

metro

SHOOTING NOT RANDOM

Police say gunman had just been fired from fitness center **Story, B-3**



Report: FSCJ grad incomes outpace UNF

By Amanda Williamson
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Graduates who obtained a bachelor's degree from Florida State College at Jacksonville in the last five years earned considerably more their first year in the job market than graduates with a bachelor's degree from the University of North Florida.

This, says a recent report released by the American Institute for Research, is because degrees at state colleges tend to be concentrated in specialized, high-paying fields, such as nurs-

ing, biomedical sciences and computer and information sciences.

According to Angela Browning, director of outcomes, assessment and strategic planning at FSCJ, bachelor's degrees offered by the college are those that specifically address the Jacksonville's workforce needs and do not compete with the University of North Florida.

"We are filling a need that would otherwise not be met," Browning said. "I think these numbers show the quality and the value of the education that we offer

our students, and the economic opportunities that await our students after they earn their degree."

Bachelor's degrees from FSCJ earned a median income of \$42,604, while University of North Florida bachelor's degrees earned a median of \$34,608 in the graduate's first year out of school.

The report, Measuring the Economic Success of Florida's Graduates, tracked the more than 19,000 degrees issued by the Florida State College system and the bachelor's degrees issued by 11 state

universities during the last five years.

Bachelor's degrees are the most common degree awarded in the United States, and has historically been viewed as a good investment. Though specialized, the bachelor's degrees issued by the college system was only 10 percent of the overall total of bachelor's degrees awarded by Florida universities.

The number may soon fall.

Legislation in both the Florida Senate and House

INCOME continues on B-2



State colleges bear the brunt of the \$131 million in cuts to higher education proposed by the Florida Senate. The proposed cuts include a \$55 million reduction in funding for remedial education. (Bob Mack/Florida Times-Union)

Bless these beasts



Golden Retrievers play in a pool during the G.R.E.A.T. (Golden Retriever Emergency Assistance Team) Rescue's GoldenFest on Sunday in Jacksonville. The event is a fundraiser for G.R.E.A.T. Rescue's work to rescue, rehabilitate and find homes for Golden Retrievers. (Will Dickey/Florida Times-Union)

Golf carts could become street legal in Nocatee

By Amanda Williamson
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Golf carts could become par for the course in the Duval County portion of the sprawling Nocatee development, a Ponte Vedra community billed as a lifestyle and not just a place to live.

Those who know the area may think golf carts already are a common sight around the less than 5,000 developed acres — and a call into the Welcome Center gives the impression Nocatee has long been a "golf cart community."

For neighborhoods within Duval County, that isn't yet the case.

Come Tuesday, however, the Jacksonville City Council will vote on a bill designating roadways within the development as appropriate for golf cart use.

"[Golf carts] are part of the Nocatee lifestyle," said David Ray, community manager of the Nocatee Community Development District. "They provide residents in Nocatee an

"[Golf carts] are part of the Nocatee lifestyle. They provide residents in Nocatee an alternative mode of transportation to Nocatee's shops and amenities that is efficient and eco-friendly."

David Ray, community manager of the Nocatee Community Development District

alternative mode of transportation to Nocatee's shops and amenities that is efficient and eco-friendly."

The bill, which restricts the age of the driver and the type of golf cart used,

CARTS continues on B-2



Nocatee was the first planned community in Northeast Florida to be electric vehicle (EV) approved, providing eco-friendly alternative transportation for residents to get around anywhere within Nocatee. (Provided by Nocatee)

Old City Cemetery has plenty of old tales to tell

Dear Call Box: As I've driven on the expressway ramps that connect State and Union streets to the Mathews Bridge, I've looked down and seen an old cemetery. I'd like to know something about it. **A.G., Jacksonville**

Dear A.G.: When you walk through the iron gates of the Old City Cemetery, you're strolling through at least 165 years of Jacksonville history.

Some of the people buried there made the news. Others observed it. Some died as infants, some as seniors and some were murdered. The size of their memorials and the quality of their gravestones may differ, but their bodies lie in the same soil.

There's Laura Adorkor Kofi, an African princess who was murdered while preaching in the pulpit.

There's John Freeman Young, a priest at Trinity Church in New York when he translated "Silent Night" from German into English in 1859. Young came to Jacksonville when he was named second bishop of the Diocese of Florida in 1867.

There's Francis Flem-



call box
sandy strickland

ing, governor of Florida from 1889 to 1893.

There's Clara and Eartha White, the mother and daughter humanitarians who fed the hungry and turned a soup kitchen into a social agency in LaVilla.

There's Albert Russell, a Confederate captain who served on the City Council and as Duval County and Florida state school superintendent.

There's Brig. Gen. Joseph E. Finnegan, who led the Confederate forces to victory in the 1864 Battle of Olustee and for whom a Jacksonville elementary school is named.

There's actress Alice Nunn, who co-starred in the TV series "Camp Runamuck" and is remembered for her role as Large Marge, the scary truck driver in the 1985 film "Pee-wee's Big Adventure." She died in 1988 at age 60.

There's Sallye Mathis,



This section of graves in the Old City Cemetery contains the remains of Confederate soldiers from the Florida Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Home. (Sandy Strickland/Times-Union)

who made history in 1967 when she and another black woman were elected to the City Council and also had a school named for her. She died in 1982 and is buried next to her husband, Oscar, with their headstones featuring abutting hearts.

Charles Willey, a steamboat captain, donated the land at Union and Washington streets to the city in 1852, and it was first known as Willey's Cemetery, according to newspaper archives.

Old City is Jacksonville's oldest major burial ground, said Joel McEachin, the city's historic preservation supervisor. (Evergreen conducted its first burial in 1881.) Old City expanded

to six acres after the annexation of the old Duval Cemetery shortly after the Civil War, McEachin said. It contained graves of the area's early African-American residents.

Old City is also historically significant because of the large variety of monument types from the 19th to the early 20th centuries, he said. A lot have symbolic after-life references from the Victorian period, such as weeping willows, broken columns and chains, sheaves of wheat, angels, cupped hands, obelisks and lambs on children's graves, McEachin said.

Many are pockmarked by time and weather and

CALL BOX continues on B-2

'LGBT Lens' to focus on elder caregiving at Jacksonville seminar

By Beth Reese Cravey
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When Chris MacLellan rushed his partner Richard Schiffer to a Deerfield Beach hospital's emergency room in September 2013, he expected his presence to be acknowledged.

He expected his role as not only partner but caregiver for Schiffer, who had been diagnosed with esophageal cancer in 2011, to be acknowledged.

"I immediately ran into problems at the hospital," said MacLellan, now a caregiving consultant and author who will speak on the topic Thursday in Jacksonville. "I was pretty much ignored."

Years before, he and Schiffer had drawn up living wills, health care surrogate forms and powers of attorney for each other. Schiffer's regular doctors were familiar and accepting of their status.

Still, that day in the emergency room MacLellan was reminded that for many people even medical professionals, health care rights were connected to marriage rights. Two men arriving were not given the same respect as a couple as a man and woman likely would have been given. Even if MacLellan and Schiffer had been married, same-sex marriage was not

CAREGIVING continues on B-2

CAREGIVING

Continued from B-1

then legally recognized in Florida.

"Caregivers are the backbone of the health care system," he said. "Caregivers know more about the health and well-being [of a patient] than a nurse could ever know. To not access that information is criminal. ... There are no gender boundaries when it comes to caregiving. You're just caring for the one you love."

Some "systems" — from the health care and legal systems to other people's belief systems — "get in the way," he said.

'BE PREPARED TO TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER'

MacLellan, now 60, will be keynote speaker at "The LGBT Lens: Challenges and Issues in LGBT Caregiving," a seminar hosted by ElderSource Institute in Jacksonville at the University of North Florida.

He will talk about his experiences in Schiffer's final months, which were captured in a Pulitzer Prize-nominated SunSentinel documentary (interactive.sun-sentinel.com/lgbt-dying-couple), as well as caregiving in general and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in particular.

Also, a local panel will discuss LGBT caregiving, provide information and resources and bring attention to the "unique challenges for caregiving within the LGBT community," according to the institute.

One of the panelists will be Evin Willman of Jacksonville Beach, whose September 2001 medical crisis showed how the legal and health care systems should work for LGBT couples.

She was in Nevada for gastric bypass surgery and developed life-threatening complications within 24 hours. She was in intensive care for four weeks as doctors tried to find out the cause, which turned out to be a nick in her intestine.

"I had been poisoning myself all that time. They fixed that hole, reversed the bypass and sewed me back up," Willman said. "I had become completely debilitated — couldn't walk, could barely raise my arms or even chew."

She later spent two weeks in a rehabilitation hospital and, once she was able to return home, three more months of outpatient physical therapy. Willman and partner Paula Rosenblatt were not legally married at the time — they wed in 2015 — but had set up wills, living wills, powers of attorney and named each other health care surrogates. Those legal documents were recognized by the health care providers handling her care in Nevada.

"Thank goodness," said

ELDERSOURCE INSTITUTE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

"The LGBT Lens: Challenges and Issues in LGBT Caregiving" will be 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the University of North Florida, Adam W. Herbert University Center, 12000 Alumni Drive, Jacksonville. Admission is free, but space is limited;

register at bit.ly/2n1A1cy. For more information: • Chris MacLellan — thepurplejacket.com. • ElderSource Institute — 10696 Old St Augustine Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257; (904) 391-6600; toll-free helpline, (888) 242-4464;

email info@eldersourceinstitute.org; eldersourceinstitute.org. • ElderSource — 10688 Old St. Augustine Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257; toll-free helpline, (888) 242-4464; info@myeldersource.org; myeldersource.org.



Chris MacLellan shows a portrait of his late partner, Richard Schiffer, who died in 2014. MacLellan will speak at an ElderSource Institute caregiving event Thursday in Jacksonville. (Provided by Chris MacLellan)



Shown here in 2003, MacLellan (left) and Schiffer, of South Florida, participated in a Pulitzer Prize-nominated documentary about their experience as a LGBT caregiver and patient respectively before Schiffer's death in 2014.



Evin Willman (left) and Paula Rosenblatt have been together 25 years. At an ElderSource Institute LGBT event Thursday, Willman will recount how they drew up wills, living wills and powers of attorney for each other.

Willman, now 66. "Paula had to make many decisions on my behalf during this ordeal. Because we had all of these documents properly prepared and executed, there was never a problem with her doing so. "Our story could have been very different ... without those documents giving her the permissions she needed to look out for me," she said.

Without those documents, Rosenblatt might not have been permitted to even see Willman in intensive care because she would have had "no legal standing" to do so, Willman said.

"Even though things have improved in many areas, unless you are le-

gally married or designated to make decisions for each other, you could run into problems," she said. "You think you have time to take care of this and you'll get around to it. But something unforeseen could happen tomorrow. It should be a priority to be prepared to take care of each other."

RECOGNIZING THE BARRIERS

MacLellan is working to make sure such legal planning is universally recognized.

"Everyone is responsible for their own opinions. We're all the product of our own background and experience, looking through a different set of

"Caregivers know more about the health and well-being [of a patient] than a nurse could ever know. To not access that information is criminal. ... There are no gender boundaries when it comes to caregiving."

Chris MacLellan,
caregiving consultant

lenses," he said. "I'm not asking to change anyone's opinion but add to their experience."

The ElderSource Institute is offering a new lens.

Founded in 2015, the institute is a sister company of ElderSource, the non-profit that serves Northeast Florida seniors. The institute provides caregiver training, professional training, education and resources for adults age 50 and older, their caregivers and service providers.

One of those programs is LGBT elder cultural competency training, which helps people who work with seniors better understand key concepts, vocabulary and barriers they face in the LGBT community.

They must recognize that their patients and clients will include members of the LGBT community. So they must leave their personal and political beliefs at the door, said Heidi Katz, the institute's director of business innovation and development.

"You have to represent the community you live in," she said. "We need to create a welcoming environment so they will seek it out. We're going into their homes."

Spreading the word about the needs of caregivers and their patients, particularly those in the LGBT community, is part of Schiffer's legacy, MacLellan said.

"Richard was a visionary," he said of his partner, who died in 2014 at age 83. "He lived through times when you could be arrested for being gay, yet he had the courage to have his end-of-life story told because he knew the impact the story would have on others. ... Richard knew our story, in the end, would make a difference."

Beth Reese Cravey: (904) 359-4109

INCOME

Continued from B-1

of Representatives seeks to cap the number of four-year degrees state colleges can offer, even though they don't compete with the much wider select offered by state universities.

University of North Florida saw a median first-year earning that ranks a bit higher, according to the report, than both the statewide median and the Florida State University median. The statewide median sits at \$34,456, not much lower than UNF's figures.

These small differences, said UNF associate provost Jay Coleman, can often be attributed to the cost of living in the region surrounding a university. For example, both Florida Atlantic and Florida International universities — which have the highest median earnings — are located in two of Florida's most costly cities: Boca Raton and Miami. In psychology, biology and mathematics, University of North Florida graduates saw medians very similar to statewide numbers — and in psychology and biology actually outpaced Florida's two flagship state universities.

The university ranks among the best in the state in the percentage of students employed after graduation and what those students are paid, Coleman said.

While there's always room for improvement, he added, career attainment is one of the primary points of discussion when the university considers new pro-

grams. They ask: will this prepare students for the job market and what are the program's rate of pay?

So far, the method is working.

Behind the bachelor's degree, the associate of arts degree is the second most commonly awarded degree in Florida. The median earning of graduates with just A.A. degrees, however, tend to be lower than those of graduates from any other degree, the report states.

However, the median first-year earnings of graduates with an associate of science degree were around \$9,000 higher than graduates with bachelor's degrees from the state university system institutions, and more than \$16,000 higher than graduates with AA degrees who were in the labor market.

The report also shows: Graduates with A.A. degrees from the Florida State College at Jacksonville earned the second highest salary in the state at \$29,828 — above the state median of \$27,628 and far above the lowest earning college, South Florida State College, at \$24,732.

On the other hand, the South Florida State College earned the highest bar for A.S. degrees at \$52,700, while Florida State College at Jacksonville fell just below the state median with its A.S. degrees at \$43,256.

Employment rates for FSCJ A.S. degree graduates sits at 77 percent for report's five-year period.

Student federal loan debt at FSCJ fell below the state average — \$5,283 — but just barely: \$5,019.

CARTS

Continued from B-1

has been pending through committees for a while.

Councilman Danny Becton, who sponsored the bill, says he doesn't exactly remember when it was originally filed — but is excited to bring it to a close. The bill must pass city council before Nocatee developer The Parc Group can construct the infrastructure needed to accommodate golf carts within the community.

Construction plans are already drawn up, and just require final approval.

Ray expects construction on necessary infrastructure to be completed by end of 2017, should the bill pass. Future pathways within Duval County will connect to existing structures in St. Johns County.

The St. Johns County portion of Nocatee legally is already a "golf cart community," as designated by Florida statute. Approximately 85 percent of the Ponte Vedra development sits inside St. Johns County, but neighborhoods on the northwest side fall in Duval. This is approximately 15 percent of the overall development, Ray said.

"Both the Duval County and St. Johns County por-

tions of Nocatee are part of the same community development district," Becton said, "and they may see themselves as all one entity."

As a result, Becton mainly sees the legislation as a "housekeeping" bill to ensure equitable access to golf carts across both counties.

The bill designates the appropriate age of the driver and requires golf carts be equipped with headlights, tail lights, brake lights and turn signals to operate on the public right-of-way after dark. Golf carts without these must only be used between sunrise and sunset. On top of the cart requirements, the developer must post appropriate signage on streets named by the bill, which include King Palm Court, Wayfare Lane, Cypress Trails Drive, and Gray Wolf Trail, among others.

It's a pretty simple, straightforward bill, Becton said. The bill will be on its third reading Tuesday during the Jacksonville City Council meeting, held at 5 p.m. at City Hall. It's already been approved by the Neighborhoods and Community Investment, Public Health and Safety and Transportation, and the Energy and Utility committees.

CALL BOX

Continued from B-1

the wording is eroding. Some plots are surrounded by rusted decorative iron fences, several with cornstalk designs. The cemetery, designated a city landmark in 2001, is surrounded in part by a low red brick wall. It is maintained by the city and patrolled by police.

As you come through the main drive, you see rows of white stone slabs that are some of the 200 Confederate graves there. A marker identifies them as having died at the Florida Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Home on Tallyrand Avenue.

The cemetery with its hundreds of grave sites is divided into sections, such as by religion, race and military service. For example, there's a Jewish area with some stones etched in Hebrew.

The Martha Reid Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy placed a historical plaque at the cemetery in 1949 and then a wall at the entrance in 1954. The Kirby Smith Camp of the Sons of the Confederacy re-did the bandstand from which ceremonies are conducted.

Through the years, there have been tours by the



The Old City Cemetery sign welcomes visitors to what was Jacksonville's first major burial ground, which was established in 1852.

Port of Jacksonville Pilot Club, Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society, student groups and others.

One of the most compelling stories is that of Marie Louise Gato, described as a "beautiful" 19-year-old from a prominent Cuban family, who was the victim of a sensational murder case in 1897.

Her father, Gabriel Hidalgo Gato, owned El Modelo, Jacksonville's largest cigar factory.

Gato was shot five times as she entered the gate of her father's home in North Springfield shortly after 7 p.m. Unconscious and near death, she was taken inside. When she

regained consciousness, Gato told her father and later a justice of the peace that Edward George Pitzer, her spurned boyfriend, had stepped from behind a bush, raised his arm and fired in rapid succession.

Gato died the next day. Pitzer's trial lasted two weeks, with newspaper accounts saying he showed a nonchalant attitude, even whistling, when he arrived at the courthouse. The defense introduced no witnesses, but Pitzer was found not guilty. Instead of returning to his job at his father's Bay Street home furnishings store, Pitzer went to Pittsburgh and was never heard from again.

The cemetery also contains the graves of the Turknett family, who died in the mid-1800s after the mother, a nursemaid to a wealthy family, was exposed to scarlet fever brought to Jacksonville by sailors, said McEachin, the historic preservation supervisor. In turn, she exposed her children and husband.

Perhaps the most unusual story is that of Kofi, the daughter of an African king in what is now Ghana. She immigrated to America about 1917 after being told in a prophecy that she would be a messenger to a distant land, according to a Times-Union story.

By the mid-1920s she was a minister and activist with 25,000 followers who called her "Mother Kofi." She was based in Jacksonville but electrified crowds in many cities, the story said. She also started her own organization, the African Universal Church and Commercial League but had a public falling-out with a rival black nationalist who accused her of fraud.

She was shot in the head while preaching in a Miami church in 1928. Churchgoers beat to death one of the men. Police brought charges against two more men who had escaped, but they were never

convicted, the Times-Union reported. After memorials in various cities, her body was displayed by Huff's Funeral Home while awaiting burial directions from her family. Observers were charged 25 cents, but the cost dropped to 10 cents when the large crowds decreased in number.

When burial instructions arrived, she was wrapped as a mummy, placed in a steel casket and

interred in a white unassuming building built by followers.

And these are just some of the stories behind the cemetery gates.

If you have a question about Jacksonville's history, call (904) 359-4128 or mail to Call Box, P.O. Box 1949, Jacksonville, FL 32231. Please include contact information. Photos are also welcome.

Sandy Strickland: (904) 359-4128

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