly display the Hammock Cup in the Pro Shop for the next



Hammock Beach team captains Eric Sargent, Bernie Barczak and Alan Mandell received the trophy from their Hammock Dunes counterparts.

Happy Campers By Kathy Owens

If you, like myself, have the blessing of grandchildren who visit for extended periods of time during the summer months or for those in the community with school age children, keeping them happy and busy can be a challenge. I would like to offer you some information about weekly summer camp options that may help you meet that challenge.

There are quite a few choices in the Palm Coast area; some of the ones that my granddaughter enjoyed are:

- S.E.A. camps at Marineland. These are age-based camps that educate kids about the marine life and the marine ecological system that surrounds us here in Palm Coast. I highly recommended these camps.
- Soccer camp at Wadsworth Park offered by Challenger Sports.
- Art and garden camp offered by Hammock Gardens.

Happy Campers cont. on pg. 14



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I had the pleasure of visiting the incredible home of Hèléne and Eric Bess — two of the most talented and creative people I have ever met!

They are local, and definitely worth a trip

over. The two will welcome you in, and graciously share their stories, as you wander in awe at their creations that surround every inch of their home. Welcome to the imaginative realm of Hèléne and Eric's art, including Fine Art (painting and mixed-media painting), "Wisdom Art" (3D

Assemblage), and Artistic Embellishment (murals, faux).

Eric and Hélène Bess are a team who have been collaborating for 30 years as well as creating their individual art. Both are professional artists with extensive experi-

By Lisa Fisher Photos courtesy Lisa Fisher

my art is a 'bridge' between the abstract and the specific. I aim at strongly defined images with luminous color and high contrast, using dry brush technique and a unique technique of rendering shading of

> light and dark. (I never use airbrush.) My operative goal is the 'perfect' image (constantly strived for, but perhaps never truly attained). Every artistic image, regardless of its simplicity or complexity, is open to an infinite scope of personal interpretation. Far more important is the undefinable feeling

that is imparted through the unique image of the painting. To me, 'abstract' is real and 'concrete' is ephemeral," said Eric.

Paintings by Hèléne:

"My current solo work in painting con-

Eric and Hèléne:

"As we started collaborating in the early 2000s a mixed media narrative art form emerged with its own identity and style with a marked element of whimsy. The

result is both contemporary and classical, quirky and elegant. It draws inspiration from innovators of stylization like Modigliani and continues the grand tradition of mixed media masters such as

endeavored to take the techniques of figurative painting, collage and embellishment to a new level, merging them into one striking image. In effect, illustration and

assemblage are fused as a harmonious unity. Many pieces are glazed with an acrylic over coat replacing the glass of traditional framing producing a piece that can stand on its own as frameless art (or be framed at the client's discretion). Each piece is accompanied by an

I've coined the name 'Wisdom Art' because I feel all of us share a mission to inspire our minds as a whole. With that in mind I also always include a positive message/narrative on a soldered, embellished plaque with each piece. From my perspective, the purpose of all art, whatever form, is to uplift. My home studio is an outstanding 'petri dish' of jars, bins and boxes of beads, hardware and deconstructed found objects. We all have different perceptions as we view an object and that's where the fun comes in. I look at an unadorned item and see how it can be altered and interpreted and transformed into something entirely different. I never attach to the idea of how precious the material is: gold, silver or valued antiques. To me the real value is in the juxtaposition and how they relate to each other and finding the key to discover the interest and profound beauty in overlooked and discarded objects. Personally, the actual hunting of individual pieces to make the whole is an exciting challenge besides the

I do call myself an embellisher.

reconstruction. Each of my pieces tell a story and how that story translates into capturing the heart and soul of an individual viewer is my reason for moving forward into future projects," said Hèléne. In addition to artwork, Eric is an accomplished musician. He used to play in a cover band, dressed-very authentically-as Jethro Tull/Ian Anderson. He often appears locally. An absolute must see — if you have company in town, or want to be inspired, go see this gallery gem!



Gustav Klimt. We have

ence in both commercial and fine art fields. Hèléne studied art at Phoenix Pratt School of Design and St. Petersburg Community College, St. Petersburg, Fla. Eric studied at Auburn University and the University of Alabama. Their diverse commissions have ranged from Florida to Hawaii. They have exhibited in many galleries including several featured artist showings throughout the United States. Their work is included in many private collections, including Newport Beach, California; Ponte Vedra, Florida; New York City, New York; Atlanta, Georgia; Washington, DC and Paris, France.

Paintings by Eric:

"To me all art, regardless of the incredibly varied forms it takes, is the interpretive appreciation of beauty which is life itself. My compositions range from complex symbolism to simple evocative imagery. Perhaps

tinues with whimsical characters within fun scenarios. My paintings strive to convey a kind of 'quirky elegance.' I am strongly inspired by

innovators of stylization like Modigliani and Klimt. My past experience in textile design instilled in me a love of textures and patterns which enter into my work. I enjoy writing short narratives to accompany each painting allowing the viewer to come along with me on a whimsical journey celebrating the joy of life!" said Hèléne.

Collage paintings ("Papier Colle") by

original story adding to its individual identity."

3D Assemblage ("Wisdom Art") by Hèléne:

"I suppose this

art form is difficult to categorize although



It's the spring growing season!

By Allynne Jones

It's time to "spring clean" your plants and clean up the garden before planting others. For small perennials like Lantana, Salvia, Penta, and Blue Daze, simply trim it back to shape before the spring flush. For woody shrubs like Hibiscus, Allamanda, Croton, and Bougainvillea, also clip branches back to shape if needed.

While you're there, lightly work the soil around your plants to break surface tension for good water and fertilizer absorption into the soil. If your soil has not been amended and your plants performed poorly last growing season, top-dress around your plants with a little mushroom compost or aged manure.

After pruning, weeding, and lightly working the soil, fertilize! This is the growing season and plants need food to grow. Fertilize around the first part of March. We cannot stress enough the importance of fertilizing your plants and palms. Florida sand has no nutrient holding capacity and as plants begin to grow they need nutrients for healthy growth, flowering and fruiting. A healthy plant will always fare much better from freeze or insect damage than a weak, nutrient deficient plant. For years we have recommended the Nurserymen's Sure Gro slow release fertilizer blends that will last three months. It's what we use on our own home landscapes because it works. For palms and basic landscape shrubs ap-

ply the 8-4-12 Palm. For flowering shrubs, trees and perennials apply the 6-8-10 Bloomer, and for citrus and fruits apply the 8-4-8 Citrus and Fruit. Never apply the fertilizer on the top of the root ball or crown of plant where burn may occur. It is the feeder roots of the plant that are your target to take up the nutrients. Fertilizations should be done March, June and September. After fertilizing, water in well and apply fresh mulch if needed to retain moisture and control weeds.

Spring Checklist:

Check all your tools for rust and debris. Clean them up and sharpen if needed. Sanitize all pruners with rubbing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide prior to use and between trimming to prevent the spread of

Reapply 2" of mulch in areas that have become bare over the winter. New mulch not only freshens up the landscape; it will help deter spring weeds and help with moisture control during the heat of the summer.

Collect fallen leaves or pine needles from your lawn in sunny locations to prevent damage to the grass. In shady areas where the grass doesn't grow, leaving the pine needles or leaves is not a problem.

Allynne Jones is Florida Certified Horticultural Professional with Verdego.

Resident

Santiago de Compostela

By Andrea Kelly-Garcia

Adventures

Photos courtesy Andrea Kelly-Garcia

Growing up, my husband's grandmother Mimi always told him about the small village in Spain where she was born in

1909. It was a stop on "The Way" (a pilgrimage to the legendary burial place of St. James the Apostle) or in Spanish, Camino de Santiago. Mimi's Galician village of San Xil

past her door.



dating from the 6th century. And that

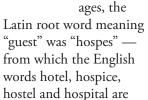
Frances, brought many pilgrims right

location, on the French route or Camino

This year, when planning our fall trip to northern Portugal, we decided to visit Spain and stay in Santiago de Compostela — the terminal end

of The Way. We were very lucky to secure accommodations at the Parador Hostal dos Reios Catolicos,

regarded by some to be the oldest continuously operating hotel in the world. Back in the middles



derived; however, there was little distinction between lodging and medical care

during that time.

Ferdinand and Isabella (yes, the ones who funded Christopher Columbus'

journeys to the Americas) began a 10 year construction plan for this hostal in

> 1486. They had completed The Way a few years earlier, and wanted to assist the poorer pilgrims in recovery and rejuvenation after their arduous trek.

The four colonnaded and interconnected courtyards within the walls created a miniature city — with

its own corps of priests, health workers, apothecaries, accountants and servants. It had animal pens, a jail, wine cellars, a morgue (currently a highly regarded restaurant, Libredon),

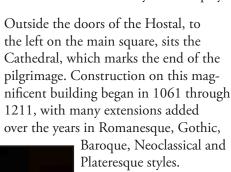
Inside one of the Hostal's courtvards

an orphanage and rooms for hundreds of in the northwest of Spain — bordered pilgrims.

We were lucky again to be given the Cardinal's suite — a spectacular set of rooms that housed (you guessed it) the Cardinal. It also accommodated many luminaries over time, but they seemed eager to tell the Americans (us) that Charlton Heston once spent two months in the suite during filming. The entire building is a museum, having been built

and renovated for the last 500 years – with numerous architectural Restaurant Libredon (an old morgue!) styles on display.





Since 2021 has been designated a Holy Year, many of the exquisite artworks within the Cathedral and parts of the main altar were undergoing cleaning and restoration so they were difficult to view. An estimated 500,000 pilgrims will complete The Way during 2021 and the town is gearing up for the onslaught.



The Cathedral Santiago de Compostela at night

Galicia is a beautiful area by the rough Atlantic yet tethered to the earth by the Albarino vines, the finest white wines of Spain. The western cliffs of Cape Finisterre were considered by the Romans to be the end of the known world. I am so glad we got to make the trip (albeit not on foot) to Santiago de Compostela — becoming a version of those pilgrims who passed by Mimi's small house more than 100 years ago.

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Cruising Alaska

By Liz Klinvex

Adventures

Photos courtesy Yvonne Woods

An Alaskan cruise had always been on our bucket list. When friends here invited us to go with them, we and eight other couples jumped at the opportunity. Last August we boarded Royal Caribbean's Ovation of the Seas ship departing from Seattle.

The new ship resembled a floating city, and at times we forgot we were not on land. Cruising Alaska was a great way to view the stunning blue icebergs, magnificent glaciers, majestic mountains, and the abundant wildlife. With myriad swimming pools, rock climbing walls, iFLY and the North Star capsule ride that takes you 300 feet above the sea, boredom wasn't an option on this ship.

The evening entertainment began each night with a special live show, followed by numerous music venues.

Our cruise first stopped in Juneau, where many in our group chose whale watch-

ing on a catamaran to see humpback whales, orcas and sea lions. We finished the day with a salmon bake, enjoying the freshly caught wild salmon. Others chose to go up the Gold-

chose to go up the Goldbelt Mount Roberts Tramway that takes you 1,800 feet high then lets you out up top for beautiful hiking and breathtaking views. You can view the famous Mendenhall Glacier there or take a helicopter ride

for an even

better view.

Our next stop was Skagway, once famous for the gold rush era in the late 1800s. This seaport town is filled with old world charm. We chose to take the Yukon Trail train ride labeled as "The most scenic railway in the world." Along the way our guide shared the history and stories of the Klondike gold rush. The train ride lasted two hours. At the top we were met by our bike tour guide, who led us down the Klondike Highway for 15 scenic miles, stopping to view cascading waterfalls, glaciers and the majestic mountains.

Our final port was in Victoria, British Columbia, where we spent the day at Butchart Gardens. The 55 acres are filled with the most beautiful flowers and gardens imaginable. Walking the grounds felt as if we were in a fairytale, with every aspect of the landscape perfectly manicured.

With only seven days, and half of those at sea, the trip went by quickly. Other friends chose to experience Alaska by land, and they spent more of their time in the Yukon, traveling by plane, train and bus. That takes longer yet provides a much more in depth view of Alaska and its wildlife. With Alaska being the largest of the 50 states, it warrants a return trip soon.



















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St. Augustine Alligator Farm

How many times have you driven by the St. Augustine Alligator Farm and wondered what it was all about? We decided to check it out and were pleasantly surprised by the size and variety of animals inside and a couple of things that happened on the day we visited that made it extraordi-

The zoo is more than just an alligator farm. There are exotic birds, lemurs,

snakes and turtles. Native birds are abundant. The roseate spoonbills stood out with their bright pink feathers. And, of course, there are alligators and crocodiles of every type and size, even an albino alligator. There are tales of



Photos courtesy Marjie Maranto

two mammoth creatures purchased and brought to the zoo from far away places: Maximo, who is alive and well at almost 16 feet and Gomek, who is preserved and on display at nearly 18 feet.

All of this was interesting to see, but two things occurred on the day we visited which made our time at the zoo outstand-

ing. First, we arrived around 10 a.m., as the sun was moving high enough in the sky to warm up the cool morning. We came up to Alligator Lagoon just in time to see the gators begin to pull themselves out of the water and onto the sand. The large gators heaved out of the pond, pushing aside any smaller gators in their way. I doubt these gators would have been quite so active had we come upon them later af-

> ter they found their places in the sun.

> The second event was truly the highlight of our visit. It was inventory day. In the Native Swamp area, we watched from a boardwalk as the maintenance crew and zoologists measured alligators

and dosed them with antibiotics. From hundreds of gators, one would be chosen, lassoed and dragged out of the water. Once a noose was set around the snout, one of the team would hop on the gator's back and knee it in place. Black electrical tape was wound around the snout as an extra

Happy Campers cont. from pg. 7

- Bible camp at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Various other churches in the area also offer bible camps.
- Yoga camp at Hot Yoga Lounge.
- Horseback riding camp at the Florida Agricultural Museum.

The Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, which is a research center that is part of the University of Florida and located directly across from Marineland, also offers summer camp options. My granddaughter did not attend one of their camps, but my assumption is that they would be excellent. They include two sea turtle camps and a marine biology camp, both geared for kids ranging from fourth through seventh grades.

Beyond Palm Coast, camp options are also available in the St. Augustine and Daytona Beach areas. Below are a few that were also well liked by my granddaughter.

St. Augustine:

- Flagler College offers various weekly sports camps and several filmmaking camps.
- St. Augustine Art Association offers weekly art camps.

Daytona Beach:

Alligator Farm cont. on pg. 14 • Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

offers various STEM based camps and multiple sports camps. I highly recommend these camps as well.

• Museum of Arts and Sciences offers many age-based weekly camps with art/ nature/science themes.

I would like to suggest a few helpful tips. Almost all of the camps are offered during June and July. This is based on the school calendars for various county public schools in this area, which end the school year in late May and begin the new school year the second week of August. If you have grandchildren coming from other parts of the country, their school schedules may conflict with some of the camp dates.

Also, the age limits vary for each camp. It is my experience that there are few options for children younger than age six. In addition, many of the camps can fill up quickly and have limited enrollments, so I would sign up no later than May 1 if possible. Lastly, the Palm Coast Observer will have a helpful special supplement regarding summer camps and classes in their March 26th edition that will provide brief camp descriptions and contact information, including many camps not mentioned in this article; however, for more complete information and specific camp dates for 2020, I encourage you to go the website of the organization/school/business.

Happy summer camping!





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A PROPERTY E

The Ocean Breeze is excited to announce a collaboration with the students at Matanzas High School.

We will feature articles written by students in the Advanced Placement English Class. We want to give special thanks to their teacher, Tom De Ceglie, who has motivated and mentored these students this past year.

As the school's mascot is the Pirates, we feel it is fitting to title this new feature "A Pirate's Perspective." We hope you enjoy!

A driver's education

By Lillian Kerr

"Slow down!" my mother screams at me as I careen around a corner. "You need to start breaking now," she blurts out as I pull up quickly to a red light, to which I respond, "I need to get there before I can stop."

As a teenager, learning how to drive was a big step. It was nerve wracking, scary, and liberating, and it certainly did not help when my mom yelled at me while driving. Many people gripe about this, too; many think that teenagers should not be allowed to start driving when they are 15 years old. My mom would agree.

I started driving when I was 16. Now don't get me wrong; I love my mom. She helped me learn how to drive, in her own way. But for different reasons, it seems a popular opinion that teenagers are bad drivers. Have no fear, though, I'm not claiming that we are amazing drivers, and by no means are we experienced. But, there is a fine line between yelling at us because we don't have the experience and coaching us to help us gain this experience, even if it is with a stern voice.

The process of learning how to drive is horrible and traumatizing. It's also a lot more extensive than when most middle-aged people learned how to drive decades ago, and much safer. Cars have been upgraded with all sorts of safety features. Back in the 1980s, seat belts were optional. Now it's against the law to drive without them. Though phones have posed new problems in terms of distracted driving, even more teen deaths in car crashes are related to drunk driving, which is just a bad, illegal decision. Driver's education and training is a topic that most people have strong feelings about — some hate it, others need it. Overall, it's just another milestone in teens' lives that they need to learn to deal with, even if it is a long and drawn out process.

Lillian Kerr is a current senior at Matanzas High School, set to graduate in May 2020. She plans to attend college in Florida and study computer science.

How can we save water?

By Rose Riley

We are constantly hearing about the depletion of our natural resources, increased damage from natural disasters, and many other environmental issues. Besides donating to a cause, you might think that there isn't much you can do; however, there are many ways you can help save resources right here in our community. For example, simply turning

off the lights when you leave a room can save a lot of electricity over time. If everyone in the community was more mindful of how much energy they use, utility bills and city costs would decrease, and the extra money could go towards something needed to help the city.

The City of Palm Coast is very committed to conserving water. Thanks to yearly and incredibly detailed water quality reports, the city stays up-to-date on the quality of our drinking water. Did you know that more energy is used with contaminated water than with clean water? It already takes a lot of energy to purify water that is not largely contaminated; chemical-filled water requires almost twice the energy, time, and money to become safe for drinking. Keeping our water and plumbing systems clean ensures that the pipes don't get clogged. This can lead to faucet leaks, which is one of the most common ways we waste water.

Adams and Son Plumbing of Orlando has a great list of the top 10 things you should never put down your garbage disposal. Some of these include pasta and rice, coffee grounds, and eggshells. I admit that I have thrown all of these down the drain because I did not know they could do harm. Through my research, however, I learned that pasta and rice, which expand in water, can easily clog drains; coffee grounds can cause abrasion and degrade the pipes; and eggshells can slowly scratch away at the pipes, degrading them even more. If we all work together to inform the community,

together we can save millions of gallons of water in our city alone. Think about how that would impact our resources if the entire country participated!

Saving thousands of gallons of water in one household alone may seem impossible at first; however, there are many ways to save water by tweaking things we do on a daily basis. Taking a quick shower instead of a bath can save up to 50 gallons of water — and that is just one time. Installing low-flow toilets and showerheads can reduce indoor consumption without decreasing performance. Are you interested in winning \$3,000 for your home utilities? How about a Toyota Highlander Hybrid for a deserving charity in Palm Coast? Simply visit the Wyland National Mayor's Challenge For Water Conservation website (mywaterpledge.com) to make a pledge to save thousands of gallons of water! My Water Pledge is a friendly competition between cities across the United States to see who can be the most "water-wise." As of May 9, 2019, the entire country together has pledged to save 1,747,185,404 gallons of water. I encourage you to check how much it has increased since then and maybe even make a pledge yourself.

Rose Riley is a soon-to-be graduate of Matanzas High School's Class of 2020. She will be attending Florida State University in the fall and plans to major in environmental science. Her goal in life is to conserve existing resources and discover new resources while educating the world in conservation methods.



Alligator Farm cont. from pg. 13

precaution. Then, the gator was measured and dosed. Some measured 11 feet. Trickier than capturing the gator was releasing the gator — reverse the steps and be sure to watch that tail!

To set up for the count, the swamp was drained of much of the water, but this left the conditions very muddy and slick. The amazing thing about the

inventory process was that while the team



was wrestling with one alligator, several others were within striking distance. If one of those got too close or appeared to be too aggressive, a poke with a pole would steer it away. As you can imagine, the alligators were not too happy to be selected for the count. Some would roll over and over, twisting to try to get out of the lasso. It was fascinating to watch and made our day at the zoo especially memorable.

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