



What to know about ASUN men's, women's tournaments

SPORTS, 1C

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Sporting Jax plans 300-acre stadium district

Venue, multi-use Southside development proposed

Clayton Freeman

Jacksonville Florida Times-Union
USA TODAY NETWORK

Sporting Club Jacksonville plans to construct its new soccer stadium near the St. Johns Town Center, club owner Ricky Caplin announced March 2, the next step in a search process that has lasted more than three years.

The proposed 15,000-seat stadium, to be privately funded, would serve as the venue for the Sporting Jax women's team in the top-division Gainbridge Su-

per League as well as the Sporting Jax men's team due to kick off March 7 in the second-division USL Championship.

In addition, Sporting Jax is also planning a multi-use development on 300 acres surrounding the soccer venue, in a new stadium district on Jacksonville's Southside.

"We're not pursuing something temporary," Caplin said. "We are establishing permanence."

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A rendering shows the proposed Sporting Jax soccer stadium and surrounding businesses near the St. Johns Town Center.

RENDERING PROVIDED BY SPORTING JAX



The McGarry family of Ponte Vedra Beach: sons Johnny, left, and Shane with parents Patrick and Mariana. Patrick McGarry plans a cross-country bike ride to honor his sister, who died in the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. PROVIDED BY BOB SELF

Cross-country ride to honor 9/11 victim

Ponte Vedra man will cycle 3,000 miles to benefit nonprofit and remember sister

Beth Reese Cravey

Jacksonville Florida Times-Union | USA TODAY NETWORK

Katherine "Katie" McGarry Noack's last communication on Sept. 11, 2001, was a text message to her husband of five months.

She wanted him to tell her family how much she loved them. She was at a meeting in the World Trade Center in New York City that morning when terrorists flew an airliner into each of its Twin Towers. Her remains were never recovered.

"That text message was a gift," her brother, Patrick McGarry of Ponte Vedra Beach, said. "Her last gift was a message of love."

On March 8, McGarry will begin what he calls "A Ride to Remember," a 44-day cross-country bicycle ride from San Diego to St. Augustine. The ride will be a memorial to his sister and a fundraiser for a 9/11-related nonprofit, as well as a commemoration of the attacks' 25th anniversary.

"Katie is my inspiration," he said. "I want her to know how much I love her, how much she is missed and that she will never be forgotten."

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Katherine "Katie" McGarry Noack on her wedding day, five months before she was killed in the World Trade Center terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. PROVIDED BY PATRICK MCGARRY

WAR IN IRAN

Trio of U.S. fighter jets downed in Kuwait

Blamed on friendly fire; Hegseth outlines goals

Kim Hjelmgaard, Zac Anderson, BrieAnna J. Frank, Bart Jansen, Melina Khan, Cybele Mayes-Osterman and Francesca Chambers

USA TODAY

The Trump administration's war with Iran will not be "endless," Secretary of War Pete Hegseth said on March 2, as the United States and Israel's joint air strikes against Iran expand, the death toll rises and a congressional debate over President Donald Trump's military campaign in Iran ramps up at home.

Three American fighter aircraft crashed in Kuwait on March 2, with crews surviving "unscathed" and in stable condition, the Middle Eastern country's defense ministry and the Pentagon said.

The United States and Israel began striking Iran Feb. 28 in a campaign that killed Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and dozens of top officials and hit more than 1,000 targets inside the country, Trump said. Iran has retaliated with strikes against U.S. military bases, Israel and other nations in the Middle East.

Trump signaled on March 2 that the United States is preparing to launch an even bigger wave of attacks on Iran.

"We haven't even started hitting them hard. The big wave hasn't even happened. The big one is coming soon," the president told CNN host Jake Tapper in a phone call.

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Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth holds a briefing at the Pentagon on March 2. He boiled down the goals of the attack on Iran: "Destroy the missile threat. Destroy the navy. No nukes."

ELIZABETH FRANTZ/REUTERS

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Ride

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He survived 1992 WTC bombing, lost his sister in 2001 attacks

McGarry, 61, was born and raised in New York State. From 1986 to 1994, he worked on the 96th floor of the World Trade Center. He was there during the first terrorist attack on the complex on Feb. 26, 1993, but survived.

“That day impacted me deeply in ways that it took a long time for me to completely understand,” he said.

Then, in 2001, more attacks. “To have my sister killed in the World Trade Center, on a day that she was only visiting — she worked in Connecticut — was and remains something impossible for me to understand,” he said. “Sept. 11 reopened an old wound and it took me to a dark place.”

Katie was the youngest of his four sisters and a loyal friend.

“She had a smile that lit up a room ... She was somebody you remembered,” he said. “She would be at somebody’s side in a second if they needed help.”

Her husband, Brad Noack, worked for Lehman Brothers in the World Trade Center. He went there with her that morning, but survived.

“I met my future wife a few weeks after 9/11,” McGarry said. “She took my hand and eventually led me out of darkness and towards light and love.”

He and wife Mariana Price have two sons, Johnny and Shane.

“I have learned that we can receive blessings when we are completely broken,” McGarry said.

Preparing for ‘biggest physical challenge’ of his life

McGarry began cycling in 2018, but the cross-country bike ride idea came to him after he retired when his interest in bicycles grew. His mentor was a former colleague who completed a bike ride from San Francisco to Boston at age 77.

“I told my wife that I wanted to do it last April,” McGarry said. “She told me that she knew it was always in my heart to do this and she fully supported me.”

He will be with 12 other riders on a trip organized by Cycle of Life Adventures, a North Carolina-based bicycle tour operator. Among other excursions, the company offers two cross-country routes — San Diego to St. Augustine in



Patrick McGarry takes a break in Vilano Beach after training for a 3,000-mile cross-country bike cross to honor his sister, who died on 9/11, and fundraise for a 9/11-related charity. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY PATRICK MCGARRY



“To have my sister killed in the World Trade Center, on a day that she was only visiting ... was and remains something impossible for me to understand,” McGarry said.

March and San Francisco to Boston in May.

McGarry chose the shorter route which ends not far from where he lives. The San Diego option is 1,000 miles shorter than the San Francisco route, which also includes two additional mountain ranges. He said he hopes for cooler weather in March than he would expect in May.

The journey will “easily be the big-

gest physical challenge in my life,” he said. “I have spent the entire past 12 months reshaping myself physically and mentally ... I have had good days and bad. Both physically and emotionally. Some aspects of this Ride to Remember have reopened some demons from the past, but I am confronting them head-on to bring purpose from pain.”

The purpose, in addition to honoring his sister, is fundraising for the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, which honors New York City firefighter Stephen Siller, another 9/11 victim. The New York-based nonprofit pays off the mortgages of Gold Star families — survivors of service members who died in the line of duty — and fallen first responder families with young children. Also, the foundation builds “specially adapted smart homes for catastrophically injured” military veterans and first responders, among other programs.

“I strongly believe in their mission,” McGarry said. “I believe first responders and our military represent the best of the U.S. They run to danger when everybody else is running away. I am honored to support them. ... I want to help raise money to support these families during their most difficult moment in life.”

He has raised about \$70,000 toward a \$100,000 goal.

Frank Siller is chairman and CEO of Tunnel to Towers. His brother Stephen,

then 35 of New York City Fire Department’s Squad 1 in Brooklyn, heard the attacks on his radio, went to his firehouse for his gear, drove toward the then-Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, which was closed, and ran through it to get to the South Tower, according to the foundation. He never came home.

“On 9/11, our nation changed forever. For families like the McGarrys and mine, that day is not history. It is personal. It is every day,” Frank Siller said. “Patrick’s decision to ride 3,000 miles across America in honor of his sister Katie embodies what we mean when we say ‘Never Forget.’

“Through this journey, he is helping Tunnel to Towers fulfill its promise to support our first responders and veterans who continue to sacrifice so much for our country,” he said.

St. Augustine will provide epilogue for Katie

When McGarry arrives in St. Augustine, he will first seek out his wife and then get a “group hug” with his sisters and his family.

“Accomplishing this goal will be significant for me on many levels,” he said. “The biggest will simply be this: The ones that love us never rally leave us. I have felt the presence of my sister with me this past year in ways that I never imagined.

“I believe that I am writing a thank you letter on behalf of my sister to all the first responders and military people impacted on that day and all the days that followed. She would want some good to come out of this tragedy,” he said.

He is giving a voice to his sister, who was the youngest of five siblings.

She had to “fight a little extra hard for attention. I want to celebrate her this year and bring the spotlight on her,” he said.

And McGarry wants to remind the public of the unity that arose after 9/11.

“For some, 25 years is a long time ago. I think it is good for all generations to learn about 9/11. Not just the horror of the day, but also all the love and goodness as well,” he said. “We have so much more in common than we think, and I know that love is that common denominator. We are brother and sisters and we live in a great country. We are blessed.”

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