By Jennifer Logue
Editor
Homemade soups, salads and an eclectic blend of internationally inspired sandwiches are just a few of the items on the menu at Flavor Palette, which opened last week in the Ponte Vedra Pointe Shopping Center.

The sandwich shop and its diverse menu are the culinary creation of Chef Tommy McDonough, who recently moved from Philadelphia to the First Coast with his wife and two children. "I got my start working in the iconic sandwich shops of Philly," said McDonough, who went on to work for two decades in a variety of culinary and executive chef positions before opening his own business. "I was fortunate to work under culturally diverse chefs from places like Taiwan, India, Germany, Korea and Belgium. I picked up things from each of them, which has helped me develop my own style as a chef and become more dynamic."

All of the signature sandwiches are McDonough's original creations, unique combinations. The "Boss Hogg" sandwich, for example, features pastor-marinated pork topped with cucumber-salsa, salsa verde, black bean hummus and picked red onions on an Amoroso hoagie roll. The "Samurai," meanwhile, is a miso-marinated fish sandwich topped with grilled scallions, cucumber, cabbage slaw and a sesame pickled ginger aioli on a wrap.

Other internationally inspired offerings include Pountine, which the menu describes as a Canadian French fry dish topped with gravy, cheddar, bacon, carmelized onions and scallions. The menu also includes a "create your own masterpiece" option whereby customers can build their own custom sandwich from a selection of breads, toppings and meats.

"I like big, bold flavors," said McDonough, noting that Flavor Palette also has a kids' menu with traditional items such burgers and a grilled cheese sandwich. "We have options for people who are a little adventurous, but our menu is really designed to appeal to a vast array of palates."

Hence the restaurant's name: "It's a play on words," said McDonough's wife, Jamie, taking a quick break from waiting on lunchtime customers. "It refers to an artist's palette and the palate of your mouth."

The shop's logo, in fact, features a sandwich in the shape of an artist's palette – a nod to the artistic flair McDonough tries to bring to each creation, including the shop's salads, soups and desserts. On a recent visit, the soups of the day included chimichurri and ribolita – a hearty Tuscan vegetable – while the homemade gelatos available included mint lemonade sorbet, chocolate amaretto and strawberry balsamic swirl.

"Everything here is made from scratch," McDonough said. "Some gelato shops use bases or stabilizers, but we use only fresh, natural ingredients."

Open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Flavor Palette has been doing brisk business since it opened March 29. "We opened our doors and within 10 minutes we had 30 people in line," McDonough said.

Flavor Palette plans to have an official grand opening in the coming weeks. Also in the works are plans to offer wine and a selection of craft beers.

THE PLAYERS hosts 17th Hole Charity Challenge
Local celebrities tee off for charity

By Jasmine Marshall
The Recorder
THE PLAYERS hosted its annual 17th Hole Charity Challenge event earlier this week.

Held Monday on the 17th hole’s iconic island green, the event raised $15,000 for organizations supported by a lineup of participating celebrities.

Former PGA Tour player Bob Duval took the gold in the form of a $10,000 check donation for K9s for Warriors in the first round with a ball that landed just 11 feet from the pin. The second round winner, Frank Lickliter, scored a $5,000 donation for True Blue Navy Benefactors with a swing that landed just one foot and 11 inches from the pin.

A total of 16 players took the green this year, including Clint Avret, Blake Bortles, Tony Boselli, Gus Bradley, Richie Bryant, Vince Covello, Todd Demsey, Bob Duval, Curtis Dvorak, Matt Every, Jeff Klua, Frank Lickliter, Brent Martineau, John McManamon.
Malcolm Anthony to run for circuit judge

Ponte Vedra attorney Malcolm Anthony has announced his candidacy for circuit judge.

Anthony, 57, previously had announced his intention to run for U.S. Congress for the FL 6th congressional seat being vacated by Rep. Ron DeSantis, who is running for U.S. Senate. Following the recent congressional redistricting that split St. Johns County into two congressional districts, however, Anthony decided to withdraw from the congressional race and seek election as a circuit judge for the Seventh Circuit, which includes St. Johns, Flagler, Volusia and Putnam counties.

“I believe the time has come for me to offer my years of experience to the people of St. Johns, Flagler, Volusia and Putnam counties as a circuit judge,” Anthony said in announcing his candidacy. “I have enjoyed over 32 years practicing law in this circuit, both as a prosecutor and a private attorney, and I know the value of a well-seasoned judge on the bench who has been professionally involved in the challenges people face regarding the law and who understands the application of justice from all sides.”