

metro

BOSS WEEK
Event starts Monday



Story, B-10

Area legislator wins vote for speaker

Northeast Florida's Renner would claim leadership position in 2022

By Tia Mitchell
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ORLANDO | Rep. Paul Renner is in line to become speaker of the Florida House in 2022, making him the first legislator from Northeast Florida to be chosen for the leadership position in more than two decades.

Renner, 50, was designated speaker by his freshman Republican colleagues Friday during an

election held at a hotel near the Orlando airport. Renner was elected after a single round of secret balloting during a closed-door meeting. He and three other candidates gave speeches and answered questions before the vote.

Renner, of Palm Coast, never publicly confirmed he was seeking the speaker position, but he has worked for several months to build support among colleagues.



Renner

of economic incentives in Florida.

"You should always be the leader you want to be or want to support," he said after Friday's vote. "I think for me it was just about helping my colleagues and doing what I can to do to make them successful."

Renner's campaign

was also boosted by robust fundraising through his Florida Foundation for Liberty political committee, which has raised nearly \$1 million since the month of May alone. May donors comprise a who's who of Jacksonville-area businesses and political leaders that rallied behind the prospect of a future speaker hailing from the region.

Former Ambassador John Rood, Preston Haskell and John Baker are among those who gave to Renner's committee, as well as companies such as

Gate Petroleum and Miller Electric.

Renner works in Jacksonville as an attorney and is a Navy veteran. He was elected to the House in a 2015 special election but is considered a freshman because his first full term began in 2016. Renner first ran for the House in 2014 but narrowly lost in the primary to Rep. Jay Fant.

Technically, Friday's election allowed the 26 freshman GOP representatives to select who will serve as the class leader. If Republicans remain in

SPEAKER continues on B-3



good news
cindy holifield

'Valor' is new Flagler K-9 deputy

The people have voted, and the name is **Valor**. Deputy K-9 Valor is a 14-month-old Belgian Malinois/Shepherd mix.

When the new deputy was donated to the Flagler County Sheriff's Office by Summit

Nutritionals International and the Blue Knights, a request went out for possible names.

The search for a name was picked up by television, radio, print and social media. Some of the other names submitted, which received numerous entries each, included Justice, Knight, Summit, Flag, Ponce and Max.

"I was really surprised at how much attention it got," said his partner, Deputy **Jonathon Duenas**. "Valor seems like a perfect name to me."

According to Webster's Dictionary, Valor comes from Middle English valour, meaning "worth, worthiness, bravery."

Valor has started a 480-hour FDLE K-9 Team Training course. After graduation he will be able to "help take a bite out of crime," said Sheriff **Rick Staly**.

Here's more good news:

- Area veterans organization received about \$23,000, raised during the Sporting Clays Target Shoot by members of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1046. Funds were received by Wreaths Across America and Atlantic Coast Young Marine, along with three scholarships for the Chapter's Scholarship Fund, the Needy and Homeless Veterans' Fund and the Sulzbacher Center.

- Magellan Transport Logistics, a "Service Disabled Veteran-owned Small Business," hosted a charity event to benefit veterans. "Schedule a Pickup" is a truck service that comes straight to the door to accept donated items, primarily to improve the lives of veterans by donating and giving back.

Items such as clothing, clothing accessories, shoes, bedding items, toys and games, tools, small tables, small appliances and electronics, a total of 17 bags, 11 boxes and other items were donated to support the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Magellan Transport Logistics employee staff consists of about 15 percent veterans.

- The Clara White Mission's Workforce Vocational Training for Homeless Veterans and Low-Income resident has received

NEWS continues on B-2

Brosche sworn in as president



Anna Lopez Brosche is surrounded by members of the Filipino-American community as Ed Callao (at left), past-president of the Filipino-American Community Council of Northeast Florida, presents her with a gavel celebrating her installation as president of the Jacksonville City Council on Thursday. (Bob Mack/Florida Times-Union)

Wants city to be 'the best place for a child to grow up'

By Christopher Hong
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Anna Lopez Brosche, a moderate first-term councilwoman considered by many to be a rising political star, began her year-long term this week as council president.

Brosche, an accountant and managing partner at a local accounting firm, is the first among the 11 council members elected in 2015 to rise to the council's top position. She said her goal during the next year will be helping Jacksonville become "the best city in the world for a child to grow up in."

"Why am I in office? Why are any of us in office? It's for the children and our chil-

dren's children," Brosche said during her installation ceremony Thursday. "How this city wraps itself around our children is one of the most important investments we can make in our future."

Brosche has put several of her fellow first-term classmates in leadership posts and important committees, which will continue the ongoing transition of influence beyond a core group of veterans that will leave office in 2019 because of term limits.

Beyond that, there's nothing to suggest any major shakeups — or a departure from the council's willingness to carry out Mayor Lenny Curry's vision for the city — un-

der her leadership.

"The reality is that we're in a strong mayor form of government. It should all start from that position, the mayor's priorities," she said in a recent interview. "He has a great team, but he can't touch the 840 square miles every single day like our district council members are. ... We can put some focus on some areas that can strengthen what's already happening."

Brosche said she doesn't plan to dominate the next year with a single pet cause, a practice exercised by some former presidents. Instead, she said she hoped to help

BROSCHÉ continues on B-10

Florida Coastal law school tightens admission criteria

Cuts in enrollment, course offerings set in effort to avoid bar association sanctions

By Amanda Williamson
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Florida Coastal School of Law plans to cut enrollment and reduce course offerings as its leadership looks to avoid a fate similar to its sister schools in North Carolina and Arizona.

Within the past year, the American Bar Association placed both Charlotte Law School and Arizona Summit Law School on probation for admission policies and academic standards.

Jacksonville's Florida Coastal expects to see an enrollment decline for the fall semester as it rolls out

stricter admission requirements for first-year students. The tougher criteria are just one piece of the for-profit school's plan to bolster its bar passage and employment rates — both issues the school has been criticized for in the past.

"In order to raise standards, we have to shrink the size of our classes," Florida Coastal Dean Scott DeVito said.

Research indicates doing well on the Law School

Admission Test can result in a better chance of passing the bar on the first try, but that's not always the case. Schools continue, however, to place heavy weight on the standardized test.

Florida Coastal intends to raise the minimum score accepted by the law school nearly 7 points.

"That is the type of lever you can pull on to predict bar passage rates," DeVito said. "It is hard to tell

based on GPA and school choice."

According to the American Bar Association, Florida Coastal extended offers to more than 59 percent of the students who applied in 2016. The year before it offered 71 percent of applicants a spot at the Jacksonville institution. As the criteria increase, those numbers can be expected to go down — at least until

LAW continues on B-2

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'Boss Week' to support Jacksonville youth programs, honor late rapper

By Beth Reese Cravey
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About 4 a.m. July 9, 2011, Lamarco Deshon Wilcox, known to many by his rap name "Mob Boss," was run down and killed on the McDuff Avenue exit ramp from Interstate 10 West.

A woman he was in a relationship with was arrested, charged with murder and later convicted of manslaughter.

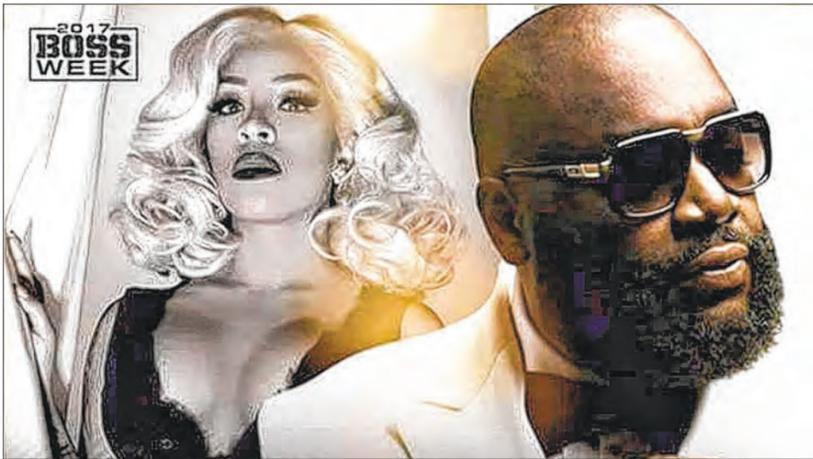
Wilcox, a recording artist who owned clubs and a record label in Jacksonville, was just 37.

Almost six years to the day later, Lamarco Wilcox Men of Balance, a local youth-empowerment nonprofit founded by Wilcox's brother Frank Marshall in his memory, will stage its second annual Boss Week.

The event, which begins Monday and runs through Sunday, features a concert headlined by national recording artists Rick Ross and K. Michelle as part of their "Da Don & Diva Tour." Also planned are a rooftop party, celebrity basketball game and dance competition, a boxing match, and community leader awards dinner that are open to the public, as well as empowerment events for preselected teens.

"Each year we have Boss Week, the goal is always to reach more people, both leaders as well as more children," said Marshall, CEO of the nonprofit and a promotional company named Blissful Events. "The nonprofit's ultimate goal is to grow Boss Week to occur in multiple cities because just as there are children in need of guidance in Jacksonville, there are children all over the world that need guidance and need to be able to see bosses unified."

Fifty percent of the concert proceeds will benefit Men in Balance. The other events will benefit Men in Balance and Men In & Out of Schools Inc., another local nonprofit that provides sports and mentorship opportunities for at-risk and



National recording artists Rick Ross and K. Michelle's Da Don & Diva Tour comes to Jacksonville on July 9 as part of 2017 Boss Week, which features entertainment and teen empowerment events. Boss Week is hosted by a nonprofit formed in 2016 in memory of Lamarco "Mob Boss" Wilcox, a Jacksonville-based rapper and music scene fixture who was killed in 2011. (Provided by Lamarco Wilcox Men of Balance)

underprivileged youth.

Marshall and Wilcox grew up in an underserved area of Jacksonville, said Lakeisha Kinsey, vice president of the nonprofit.

"As they got older, they began talking about different ways in which they could give back to the community," she said. "So after Wilcox passed in 2011, Marshall felt obligated to allow his legacy to live on by fulfilling his vision."

His brother's death — and the location, in front of a church named One Accord — inspired Marshall and "made him want to have a better understanding of why he passed, as well as his purpose," she said.

"Getting leaders of the (entertainment) industry to be on one accord is a portion of the Boss Week concept," Kinsey said. "That alone gave Marshall some insight and allowed him to recognize the reason for Wilcox's passing. Marshall inherited the responsibility of uniting the entrepreneurs in the industry so that the platform could be used to empower the youth."

Marshall said his partners in the event include Florida-based Highlife Entertainment, Lumni Enter-

2017 BOSS WEEK SCHEDULE

- **Monday** — 3 p.m., Strikes For Duval bowling competition, The Main Event, 10370 Philips Highway, Jacksonville.
- **Tuesday** — 6 p.m., 4th of July Rooftop Black Out Party with a Purpose, Hyatt Regency, 225 E. Coastline Drive, Jacksonville.
- **Thursday** — 6 p.m., Boss Awards Dinner, Wells Fargo Center, 1 Independent Drive, Jacksonville.
- **Friday** — 6 p.m. Doors open, Celebrity Basketball Game (Florida versus Georgia high school all-stars with celebrity coaches) and \$500 Back-To-School Shopping Spree Dance Contest. Edward Waters College Gymnasium, 1859 Kings Road, Jacksonville.
- **Saturday**, July 8 — 8 p.m. Da Don & Diva Tour/Boss Week Edition with Rick Ross and K. Michelle headlining and featuring K. Million, Shya L'amour, Moses West, Nod Ross and A-Train. Times-Union Center for Performing Arts, 300 Water St., Jacksonville.
- **Sunday**, July 9 — 7 p.m. Guns Down, Gloves Up charity event, Pure Nightclub, 8206 Philips Highway, Jacksonville. All events are open to the public. To purchase tickets and get more information about the event and the Men in Balance nonprofit, go to wearemenofbalance.com.

tainment, Point Blank Entertainment and Winsquad Entertainment.

The name Men in Balance refers to the nonprofit's balance of life, Kinsey said.

"We need our kids to understand that they can be whatever they want to be: an educator, physician, attorney, entertainer or athlete. But even at the midst of being in the prime of their career, everything still requires balance," she

said. "For example, if they are a professional ballplayer, they cannot just be concerned with receiving a check and being on television. They have to go back into their community and empower kids in need to establish a positive cycle."

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BROSCHÉ

Continued from B-1

her colleagues pursue their own interests and advance a mosaic of initiatives — like improving city parks and finding long-term solutions to the social ills in Northwest Jacksonville — that will make the city a better place.

"I want to find what the other 18 want and figure out how I can blend that together, and have us all win. It's not about us winning, it's about Jacksonville winning," Brosche said.

While Brosche doesn't plan on focusing on a single personal goal, the next year could reveal more about who she is as a politician.

Even before she defeated an incumbent in 2015, many of her supporters spoke of her potential to build a political career that went beyond the council.

Early on, Brosche earned strong support from the city's political establishment. On paper, she is the quintessential candidate for that crowd, a business-minded bunch that holds moderate social views and a firm belief in a hybrid fiscal conservatism that assigns the government responsibility to heal the city's social problems and catalyze economic development.

Her professional experience lends her both financial and leadership credibility. She's served on boards of local nonprofits, including the United Way of Northeast Florida. Her father's career in the Navy brought her to many places during her childhood, but she's always called Jacksonville home. She lives on the Westside with her husband — also a Navy man — and three children.

Entering her third year in public office, she's

served on influential committees and earned the respect of many of her colleagues. It's hard to imagine she'll have difficulty winning a second term.

However, she's often absent from discussions and floor debates that unfold during council meetings. Those moments are where initiatives are won and lost — or at least they're supposed to be, according to the Florida law prohibiting council members from discussing official business and cutting deals outside of public meetings — and constituents learn more about why a representative votes the way she does.

Brosche describes herself as an introvert. She says her approach to leadership starts with listening and offering strategic input when necessary. Acting true to her personality has led her to success in the accounting world. So far, it seems to be working just fine in politics, even if it's a loud environment inhabited by extroverted creatures.

"You're asking someone who has broken through a lot to even find myself in the political space and I appreciate my personality," Brosche said. "I'm very comfortable with who I am. I'm a confident person. Not overly confident, but a confident person."

Ron Pellum, president of Ennis, Pellum and Associates, the firm where Brosche works, said she possesses a high emotional intelligence and has been an "absolute change maker" at their office. He cautioned against mistaking her think-first style as a weakness.

"My grandmother used to say it: 'Still waters run deep.' The gears are turning," Pellum said. "Do not misread her. She's not a pushover."



4th of July Calendar

SATURDAY

Red, White and Brew Freedom 5K to benefit Firefighters in Arms and Combat2College, registration 7-7:50 a.m., competitive wave, 7:30 a.m., Freedom Run 8 a.m., beer booth, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., runner awards, 10:15-10:30 a.m.; artisan market, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Riverside Arts Market, 715 Riverside Ave., under the Fuller Warren Bridge. Includes a post race party with live music. River Stage entertainment: Firewater Tent Revival, 8:30-10 a.m.; Billy & Bella, 10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.; Tad Jennings, 1:15-2:45 p.m. 5K, \$35 in advance, \$40 day of race. Registration, redwhitebrewfreedom5k.ityourrace.com.

A Patriotic Salute, 7 p.m., Penney Retirement Community's Barrows Hall, Penney Farms. Features a skit with Betsy Ross and George Washington on how the flag was created and music with both vocal and instrumental. (904) 284-9251.

MONDAY

Red, White and Boom celebration, 9:30 p.m., World Golf Village, Interstate 95, Exit 323, near St. Augustine. No coolers, no pets; refreshments available for purchase. Free, parking \$10 for non-moviegoers. (904) 940-4043 or wghof.org.

TUESDAY

Flag-raising Ceremony, 7:30 a.m., Penney Farms's entrance. Features a display of the Clay County parade of flags, music by The Penney Community Band, vocal selections by The Seamark Singers of Seamark Rang, Betsy Ross, Uncle Sam, area veterans, the American Legion Riders from Post 250 in Middleburg and Adrian Andrews, mayor of Penney Farms; and a parade of decorated golf carts, bicycles and pets with prizes. (904) 284-9251.

Celebration Run, 5K, 7:30 a.m.; Watermelon Festival, 8:15 a.m.; 1-mile fun run, 8:30 a.m.; 1st Place Sports, 3931 Baymeadows Road. The festival includes free beer, food and drinks; a watermelon eating contest, watermelon seed spitting contest, a most patriotic costume contest and drawings for prizes. 1stplacesports.com.

Stars and Stripes 5K, 8 a.m., St. Johns Golf and Country Club, 205 St. Johns Golf Drive, St. Augustine. Includes a 1-mile fun walk. Wear red, white and blue encouraged. \$15-\$35 adults, youth 7 and younger get in free. (609) 665-0567 or bit.ly/2unRmMa.

Our Country Day Celebration, 5K Run, 8 a.m., City Hall, Keystone Heights; Crafts, food, vendors, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Parade, 11 a.m., Lawrence Boulevard; Watermelon Eating Contest, 1 p.m., behind City

Hall; festival movies to Keystone Beach, 4 p.m.; live music by Relentless, 5:30-9:30 p.m.; fireworks, 9:30 p.m. Includes music by Second Chance, food, arts and crafts, live music and children's activities. ourcountryday.com.

Georgia Festival, 9 a.m.-10 p.m., downtown St. Marys, just east of Kingsland, Ga. Theme is "Honoring Our Military. Features 5K/10 races, a parade, arts and crafts, live entertainment, vendors and fireworks at dusk. (912) 882-4239 or smkiwanis.com.

Cannons Across the Marsh, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Fort King George State Historic Site, 302 McIntosh Road SE, Darien, Ga. Includes artillery and musket firings throughout the day, free watermelon and lemonade; sno-cones and bottled water to benefit "The Friend's of Fort King George." \$4.50-\$7.50. (912) 437-4770 or gastaetparks.org/fortkinggeorge.

Patriotic Express Train Ride, noon, 2 and 4 p.m., Theatre by the Trax, 1000 Osborne St., St. Marys, Ga. Celebrate America's birthday with a ride on a train bound for the year 1776. Features a special "at the throttle" experience to run a powerful diesel locomotive, with certificate. \$20 adults, \$14 children, flat cars; \$50 locomotive. (912) 200-5235 or stmarysrailroad.com.

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