



THE ST. AUGUSTINE REPORT

Local news in our Nation's Oldest City



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Panache sold, to be piano bar ***Cordova Street properties to be restaurant as well***

Rhett will be moving in next door to Scarlett with the sale of the Panache Salon on Hypolita Street, while two long-vacant properties on Cordova Street opposite the Tolomato Cemetery will open as a restaurant.

John Arbizzani, owner of Hypolita Street neighbor Scarlett O'Hara's, confirmed the purchases, and plans a piano bar next to Scarlett's, likely to be called Rhett's. He said 5 and 7 Cordova Street - the former St. Augustine city theater building and adjacent two-story house - "will be a Max & Erma's restaurant," a casual dining restaurant chain based in Columbus, Ohio.

The Panache property, owned by former Mayor Len and Kristy Weeks, sold for \$350,000, according to the Jacksonville *Business Journal*. Ending its 22-year run, its employees will be relocated to the Panache location in St. Augustine Beach.



Restaurant planned for Cordova Street properties



45 years later ...



Father Grajales statue moving

Director Eric Johnson says it's taken 45 years, but Father Grajales will finally take his place before the Great Cross at the Mission of Nombre de Dios.

The 11-foot bronze statue of Father Francisco Lopez de Mendoza Grajales, principal priest with Pedro Menendez de Avilés on his 1565 voyage to

'Pedro' prepares for his birthday

There's been a new researcher in our Historical Society library lately.

TV actor Chaz Mena, who reprised our founder Pedro Menendez at November's *First America* program, has been preparing to don the Adelantado's raiments once again, to attend his birthday party - the Noche de Gala - February 27th.

Mena is pictured above with 450 Executive Director Dana Ste. Claire. (Photo courtesy of Jackie Hird Photography)

Chaz wants to be fully prepared to answer questions and get "your opinion of the New World here in the first settlement of this new continent, La Florida," according to event organizer Catherine Culver.

For Noche de Gala reservations and information, contact [Catherine](#) 904-825-5033.

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'Land of Flowers' on 1602 Chinese map

A rarely seen 400-year-old Chinese map that identified Florida as "the Land of Flowers" - with China at the center of the world - has gone on display at the Library of Congress.

The Matteo Ricci map of 1602 was the first in Chinese to show the Americas. Ricci (1552-1610), founder of the Catholic mission in China, was a Jesuit missionary from Italy. Known for introducing Western science to China, Ricci created this map at the request of Emperor Wanli.

The map is likely based on earlier Chinese maps. In his book, [1421, The Year China Discovered the World](#), Gavin Menzies argues that a huge Chinese fleet circumnavigated and charted the world years before the first great European voyages of discovery.

The map description of North America is brief, with mentions of "humped oxen" or bison, wild horses and a region named "Ka-na-ta." (Canada?) "In olden days, nobody had ever known that there were such places as North and South America or Magellanica," he wrote. "But a hundred years ago, Europeans came sailing in their ships to parts of the sea coast, and so discovered them."



Detail of Matteo Ricci's 1602 map showing Florida and the Gulf of Mexico (AP Photo)

found St. Augustine, is to be moved to its new base today.

"That's 45 years late for the city's 400th anniversary," say Eric, "but five years ahead of the 450th."

The 2,000-3,000 pound statue has been located east of the Mission's Gannon Bridge since 1958, and the plan was to relocate it with the setting of the Great Cross in 1965.

"The venue will be dramatic and will help make the connection between Father Lopez and the Cross at the founding," Eric said.



Workers prepare base for statue

Hoops to help Homeless

So you want to play ball? How about joining the Augustine Saints to challenge the upstart [Harlem Ambassadors](#)?

The Ambassadors will be at Pedro Menendez High School February 22 to take on a team yet to be mustered.

The program - with two quarters of local challenge and two of the Ambassadors "showin' off," will benefit the Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition's (ESHC) Children's Education Building Fund.

ESHC is looking for 22 ballhandlers, 19 or older, to fill the squad. Think of it - pro basketball wannabes spend years of training and thousands of dollars reaching for the dream, but you can be there for just a \$250 per player sponsorship fee.

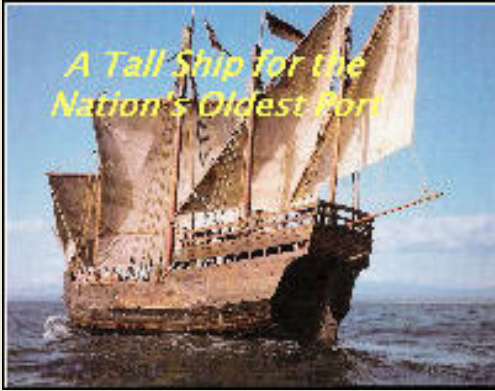
One of our community organizations should be able to field a team. ESHC's [Debi Redding](#) 824-6623 has details.



The map was purchased by the James Ford Bell Trust in October for \$1 million. Ford W. Bell, president of the American Association of Museums and co-trustee of the fund started by his grandfather, James Ford Bell, founder of General Mills, said the map symbolizes the first connection between Eastern and Western thinking and commerce. The complete story is [here](#).

16th century ship for St. Augustine

Assembly of a 16th century caravel in our Colonial Spanish Quarter, construction over a two-year period, and launching in time for the Ponce de Leon quincentenary in 1513 is the vision of the 450 Maritime Activities Committee, which has been developing plans for the past two years.



Armed with a PowerPoint presentation, the committee is ready to begin its biggest task - raising the \$2 million for construction and \$250,000 for annual maintenance.

Commemoration Executive Director Dana Ste. Claire sees the project not only as a signature event, but continuing heritage tourism draw as visitors return over the months of construction to see its progress.

Committee Chair [Maury Keiser](#) is banking on that exposure, along with visibility for generations beyond, to draw a corporate brand - perhaps one of those advertisers who spend \$2.5 to \$3 million for a 30-second Super Bowl commercial.

While components of the ship may be prepared elsewhere, assembly might be in the highly visible Colonial Spanish Quarter. The site is proposed for a Castillo

orientation center, but the Maury is gambling that project won't get underway before 2013.

History's Highlights

Father Grajales recorded Menendez voyage

One in a series of historic features as we prepare for our commemorations, drawn from research by George Gardner

Father Francisco Lopez de Mendoza Grajales, principal priest with Pedro Menendez de Avilés, wrote a 10,000-word *Memoir of the Happy Result and Prosperous Voyage of the Fleet commanded by the Illustrious Captain-General Pedro Menendez de Avilés* June 28 to August 28, 1565.

Some excerpts:

"... Very often the sea washed completely over the deck where we were gathered, one hundred and twenty men having no other place to go, as there was only one between-deck, and that was full of biscuit, wine, and other provisions...

"... It appears that the storm had injured also our first galley. A severe gust of wind snapped off their foremast, and blew it overboard with the sail and rigging; and, as many of the ropes were fastened to the sheets, it caused the ship to lean so that twice they saw their topmast dip under the waves...

"... On Wednesday, the 15th, more than thirty men deserted and concealed themselves around the (Porto Rico) harbor ...

"... When (a dispatch boat) arrived off Mona Island, she was attacked, and compelled to surrender to a French vessel. The enemy boarded her, possessed themselves of all her papers, (and) read the plans for the conquest of Florida...

"... On Monday, August 27, while we were near the entrance to the Bahama Channel, God showed to us a miracle from heaven. About nine o'clock in the evening a comet appeared, which showed itself directly above us. It went towards the west, that is, towards Florida. According to the sailors, this was a good omen...

"... On Tuesday, the 28th, we had the pleasure of seeing land. We steered in that direction, anchored near a point of



land, and found ourselves actually in Florida, and not very far distant from the enemy, which was for us an occasion of great joy..."

Father Grajales' memoir was published in *Old South Leaflets* Volume IV, Boston, by the Directors of the Old South Meeting House, and can be found at [Early Americas Digital Archive](#)

The St. Augustine Report is published by the Department of Public Affairs of the City of St. Augustine each Tuesday and on Fridays previewing City Commission meetings. The Report is written and distributed by George Gardner, former St. Augustine Mayor (2002-2006) and Commissioner (2006-2008) and a longtime newspaper reporter and editor. Contact The Report at gardner@aug.com

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