

# THE RECORDER

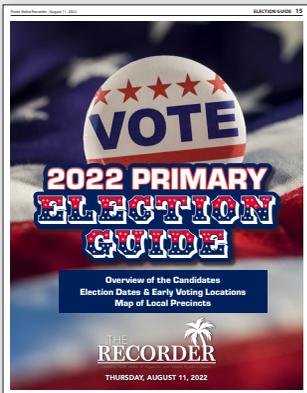


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August 11, 2022  
Volume 53, No. 41  
75 cents

Covering Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine, and Greater St. Johns County

PonteVedraRecorder.com



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Page 15



**Meet Your Eye Doc**  
Page 28



**INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!**  
The Recorder's Entertainment EXTRA featuring TV listings, streaming information, puzzles and more!



## Celebrating National Pickleball Day

Photo courtesy of the First Dink Foundation

Loren Gay, a member of the First Dink Foundation's board of directors, was a volunteer coach at the inaugural "Pickleball 101" youth clinic event on Aug. 6. The official National Pickleball Day was Aug. 8. See photos on page 36.

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## Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening. If you have hard copies of photos you want us to feature, feel free to bring them to our office — we'll scan them and hand them right back. E-mail submissions to [news@pontevedrarecorder.com](mailto:news@pontevedrarecorder.com) or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



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**Hugh Osteen**  
COO/VP  
hugh@osteenmediagroup.com  
(904) 285-8831

**Susan Griffin**  
Publisher  
susan@pontevedrarecorder.com  
(904) 686-3938

**Shaun Ryan**  
Editor  
shaun@pontevedrarecorder.com  
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1202

**Anthony Richards**  
Reporter  
anthony@pontevedrarecorder.com  
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1207

**Don Coble**  
Contributor  
don@claytodayonline.com

**Amber Anderson**  
Page/Graphic Designer  
amber@pontevedrarecorder.com

**April Snyder**  
Sales Assistant  
april@pontevedrarecorder.com  
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1204

**Kristin Flanagan**  
Account Executive  
kristin@pontevedrarecorder.com  
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1206

**Adele McGraw**  
Account Executive  
adele@pontevedrarecorder.com  
(904) 285-8831, ext. 1208

**Debbie Apple**  
Account Executive  
debbie@osteenmediagroup.com  
(904) 285-8831

**Joe Wilhelm**  
Circulation Manager  
joe@osteenmediagroup.com  
(904) 300-5374

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## Joyner endorses Barrera for re-election to School Board

Former St. Johns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Joseph Joyner has once again endorsed Kelly Barrera's bid for re-election as the District 4 representative to the St. Johns County School Board.

The former president of Flagler College, Joyner served as superintendent of the St. Johns County School System for 14 years, retiring in 2017. Under his leadership, St. Johns County was routinely ranked as the top-rated school district in the state of Florida.

"In my 40-plus years in education, I can honestly say that Kelly Barrera is one of the finest school board members I've ever worked with," Joyner said in his endorsement. "Her contributions to the St. Johns County Schools played an important part in the high academic standard we have been able to achieve and maintain."

Joyner praised Barrera as a "passionate advocate" for students and parents.

"Kelly is never afraid to challenge the status quo," Joyner said. "She speaks up and tackles the tough issues head on, putting the best interests of our students first."

I am pleased to offer her my enthusiastic endorsement for re-election to the School Board."

Barrera said she was grateful to receive Joyner's endorsement.

"It was a tremendous privilege for me to serve on the School Board during Dr. Joyner's tenure as superintendent and I am truly honored to receive the endorsement from such a respected educational leader," she said. "His leadership was instrumental in making St. Johns County the top-ranked public school system in the state, and if re-elected, I will work hard to maintain that strong academic standing so that our children can continue to receive the best possible education."

A Ponte Vedra Beach resident for 30 years, Barrera is a graduate of Jacksonville University, where she was the first female graduate of the aviation program. She and her husband, Gil Barrera, are the parents of two adult children, both of whom have attended and volunteered in the local schools and community.

## Community donates 1,700 toys during Christmas in July

Not even the Florida heat could stop Santa Claus from making a stop at Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville to distribute toys donated by generous community members for Christmas in July. The 11th annual toy and donation drive, presented by Subaru of Jacksonville, lasted the entire month of July with Santa making his special visit on July 25.

During this year's Christmas in July, people from Jacksonville and far beyond donated 1,739 toys, with a total estimated value of \$22,627. Additionally, throughout July donors gave \$21,120.25 in financial gifts online. The funds will be used to purchase toys for Wolfson Children's patients.

TOYS continues on Page 3

**COLOSSAL CREATURES**

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# Toys

Continued from 2

Though there were no public in-person drop-offs at Wolfson Children's Hospital this year, presenting sponsor Subaru of Jacksonville collected toys at their showroom on Atlantic Boulevard throughout the month. In addition to thousands of dollars' worth of toys from the community, staff and ownership, the dealership contributed \$25,000 to support the Child Life department.

The Child Life specialists and music

therapists at Wolfson Children's Hospital use toys and games to help normalize the hospital experience and teach kids and teens about their conditions and procedures they will undergo. Additionally, toys help babies and younger children continue to develop physically and cognitively on track during their hospital stays.

"The toys certainly help provide entertainment for the children in the hospital, but the benefits extend so much further," said Susan Kinnebrew, associate director of Family Support Services at Wolfson Children's. "They

provide children with a small sense of normalcy when everything else around them is different and help introduce them to unfamiliar medical equipment. We're so grateful the community continues to support these children and the outstanding teams that dedicate their lives to caregiving."

Michael D. Aubin, president of Wolfson Children's Hospital and chief philanthropy officer of the Baptist Health Foundation, said, "I'm continually astounded by the generosity of our community and the support from organizations and businesses like Subaru

of Jacksonville. Every person who donated to Christmas in July can rest assured knowing their gift truly made a difference to a child in the hospital."

Those who wish to donate toys year-round can do so by visiting the Wolfson Children's Hospital Amazon wish list. To make a financial contribution to Wolfson Children's Hospital throughout the year, which allows the Child Life and Music Therapy team to purchase the toys and musical instruments that are needed most, go to [wolfsonchildrens.com/give](http://wolfsonchildrens.com/give).



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# Voting is now **CLOSED!**



## **Winners will be published in print and online on August 18th**

Readers have nominated & voted for their favorite businesses, organizations, professionals and more in over 250 categories online. Voting ended on July 27th. Thank you for all who voted in this year's contest! We appreciate your input!

Winners in each category of the 2022 BEST OF THE BEST of Ponte Vedra will be listed in a special pull-out "Winner's Circle" section inside the August 18th edition of the Ponte Vedra Recorder.

Until then, we're keeping the results under wraps!



# Tentative budget voted on by MSD

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra Municipal Service District approved a tentative budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year with total revenue and balances equaling \$1,525,834 during its Aug. 8 meeting.

It was made clear that the budget was tentative and was voted on to meet the required legal deadline to have at least a tentative budget approved.

MSD attorney Wayne Flowers made the deadline evident to the board.

Changes that were made from last year's budget included adding \$18,000 to the beautification portion of the budget to make it \$28,500 and an additional \$12,000 for streetlight improvements, making that category \$15,000.

The increase of the beautification budget was something trustee Kitty Switkes pushed for in anticipation of more such projects coming in the future.

"I have a feeling more streetlights are coming," Switkes said.

A pair of sidewalk projects were budgeted for \$300,000 or \$150,000 apiece, which is the cap for a single project. The increase doubles the sidewalk budget of the current fiscal year.

Both the sidewalks and streetlights are considered part of the public safety budget.

All the general government services remain the same as last year at this point.

Due to it being a tentative budget, the MSD has one more meeting to discuss and adopt changes before a final budget must be approved.

MSD Chairman Al Hollon motioned to have a .25 millage rate, which was approved with a vote of 4-2 with trustees Gary Jurenovich and John Cellucci voting against it.

Discussion went back and forth

concerning what to do with the excess money budgeted for in law enforcement budget that was not used due to the situation and loss of the previous contract in place.

Hollon suggested the board consider amending the budget to use some of the money that's over for sidewalks and other such projects.

However, Jurenovich stated that he would be against that as the board's treasurer.

"I'm just against saying we'd do one thing and then amend it just to do another," Jurenovich said. "That's just not what I'm about."

Instead, Jurenovich proposed that they allow for the return of some of the law enforcement budget that was over-budgeted.

"Trimming it back would send a good message," Jurenovich said. "It's nice to be conservative."

In other news from the meeting, the board voted to deny a request by trustee Brad Wester to have Ponte Vedra Boulevard designated as part of the official U.S. Bike Route system instead of A1A.

The request was denied with only Wester and Switkes voting in favor of it.

The primary reasons against it were the increased bike traffic that the designation may create, which in turn could create a safety situation.

"I just don't think we should be enticing one more bike to go down the boulevard," Cellucci said. "The last thing we need is more traffic."

Wester was for it, stating that he did not believe there would be that much of an increase in traffic, but thought it would be a unique national designation the boulevard would be known for.

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In April 2021, Lesley Vitel and sister Libbi Vitel-Poole cut the ribbon on their business, *Painting With a Twist*, located at 268 Solana Road, Ponte Vedra Beach. It's a unique place where people can learn to paint while connecting with friends and sharing a favorite wine. There's always something interesting going on with special events, private parties and more.

## Lesley Vitel and Libbi Vitel-Poole

### As told to Shaun Ryan

#### Tell me about Painting With a Twist and what it offers.

Painting With a Twist is Fun! Plain and simple! No creative or artistic skills are needed. Painting with a Twist is all about connecting with friends over a glass of wine, your favorite snacks and a night of laughs. We offer a variety of painting opportunities. We host nightly in-studio classes for adults, Family Day classes on the weekends, Blacklight Nights and Date Nights. We also host private parties for birthdays, corporate team building events, bachelorette parties, baby showers, wedding showers, kids' birthdays, and more. We can also host an offsite event at your business. If you can think of something to celebrate, we can host for you.

Both of our studios have been around for about eight years. As new owners of these franchises, it is our mission to make sure that more people learn about what we do and get to experience the fun! We really see an opportunity in areas like Nocatee, Beachwalk and Durbin Crossing to invite them in and experience art in a whole new way.

#### How do people sign up for what you offer?

You can find our daily calendar of events on our websites at [paintingwithatwist.com/studio/ponte-vedra-beach](http://paintingwithatwist.com/studio/ponte-vedra-beach) and [paintingwithatwist.com/studio/jacksonville-fruit-cove](http://paintingwithatwist.com/studio/jacksonville-fruit-cove). Each studio has a different calendar, so if you aren't seeing anything that tickles your fancy on one, be sure to check out the other.

#### What is the "twist" part?

The "twist" is that we are a BYOB studio and you can bring your beverage of choice and finger foods if you'd like. We provide everything you need for your painting class. You are more than welcome to show up 15-30 minutes beforehand to set up decorations, food/refreshments, etc. Don't forget to bring any items to go with your BYO refreshments like plates or napkins. We do have extra cups and wine bottle openers as well. There are many great restaurants and bars in our area that you may want to try out — Two Dudes Seafood, Reds Steakhouse, Woody's BBQ, Domino's Pizza and more.

#### Tell me about the artists affiliated with your business.

You will love our local artists! Most have worked at Painting With a Twist for years. Our artists range from high school students to retirees in their 60s. Each artist brings their own flair to Painting With a Twist. We have artists that work at Wolfson's Children's Hospital for a nonprofit organization called Art With a Heart. Another one of our artists is a motivational speaker on happiness. We have high school seniors and college students that adore working with your children, other artists that have their own art businesses on the side, as well as artists that are teachers in local schools. They are so talented and entertaining in their own way. We are so blessed to have them in our studios!

#### How did you decide to launch this business?

Two sisters owning a Painting With a Twist franchise is a dream come true! Libbi was living in Georgia and teaching kindergarten but longed for something to really challenge her creative side. She spoke with her sister about the desire to own a Painting With a Twist franchise in Jacksonville one day. Within weeks, Lesley was con-



Contributed photo

**Libbi Vitel-Poole, left, and sister Lesley Vitel opened their first Painting With a Twist franchise in 2021. They have since added a second location.**

tacting Libbi, telling her the Ponte Vedra Beach Painting With a Twist was up for sale. Libbi and Lesley couldn't help but think that was divine intervention! So, they contacted the corporate office just wanting more information, all the while telling them that they weren't ready to purchase the studio because it was in the middle of a school year for Libbi. Well, that lasted for a few short months until they jumped in with both feet and bought it. It took a lot of coordinating and driving back and forth from Georgia to Florida, but they did it. While adjusting to new life in Florida and throwing around the idea of expanding to a second location, the Fruit Cove location came up for sale, and again we said we weren't ready for a second location. Guess how that went? Yep! We inched forward and threw caution to the wind a second time.

Now, we own two locations. Lesley is a local Realtor with Keller Williams, so she has always networked with other business owners and focused on marketing. This was a great marriage of skills. But we chose to come together as sibling owners to share the fun!

#### What do you like most about what you do?

What we like the most about being Painting With a Twist franchise owners is serving the public in a way that promotes fun, memories and maybe even a newfound love of art between our artists and guests. We would love to share our passion with you! Please come join us and our artists for a day or night full of making fun memories with friends and family.

# GROW, not your typical Hebrew school

By Anthony Richards

Chabad of St. Johns will begin its GROW enrichment program once again this school year.

The program offers a place for Jewish children to go after school and learn about their faith in a fun and interactive approach.

“We’re very excited to have the program running in Nocatee,” said Dini Sharfstein, youth director at Chabad of St. Johns. “It is designed with Nocatee kids and parents in mind.”

According to Sharfstein, the program is devised with the goal of being more than just what has become known as a traditional Hebrew school where children sit at a desk and study scripture.

“We want it to be more hands-on learning,” Sharfstein said. “It’s all about bringing it to their level, so that they can more easily relate.”

An example of this would be the involvement of cooking traditional recipes on holidays where food is part of the culture.

The program caters to elementary and middle school students.

Children are welcome from any school, but the majority of participants are expected to come from Palm Valley

Academy in Nocatee, Valley Ridge Academy in Ponte Vedra Beach and Pine Island Academy in St. Augustine.

“Most will live in the Nocatee neighborhoods or around,” Sharfstein said.

According to Sharfstein, the program is only expected to grow, especially as more new residents move into St. Johns County.

“It’s a great way for new kids and families to get introduced to other Jewish families in the community,” Sharfstein said. “It’s a perfect opportunity to meet and greet and share conversations with similarly-minded people.”

At the moment, the program will be held on Wednesdays and will be hosted at a resident’s home within the Nocatee community.

“Every kid is different, but our goal is to have it to where every Jewish kid can have the chance to connect,” Sharfstein said. “It’s all about allowing them a creative environment so they can discover their Jewish pride.”

The program uses the exclusive and highly motivational Aleph Champ Hebrew reading program and aims to strengthen their Jewish heritage by using STEM skills, art mediums and Kosher cooking, all in a Jewish context.

The GROW program is one of two

such tracks that Chabad of St. Johns offers to the county’s residents.

To find out more information or further details about the program, go to

[www.JewishSJohsCounty/GROW](http://www.JewishSJohsCounty/GROW) or email [Dini@JewishSJohsCounty.com](mailto:Dini@JewishSJohsCounty.com) or call 904-701-4422.

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Contributed photos

Past President MaryBeth Murray, right, passes the gavel to President Bob Wiltfong.



Bob Wiltfong receives The Spirit of Rotary award as Past President MaryBeth Murray stands nearby.

# Rotary Club continues tradition of 'Passing the Gavel'



Club President Bob Wiltfong, right, listens as District Governor Jeff Michelman speaks.

## Ceremony marks a change of leadership

In a tradition as old as the organization itself, the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra recently “passed the gavel” from one leadership team to another. The swearing-in ceremony took place at Maggiano’s Little Italy restaurant in St. Johns Town Center. The ceremony is significant in Rotary because it transfers the club’s power from one president and board of directors to another. Without it, the fellowship and service organization would be leaderless for its new Rotary year.

Bob Wiltfong is the club president for Rotary year 2022-23.

A resident of Nocatee, his professional experience includes being an Emmy Award-winning TV news reporter, corporate consultant for presentation skills and author. He is also well-known for his previous work as a comedic actor on such TV shows as “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart,” “Modern Family” and “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia.”

In 2020, he published an Amazon best-selling book called “The BS Dictionary: Uncovering the Origins and True Meanings of Business Speak.”

“One of the things that drew me to the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra,” Wiltfong said, “is its ‘Service Above Self’ tenet. Rotarians do so much good in Nocatee and around the world, I am honored to be a part of this organization. The fact that club members elected me to be president is humbling, awesome and inspiring. I’ll do my best to keep us all serving the community and having a lot of fun in the process!”

Past President MaryBeth Murray will serve as membership chair under the Rotary club’s board of directors this year. She’ll be joined by Secretary Rosemary Lorenz, Treasurer Sean Smith, Public Image Chair Mari Perroni, Community Service Chair Denny Baldwin, Program Chair Karen Everett, Sergeant-at-Arms Linda Lomax, Legal Counsel Eddie Sarnowski, Rotary Foundation Chair Andy Erickson, Past President Rep Ian Aguilar and At-Large Members Ron McVay and Meagan Perkins.

The ceremony also featured awards



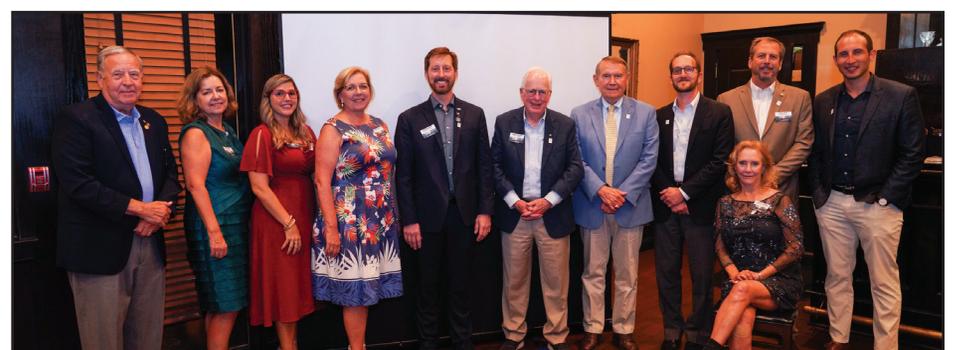
Past President MaryBeth Murray stands next to Sean Smith, declared Rotarian of the Year.



Danny Baldwin receives the Outstanding Leadership award as Past President MaryBeth Murray stands nearby.

given to club members for their hard work throughout the previous year. Awards included: Rotarian of the Year — Sean Smith, Outstanding Leadership — Danny Baldwin and The Spirit of Rotary — Bob Wiltfong. The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra meets every Tuesday morning at 7:30 a.m. at Trelor Park restaurant in Nocatee. Guests are always welcome.

For more information about the club, go to [pontevedrarotary.org](http://pontevedrarotary.org).



The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra’s new board of directors.

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**OBITUARIES**



**Jayne Davison**

**Jayne Brooks Cudd Davison**

Jayne Brooks Cudd Davison, 73, passed away peacefully on August 1st in her home of 37 years in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

Jayne, born on December 19, 1948, in Spartanburg, South Carolina, to Dr. John James Cudd, Jr., and Elizabeth (Bette) Henerey Cudd, grew up in Augusta, Georgia, where she met her husband of 53 years, Peter Sanford Davison. She was a graduate of Richmond Academy and attended both University of South Carolina and University of Georgia, where she

was a cheerleader and Tri Delta sister. Jayne had a 25-year career with the PGA TOUR/TPC Network where she was highly regarded as Director of Merchandising, setting the retail standards for both Tournament Players Clubs and PGA TOUR tournaments, and was an industry leader in golf merchandising.

Jayne will be most remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, who treasured her family. She also had a passion for her Yorkies, traveling, tending to her rose garden, and bird watching.

In addition to her husband Pete, Jayne is survived by her children, Peter Sanford (Sandy) Davison, Jr., Ashley Brooks Laughlin, and Kelly Davison Boston; her grandchildren, Karen Ashley Rees and Sydney Brooks Laughlin; and two great grandchildren, Gideon and Nolan Rees.

A Celebration of Life will be planned for a future date. Please visit her online Tribute at [www.quinnshalz.com](http://www.quinnshalz.com).

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**Redick awarded Craig Speziale Memorial Scholarship**

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida has announced that R.J. Redick is the 2022 recipient of the Craig Speziale Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship recognizes a Ponte Vedra High graduating senior who demonstrates academic excellence, school leadership, community service and the “Spirit of Spez.”

Redick graduated seventh in his class of 470. He served as president of the Future Business Leaders of America and is the recipient of the Paladino Business Scholarship. He served as captain of the tennis team and created an independent home technology assistance business to help members of the community struggling with IT issues. He also participated in Hugs Across the County, PVHS Children’s Miracle Network and Link Crew. Redick balanced part-time work, volunteering, school academics and athletics while maintaining a 4.65 GPA.



Contributed photo

**Ana Speziale and R.J. Redick, recipient of the Craig Speziale Memorial Scholarship.**

He exemplified the “Spirit of Spez” in his service to others and will make his own mark at University of Florida in the fall.

For more information or how to make donations, go to [jaxcf.org/give/craig-speziale-memorial-fund](http://jaxcf.org/give/craig-speziale-memorial-fund).



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Scott A. Grant is a local historian and author. By day, he is president of Standfast Asset Management in Ponte Vedra. He welcomes your comments at [scottg@standfastic.com](mailto:scottg@standfastic.com).

## FAMOUS PONTE VEDRANS



Scott A. Grant

# Ernest Matthew Mickler and the 'White Trash' cookbook

By Scott A. Grant

In the summer of 1986, an unusual book with a peculiar title was rocketing up the New York Times best seller list. The book was titled "White Trash Cooking," and it was written by Ernest Matthew Mickler of Ponte Vedra.

Ernie Mickler was born in 1940 in a portion of Ponte Vedra known as Palm Valley. Back in those days, Palm Valley was home to shotgun shacks and moonshine stills. It was old Florida. That is what Ernie wrote about. It wasn't so much the recipes; it was a look inside a culture that was already fading away.

Ernie was a storyteller. The South, he said, "is legend, on top of legend, on top of legend." Harper Lee, author of "To Kill a Mockingbird" called the book "a beautiful testament to a stubborn people." Reading the book today is like stepping back in time. Many were taken by the photographs. Harper Lee called them "shattering."

Nowadays, Ernest Mickler's Palm Valley is overrun by development. It is barely recognizable. He was fond of saying he grew up in "the middle of a swamp" without electricity. He lived in a home with a fabulous oak tree

in the yard, down by the bridge, near a place called Papa George's Fish Camp. Today, there is a different bridge and a different restaurant. But they're in the same spot.

"White Trash Cooking" was an overnight sensation, selling over 600,000 copies. The original publisher could not keep up with demand and sold the rights to someone who could. Mickler was featured in Vogue and People and newspapers across the country. Ernie appeared on "Late Night with David Letterman." He set a trash can afire while preparing "Dana Pullen's Chicken Feet and Rice" on air. Letterman refused to even taste it.

The book included a recipe for broiled squirrel and another for gator tail that was purportedly so good it would make "you wanna lay down and scream." There were also several recipes for possum. Ernie advised that the only acceptable side dish to serve with possum was sweet potatoes and that you should only eat possum in winter.

The book earned substantially royalties. Most of Ernie's share went to settle the lawsuits. He got sued by the woman whose picture appeared on the cover and by the Junior League of Charleston, South Carolina. They claimed some of the recipes were plagiarized. He used the rest of the money to buy a home in Moccasin Branch

for himself and his partner, Gary Jolley.

He went to work on a second book, "Sinkin' Spells, Hot Flashes, Fits, and Cravins." It is still published today under the title "White Trash Cooking II." Two days after the book was released, Ernest Matthew Mickler died of AIDS. He was 48 years old.

Ernest Mickler is buried in the Sampson Cemetery, next to his mother, surrounded by around 90 other members of the Mickler family. It is a private, family cemetery. In his second book, Ernie wrote about the extended family going out to the cemetery to clean four times a year. He wrote about the food they shared.

In Ernie's day, you got to the graveyard down a lonely dirt road littered with potholes deep enough to swallow a pick-up. Today, the graveyard is surrounded by a golf course and luxury homes. The road is paved in asphalt. Golfers in brightly colored clothing cruise back and forth in their golf carts.

**Scott A. Grant is a Yankee carpetbagger desperately trying to work his way up to scallywag. He writes local history and welcomes your comments at [scottg@standfastic.com](mailto:scottg@standfastic.com).**

## 2022-23 Florida Forum speakers announced



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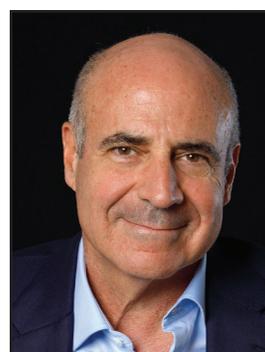
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Bill Browder



Jenna Bush Hager



Allyson Felix

The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital has announced the 2022-23 Florida Forum Speaker Series schedule. The speakers are best-selling author Bill Browder on Sept. 20, television news personality and author Jenna Bush Hager on Nov. 8 and 11-time Olympic medalist and the world's most decorated track and field athlete Allyson Felix on Jan. 18. The series will take place at the Center for the Performing Arts in Jacksonville.

Presented by The Women's Board, the Florida Forum raises awareness and funds for Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville, supporting its mission to provide the highest quality of advanced pediatric health care regardless of ability to pay.

The series is made possible by long-time partners and sponsors Wells Fargo, Florida Blue and Landstar. This year's Florida Forum Speaker Series co-chairs are Sharon Pentaleri and Beverley Brooke.

Since 1992, the Florida Forum has hosted renowned speakers from around the world offering profound insights and discussions on a broad range of issues. In addition to enriching Jacksonville's intellectual and cultural life, the Florida Forum has contributed more than \$9.2 million to Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville.

For ticket information, go to [thefloridaforum.com](http://thefloridaforum.com), call 904-202-2886, or email [womensboard@bmcjax.com](mailto:womensboard@bmcjax.com).



Contributed photo

Nease NJROTC instructor and cadets completed the Area 12 Leadership Academy at Georgia Military College in Milledgeville, Georgia. Standing from left are Gunnery Sergeant Hanson, Diego Molina, Andrew Padgett, Gabriel Mitchell, Hunter Jones, McKenzie Cherry, Amber Fields, Hailey Pitches, Joseph Stodel and Rylie Larkin.

# 9 Nease NJROTC cadets graduate from Leadership Academy

Nease NJROTC, the number one program in Area 12 and number one unit in the nation, restocked its high-performing cadet leadership ranks, successfully graduating nine cadets at the Area 12 NJROTC Leadership Academy in Milledgeville, Georgia, on June 18-25.

More than 200 high-performing cadets from Area 12's 60 NJROTC high school programs (northern Florida and state of Georgia) participated in the training. The top Navy, and Marine Corps JROTC naval science instructors from northern Florida and state of Georgia directed the training, which covered leadership, precision drill,

academics and physical fitness.

This year's attendees included rising juniors Amber Fields, Hunter Jones, Gabriel Mitchell, Rylie Larkin, Diego Molina, Andrew Padgett, Joseph Stodel, Hailey Pitches and McKenzie Cherry. Cadet Nicholas Gallego and Cadet Lauren Villarreal served as cadre during the week, assisting in the mentoring and training of the cadets. One of Nease's naval science instructors, Gunnery Sergeant Durwin D. Hanson worked as an instructor for the program.

"Epic," said Fields. "I loved it, made great friends

from other schools and learned so much about leadership at the same time."

Cadets received individual commendations for exceptional performance during the training, including Fields and Pitches as the number one female athletes. Larkin was number two in academics with an average of 99.167. In addition, Larkin was number three in athletics.

"Full speed ahead," said Stodel. "From reveille at 5 a.m. until taps at 10 p.m., we were nonstop learning, drill, exercising and developing leadership traits. It was phenomenal. I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity."

Tickets on sale now! Call 904.202.2886 or visit [thefloridaforum.com](http://thefloridaforum.com)

## 2022-2023 FLORIDA FORUM



**BILL BROWDER**  
September 20, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.  
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**JENNA BUSH HAGER**  
November 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.  
*TODAY Show Co-Host, Best-Selling Author*

Presented by 



**ALLYSON FELIX**  
January 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.  
*Eleven time Olympic Medalist, Successful Businesswoman*

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Aashna Shah is Miss Florida's Outstanding Teen for 2022.

# Ponte Vedra student named Miss Florida's Outstanding Teen 2022

Miss Florida's Outstanding Teen 2022, Aashna Shah, is a rising 11th-grade honors, AP and dual-enrolled student at Ponte Vedra High School.

In 2017, Aashna founded Kindness in a Diverse Society (KIDS), with the aim of helping the whole child. Aashna was inspired by the quote "Helping others is the way we help ourselves" by Oprah Winfrey. She encourages kids to volunteer at a young age.

KIDS recently received an official proclamation from the mayor of Jacksonville for promoting and increasing volunteerism in Florida's youth.

After being diagnosed with dyslexia and ADHD in the 8th grade, Aashna expanded the mission of KIDS to include educat-

ing children and parents about learning disabilities. Aashna has now published two children's books ("Dynamic Diya: Dyslexia is her superpower" and "Amazing Adriana: ADHD is her superpower"), has donated the books to schools and libraries across Florida, and has secured a proclamation from the city of Jacksonville declaring May 8-14, 2022, official Dyslexia Awareness Week. She is a proud recipient of the Presidential Service Award from the White House for her dedication to serving the community.

Aashna is on three competitive dance teams; the Ponte Vedra High School "Splash" Varsity Dance team, Art of Dance and Bollywood Dance Mania. She loves smiles and making others

smile, whether it's through her nonprofit organization or her dreams of becoming a pediatric dental surgeon.

Aashna will represent the State of Florida at the Miss America's Outstanding Teen Competition in Dallas in this month.



Contributed photos

Aashna Shah is crowned Miss Florida's Outstanding Teen 2022.

## Beaches Oktoberfest returns Oct. 7 and 8

Beaches Oktoberfest is coming back to Jacksonville Beach after a nearly three-year hiatus caused by the pandemic. Thousands are expected to attend the festival happening Oct. 7 and 8 at the Sea Walk Pavilion.

The special event will feature two stages of live music, including national headliner and country superstar Corey Smith and the world-renowned reggae band Inner Circle — The Bad Boys of Reggae.

In addition to great music, the event is well known for its variety of German, Oktoberfest and craft beers, 60 local artists and makers, more than 20 of Jacksonville's favorite, local food trucks, an enhanced VIP experience and activities for all ages.

"We are thrilled to bring back one of the area's most enjoyed and anticipated festivals to Jacksonville Beach this Fall," said Charles Wagoner, president of 904 Happy Hour and co-founder of Beaches Oktoberfest. "This festival is four years in the making, and thanks to a positive partnership and support from the City of Jacksonville Beach and our great event partners, we are able to bring back a huge event and fundraiser to our favorite beach town."

A General Admission Experience Pass includes a free beer, a festival passport and a GA Experience wristband, which includes access to grounds, food trucks, beverage stations and concert. The festival will also include a reimagined VIP Lounge with couch and comfortable seating, private bar, air-conditioned restrooms and more.

For tickets and more information, go to [BeachesOktoberfest.com](http://BeachesOktoberfest.com).

Other upcoming events that will benefit The Wagoner Foundation include the Jacksonville Taco & Tequila Festival, happening Sept. 24 and 25 in Riverside, and the 904 Open, Charity Golf & Pickleball Classic + Par-Tee happening Sept. 4 at The Yards in Ponte Vedra Beach.

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# Tricycle is dream come true for teen

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty in partnership with Dreams Come True, Northeast Florida's local dream-granting organization for children battling life-threatening illnesses, recently surprised 18-year-old Siobhan with a new Freedom Concept Tricycle.

Siobhan's dream marks the real estate firm's 40th sponsored dream since 2013. The new bike will provide Siobhan with the freedom to enjoy outdoor activities with her family.

"Siobhan was so overjoyed to see everyone and the bike, so much that she shed tears of joy with a lot of big smiles," said Siobhan's family. "We want to thank all who were involved in helping to make Siobhan's dream come true."

Around the age of 4, Siobhan was diagnosed with Rett Syndrome, a rare genetic neurological disorder that leads to severe impairments. The disease affects nearly every aspect of her life.

"We are truly grateful to everyone at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty for helping us make Siobhan's dream a reality," said Dreams Come True Executive Director Sheri Criswell. "Our ability to deliver and fulfill the power of a dream is only possible through the generosity of our community partners and donors."

Since 2013, the real estate business has raised more than \$240,000 for Dreams Come True through fundraising events and corporate donations to sponsor the dreams of 40 children. In addition, the company and its associates support Dreams Come True by hosting special celebrations, volunteering, additional fundraising and



Contributed photo

**Dreams Come True surprised 18-year-old Siobhan with her new Freedom Concept tricycle during a special gathering at Losco Regional Park in Mandarin. Siobhan's dream was sponsored by Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty.**

participating in events such as Dreams Come True's Dream Day and Walk, Run and Roll 5K.

"Dreams Come True has been and continues to be very close to our hearts, and we are deeply committed to supporting this wonderful organization," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Founder and Chairperson Linda Sherrer. "Our company

believes in creating a positive impact in others' lives, and we truly appreciate the support we receive from our valued customers and passionate team to help make dreams come true for many deserving local children."

For more information about Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, go to [FloridaNetworkRealty.com](http://FloridaNetworkRealty.com).

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# Lectures to reveal Black society in 19th-century Florida

Contributed photos



The lectures are a continuation of the program "I Lived Here, As Well."



The Ximenez-Fatio House Museum, built in 1798, offers visitors a look into the past.



The Ximenez-Fatio House Museum and the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Florida, along with grant support from the James and Sally Anne Kellogg Fund at The Chicago Community Foundation, will present: "Uncovering Black Society in 19th Century Florida," a virtual lecture series held on select dates in October.

As a continuation of the stories heard in the acclaimed program, "I Lived Here, As

Well," lecture topics will further explore the lives of early black Floridians and those participating will learn more about some of the invisible hands portrayed in the annual program.

Speakers and topics will include:

- **October 3:** Dr. Jane Landers — "The Spanish Period and an Overview of Black Society in 19th Century Florida."

- **October 10:** Alcione Amos — "The Life of Luis Pacheco, 1800-1895: the 'Ac-

cidental' Black Seminole."

- **October 17:** Dr. Anthony Dixon — "Maroon Communities," an overview of black Seminoles and the impact of the Seminole Wars on Florida.

- **October 24:** James Bullock and Charmin Russell — "Cultural Cooking in 19th Century Florida."

Each lecture will be presented virtually with a 7 p.m. start time, and pre-registration is required. Registration is \$17.98

per lecture or \$60 all four lectures. All proceeds will go to the preservation and restoration of this unique coquina-and-tabby, 1798-constructed House Museum, which portrays 19th century life of owners, guests and servants in a fashionable boarding house in the heart of old St. Augustine.

Pre-registration can be done at [ximenezfatiohouse.org/kellogg](http://ximenezfatiohouse.org/kellogg).

For more details, go to [XimenezFatioHouseMuseum.org](http://XimenezFatioHouseMuseum.org) or call 904-829-3575.

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# 2022 PRIMARY ELECTION GUIDE

**Overview of the Candidates  
Election Dates & Early Voting Locations  
Map of Local Precincts**

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*Covering Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine, and Greater St. Johns County*

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2022**

### ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide was produced by the staff at The Ponte Vedra Recorder to prepare area voters for the primary election on Tuesday, Aug. 23.

### ELECTION DATES

(Polls open 7 a.m.-7 p.m.)

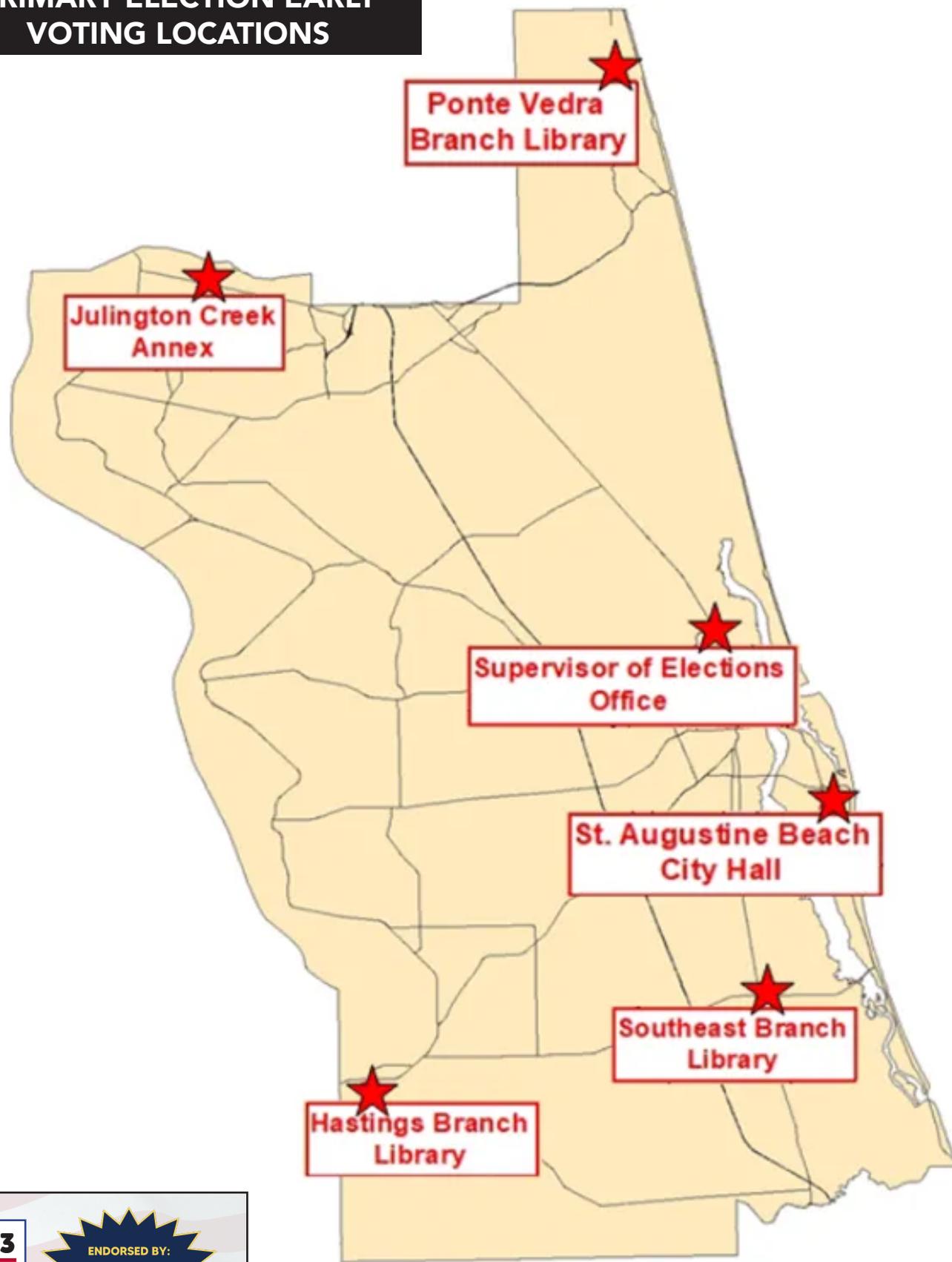
**Primary Election:** August 23

**General Election:** November 8  
(Deadline to register is Oct. 10)

### PRECINCT LOCATIONS IN THE AREA

- **401:** Ponte Vedra Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach
- **402:** Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, 545 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach
- **403:** Palm Valley Baptist Church, 4890 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra Beach
- **404:** Christ Episcopal Church, 400 San Juan Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach
- **405/407:** Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, 1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach
- **406:** St. Francis in the Field, 895 Palm Valley Road, Ponte Vedra
- **408:** Crosswater Hall at Nocatee, 245 Nocatee Center Way, Ponte Vedra
- **409/505:** The Palencia Club, 600 Palencia Club Drive, St. Augustine.

### PRIMARY ELECTION EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS



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- **Supervisor of Elections Office**, 4455 Ave. A, Suite 101, St. Augustine
- **Ponte Vedra Branch Library**, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach
- **Julington Creek Annex (St. Johns County Service Center)**, 725 Flora Branch Blvd., St. Johns
- **Southeast Branch Library**, 6670 U.S. 1 South, St. Augustine
- **St. Augustine Beach City Hall**, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine
- **Hastings Branch Library**, 6195 S. Main St., Hastings

## U.S REPRESENTATIVE (DISTRICT 5)



### LEIGHA "LUNA" LOPEZ

Luna Lopez is a Black constitutional conservative. Her values and beliefs system are based on the role of small government and more personal freedoms. She believes that the U.S. government has become over-reaching; and she believes that deregulation, defunding and de-legislating would solve many of the problems the United States is facing today.

"Right now, it is more important than ever for our officials to focus on getting the economy back on track and relieve the pressure American families are facing today," she said.

An America first agenda is a priority to Lopez. Congress, she said, should be focused on helping the American people during these trying times.

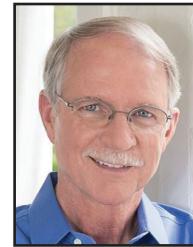


### MARA H. MACIE

Mara H. Macie grew up in Massachusetts where she worked for her family's golf management company until she married. She has four children and has permanently settled in Jacksonville.

Macie is a constitutional conservative and believes we have wandered too far from our founding documents, endangering the freedoms that the country was established on. She believes that government has become too big and that complacency among the Americans has led to a ruling class of career and establishment politicians who have lost sight of their constituents and the values that make the United States an exceptional nation.

She is the spouse of an active duty naval officer, granddaughter of WWII veterans, third great-granddaughter of a Civil War veteran and sixth great-granddaughter of a Revolutionary War veteran.



### JOHN RUTHERFORD

John Rutherford has lived in Northeast Florida since 1958. He was educated at Florida Junior College and Florida State University, where he studied criminology.

He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy. He began a law enforcement career as a patrolman at the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office in 1974.

Becoming Jacksonville's sheriff in 2003, he managed nearly a half-billion dollar budget and oversaw more than 3,200 employees. Because of his leadership as sheriff, in 2011 Jacksonville was at a 40-year low for violent crime.

Rutherford also served as the chair of the Florida Sheriff's Association.

In 2016, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

## COUNTY JUDGE (GROUP 2)



### ALYSSA CAMPER SHORSTEIN

Alyssa Camper Shorstein graduated from St. Augustine High School, Flagler College and then University of Florida law school. She then came right back home to St. Augustine to open her own law practice. During her legal career of nearly 13 years, she has practiced in more than 40 different areas of law and has handled more than 1,000 legal matters, mostly right here in St. Johns County. She is married to

Bryan Shorstein, has two children, Christopher (19) and Daniel (14), and two dogs. She said she is now running for county court judge to give back to the community she loves.



### CASEY WOOLSEY

Casey Woolsey is a partner at the St. Johns County law firm of Woolsey Morcom, which serves as 24-hour, on-call attorneys to local law enforcement officers. Since graduating law school, Woolsey has practiced both criminal and civil law for more than 10 years and handled legal matters at the county, circuit, appellate and Florida Supreme Court levels. In addition, she also represents local small business owners and investors, focusing mostly on real estate litigation.

Woolsey is active as an advocate for children's mental health issues. She was a board member of the Youth Crisis Center for a decade. She currently serves as a board member of Fostering Connections.

**KRISTA**  
Keating-Joseph [ElectKrista.com](http://ElectKrista.com)

**CHUCK**  
Labanowski [ChuckForCommissioner.com](http://ChuckForCommissioner.com)

**Had enough?**

Aug. 23rd, vote twice to stop overdevelopment that is destroying our county.

**Had enough clear-cutting, traffic, portable classrooms and kids being bused out of their neighborhood schools?**

**Krista** believes Commissioner Blocker's 71 out of 73 approvals of new development (in his first three years alone) is excessive and harmful to our quality of life. Learn more about this Gold Star Mom of two U.S. Navy SEALs, her qualifications, and why she's so committed to taking back St. Johns County. [ElectKrista.com](http://ElectKrista.com)

**Chuck** will NOT continue Commissioner Arnold's uncontrolled approvals. In her first 5 months, she voted for more land to go under the bulldozer than any other commissioner. That's 2960 acres! Chuck has 8 years county experience on a CDD board. And as a Marine and combat vet, he's ready to fight for our county. [ChuckForCommissioner.com](http://ChuckForCommissioner.com)

## COUNTY COMMISSIONER (DISTRICT 4)



### JEREMIAH BLOCKER

My name is Jeremiah Blocker, and I am asking for your vote in the August 23 Republican Primary! I am a combat veteran, father, business owner and former prosecutor. My wife and I live in Ponte Vedra with our young children and worship at St. John Paul II.

I have consistently put St. Johns County first by increasing funding for law enforcement and first responders, voting to ensure thousands of acres in the county are forever preserved, supporting beach renourishment and working to improve infrastructure. I will only support smart and controlled growth and fight against overdevelopment by reviewing development projects carefully.



### KRISTA KEATING-JOSEPH

Krista Keating-Joseph is the mother of five, including two Navy SEALS and a U.S. Marine. She has said her priorities include slowing growth; saving children from learning in unsafe, unsecure portable classrooms and being bused to schools out of their areas; rejecting the proposed sales tax increase and putting first responders first. She has also supported ensuring that developers cover the costs of infrastructure.

### WRITE-IN

Michael C. Lanza is a write-in candidate for District 4 County Commissioner.

## STATE SENATOR (DISTRICT 7)



### GERRY JAMES

Gerry James and his wife of 32 years, Debra, have lived in St. Johns County for 20 years. They have two sons and three grandchildren. As a Christian, he serves in prison ministry in several institutions, including death row at Florida State Penitentiary.

James was a professional athlete in three different sports: pro football, wrestling and golf, and played in the U.S. Senior Open. He was a two-time World Masters Long Drive Champion and is a former Mr. California Body Building Champion and a current PGA pro golfer and financial advisor at Safemoneymanager.com.



### TRAVIS HUTSON

Travis Hutson has served in the Florida Senate since 2015. Prior to that, he served as the state representative for Florida House District 24.

While serving in the Florida Legislature, Hutson helped craft enhancements to Florida's Career and Professional Education Act. In addition, he championed water policy reform and hurricane

recovery.

Hutson works in his family's business, assisting in property and agricultural management and local charitable foundations. He also sat on the board of directors for HandsOn Jacksonville and on the development committee for St. Augustine Youth Services and has been a member of the board of directors for EPIC in St. Johns County.

### WRITE-INS

Weston Adwell and James David Higbee are write-in candidates for District 7 state senator.



Endorsed By  
★ STATE ATTORNEY R.J. LARIZZA ★

[AlyssaForJudge.com](http://AlyssaForJudge.com)  
Vote on August 23<sup>rd</sup>



- ✓ Will Follow the Law As It Is Written
- ✓ Common Sense
- ✓ Honesty, Integrity & Character
- ✓ Raised in St. Johns County
- ✓ Small Business Owner
- ✓ Community Servant

#### Education

- ★ St. Augustine High School
- ★ Flagler College
- ★ University of Florida Law School

#### Legal Experience

- ★ 40+ areas of law
- ★ 12+ years
- ★ 1000+ legal matters



**Alyssa**  
CAMPER SHORSTEIN

COUNTY JUDGE  
★ Honesty ★  
★ Common Sense ★  
★ Follow the Law ★  
Political Advertisement, Paid for and Approved by Alyssa Shorstein for County Judge

**JEREMIAH BLOCKER**  
FOR ST. JOHNS COUNTY COMMISSION

**The Proven Local Leader**  
*Putting St. Johns First*

- ▶ Making Public Safety #1
- ▶ Ensuring Responsible, Smart Growth
- ▶ Protecting Taxpayer Dollars

Republican Primary: Tuesday, August 23

**JeremiahBlocker.com**

Paid For By Jeremiah Blocker, Republican, for St. Johns County Commission District 4

Ready, Set,  
**VOTE!**

# PRIMARY ELECTION ★ August 23, 2022

OPEN TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS IN ST JOHNS COUNTY



Due to the 2020 Census and Redistricting process, voting districts, precinct lines, and some Election Day polling locations have changed. Visit **VOTESJC.GOV** for more information.

4455 Avenue A, Suite 101  
St. Augustine, FL 32095  
(904) 823-2238  
www.votesjc.gov

*We are here to serve you. Please visit our office, call or use our online forms and resources to help you prepare for Election Day.*

## ON OUR WEBSITE [www.votesjc.gov](http://www.votesjc.gov)

- Register to vote
- Check your voter status
- Change your address before you vote
- Verify your polling place
- Track the mailing and receipt of your vote by mail ballot
- View and print your sample ballot

## FLORIDA IS A CLOSED PRIMARY STATE

- Democrats receive a Democratic ballot
- Republicans receive a Republican ballot
- Voters registered with no party affiliation or a minor party receive a nonpartisan ballot
- Universal Primary Contests are the exception. There are two on the Primary ballot, both Republican races. Representative in Congress, Dist. 5 and State Representative, Dist. 20. If you live in these districts, regardless of your party affiliation these Republican races will appear on your ballot.

## Vote: It's Your Choice!

Call 904-823-2238 for your vote by mail ballot today! You can also use the online request form on our website [www.votesjc.gov](http://www.votesjc.gov). Deadline to request a ballot to be mailed is 5 PM August 13th.

Make sure your vote counts!

Has your signature changed? If your signature on your voter record and signature on the vote by mail ballot certificate envelope do not match, your vote by mail ballot may not count. Update your signature using a Florida voter registration application.

Drop your mail ballot in a secure ballot intake station at any early voting site during the hours of voting. Your voted mail ballot is due in the Elections Office no later than 7 PM on Election Day. If it is late, it will not count.

## EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

★ DATES & TIMES ~ August 13th – 20th ★ Hours: 9 AM – 6 PM Daily At All Locations

**Julington Creek Annex**  
725 Flora Branch Blvd.  
St. Johns, FL 32259

**Supervisor of Elections Office**  
4455 Avenue A, Suite 101  
St. Augustine, FL 32095

**Southeast Branch Library**  
6670 US 1 South  
St. Augustine, FL 32086

**Ponte Vedra Branch Library**  
101 Library Blvd.  
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

**St. Augustine Beach City Hall**  
2200 A1A South  
St. Augustine, FL 32080

**Hastings Branch Library**  
6195 S. Main St.  
Hastings, FL 32145

## ELECTION DAY

- ★ Tuesday, August 23, 2022
- ★ Polls are open 7 AM – 7 PM
- ★ When voting on Election Day you **MUST** vote at the precinct of your legal residence.

## KNOW WHERE TO VOTE BEFORE YOU GO

To locate your polling place visit [www.votesjc.gov](http://www.votesjc.gov) or call the Elections Office at 904-823-2238.

# School board candidates share thoughts during forum

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition recently held a forum for school board candidates running in the Aug. 23 primary election.

Each candidate running was invited, but only six showed up to take part, including Racheal Marie Hand and Nancy Tray in district 1, Rita Baldwin and Douglas Anthony Russo in district 3 and Kelly Barrera and Yvonne Marianne Lockbaum in district 4.

Each school board candidate was given three minutes to speak, and they took time answering a bevy of designated questions from a moderator.

When it comes to school safety, Barrera, who is running to keep her seat on the board, informed those in attendance that safety measures are currently in place and strides are being made all the time.

“Every school staff member will now have a badge and can click if a situation arises and law enforcement will be on sight,” Barrera said.

Other things she said the board has “beefed up” include creating single points of entry into the school, background checks and updating locks on the doors.

Several candidates pointed out portable classrooms and how they are continuing to increase but questioned how safe they are in the event of an active shooter situation.

“There are over 530 portable classrooms in the county,” Hand said.

“Portable classrooms are supposed to be temporary until the brick and mortar of a school building is addressed,” Lockbaum said.

Lockbaum advocated for the “Guardian Program” to be put in place, which would mean school staff would be trained and armed to help act quickly if an active shooter situation occurs.

When asked about the half-cent sales tax revenue, Tray said she believes the tax has benefited the schools and believes it could help with school expansion projects.

She feels that since the millage rate

was cut, the sales tax was necessary.

“Three schools are going to be built in the next two years, all K-8,” Barrera said. “The sales tax was instrumental in making that happen.”

The reading materials chosen to be read to students in schools was also discussed.

“We should err on the side of caution when it comes to choosing what books are going in our schools,” Baldwin said. “We need a specific board of parents to evaluate the book selection process.”

Hand was all for making sure parents had a place on the board, because she feels that is something that is currently missing.

She agreed that the books schools are choosing should include a deeper look into whether they are acceptable for all types of families.

“These are conversations that happen at different times in life and can be cultural for some families,” Hand said. “It’s just a matter of accepting those family’s values. I have heard so many parents during this process that just want to be heard,” Hand said.

Barrera stated that she made three motions against the books that have been in question during recent school board meetings.

Russo’s solution for the issue of over-

crowding in schools is to put the burden back on the developers by making them pay for the construction of schools and libraries.

Hand believed that the board should be exploring ways to make developers pay at least a portion that it takes to help build schools, especially since they use the area and the great school system as a marketing tool.

“The bureaucratic process is just not working,” Lockbaum said. “This has just been poor planning.”



**Faith & Allegiance to the Constitution**

Raised in a military family, Casey Woolsey knows what it means to protect the Constitution and do one's duty to Country. As County Judge, Casey Woolsey will bring those same values to the bench.

Meet Casey

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**CASEY WOOLSEY**

**FOR COUNTY COURT JUDGE**

Paid by Casey Woolsey for St. Johns County Court Judge Group 2

## SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER (DISTRICT 4)



**KELLY BARRERA**

Kelly Barrera represents District 4 on the St. Johns County School Board. Her background includes business, government and education along with civic leadership. She served as chairman and treasurer during her time as an elected public servant of the St. Johns County-St. Augustine Airport Authority. Her education experience includes corporate training, safety education and instructing post-secondary courses.

Barrera has been active in her children’s schools, sports and extracurricular activities. She has volunteered on various boards and organizations in the county.

She holds a Bachelor’s degree from Jacksonville University’s Davis College of Business. She earned her Master’s degree in aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.



**YVONNE LOCKBAUM**

I am a proactive patriot running for School Board District 4 in St. Johns County. I am a retired naval officer and school teacher who will bring the necessary leadership and decision making skills to the board. I have been married to my husband George for over 35 years. I am very proud of my three grown children. My son is on active duty, as a helicopter pilot in the U.S. Navy. I have also recently become a grandmother. I am honored to be endorsed by Moms For Liberty. I

aim to bring back parental rights and academic rigor.

## COUNTY COMMISSIONER (DISTRICT 2)



### SARAH ARNOLD

Appointed by Gov. Ron DeSantis in 2021, Sarah Arnold serves on the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners representing District 2.

She serves on the boards of the Dream Big! Foundation and the Child Guidance Center of Jacksonville. She is also a member of the Rotary Club of St. Johns and volunteers with Armstrong Meal Distribution, Read for the Record, and Learn to Read. She previously served as the director of resource development for the

United Way of St. Johns County.

A lifelong Floridian, Arnold and her husband, Casey, raise their four children in District 2 and are active parishioners of Crosswater Community Church.



### NELSON D. "DAVY" CLINE

Nelson D. "Davy" Cline is a lifelong resident with more than four generations of family in St. Johns County. He is a wildlife tech at Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). He graduated from St. Augustine High School in 1995, and soon after married his high school sweetheart, Lynn. They have been married more than 25 years and have two children,

Austin and Miranda.

In 2018, he was recognized by the FWC for assisting with response-and-recovery efforts during hurricanes Matthew and Irma. Other certifications he has received are numerous FEMA independent study courses, Certified Prescribed Burning Manager and Fighter Fire Type I Training.



### JOHNNY COE COUNTS

Johnny Coe Counts is a seventh generation North Floridian and has been married for 31 years to his wife, Gina. They have two sons, two daughters and two granddaughters. His family's ranch operations have focused on beef cattle, farms and timber in Cracker Swamp just south of Hastings. Counts has been a small business owner for 34 years.

"I am the only candidate to have a vested interest in representing the rural agricultural industry of District 2 to help preserve the history and heritage of our most important economical resource and sustainability of our society," he said.

Counts identifies himself as a Christian, constitutionalist, conservative and republican.



### CHUCK LABANOWSKI

Chuck Labanowski is a former U.S. Marine who was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal and four other commendations. He also worked for Navy Intelligence and handled classified material at the Pentagon. He graduated from the Citizen Law Enforcement Academy and is a volunteer with the Sheriff's Office. He has managed budgets and property on the 959-home Trumbull Creek CDD Board. He also serves on the Murabella Architectural Review Board and its HOA Board.



### LASHAWNDA PINKNEY

LaShawnda Pinkney was born and raised in St. Augustine and is the mother of five adult children. She received a BA in criminal justice and MS in criminal justice and is currently a human resources generalist for the City of St. Augustine.

She belongs to American Legion Auxiliary 194, the West Augustine Improvement Association and the West Augustine CRA Steering Committee.

Pinkney said she is committed to serving; she has played a key role in the West Augustine Keep Calm and Walk for Cancer.

She said she opposes the sales tax increase and overdevelopment. She supports veterans and first responders, as well as jobs.

### WRITE-IN

Graham Kellar McGee is a write-in candidate for District 2 County Commissioner.

## OCEANFRONT CONDO IN SPINNAKERS REACH

A rare find on the ocean in Sawgrass with spacious living in the gated community of Sawgrass Country Club! Spectacular 1st floor condo that has the only elevator in Spinnakers 1 from the garage to the first floor! Completely renovated with stunning details & designer finishes. Magnificent ocean views from every room. Experience a spacious, sophisticated & beautifully designed condo in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach. This first floor condo is warm & inviting with 2523sf, 3BR, 3BA with the upstairs master & ocean views! Offered for \$2,985,100.



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## A+ Schools for St. Johns Students

Keep St. Johns County Schools # 1 in Florida



See Kelly's Record ▶



**Kelly Barrera**  
ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Empowering Parents in their  
Children's Education



Candidates line the inside of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall during the Politics St. Johns event July 27.



Political signs lined near the entrance of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

Photos by Anthony Richards

# Chamber hosts Politics St. Johns event in Ponte Vedra

By Anthony Richards

Political candidates running in this year's election were given the opportunity to spread their messages and interact with residents during the Politics St. Johns event at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall July 27.

The event was hosted by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and was something that according to Chamber president/CEO Isabella Renault, was started more than a decade ago and has become a tradition each election cycle.

"As a Chamber, we feel like we have a



Mara Macie.



Michelle Cash-Chapman.



Yvonne Lockbaum.

responsibility to put on a platform for our residents and local businesses to meet the candidates before they start casting their votes," Renault said. "Our mission is education and informing our residents."

The event was unique from other political outings that typically take place because each candidate had the ability to set up a table and residents can freely move and visit them.

"We're really happy with the turnout, and

EVENT continues on Page 23

**30+ CANDIDATES REGISTERED!**

# ST. JOHNS

The Primary Election is August 23. The General Election is Nov. 8.

## Do you know who you're voting for?

Meet the candidates running for local and state office.

## Politics in St. Johns **St. Augustine**

### August 11, 2022

**Solomon Calhoun Center**

**1300 Duval St. St. Augustine, FL 32084 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

This free event is open to the public. For more information, please visit [www.sjcchamber.com](http://www.sjcchamber.com)





Martha Gleason and company.



Suzanne Green.



Krista Keating-Joseph.



Trish Becker.



Gary Howell.



Chuck Labanowski.

## Event

Continued from 22

the candidates seem to be really happy meeting the people as well," Renault said. "It's also non-partisan, so everybody that's running for office was invited to come and take part."

As a result, there was a more casual feel in the air as opposed to a forum or debate setting.

"It's kind of like an expo feel to it," Renault said. "It's really just a meet and greet."

Attendees were able to move freely from one table to the next and hold conversations with the candidates naturally.

"You can just walk around and ask questions face-to-face," Renault said. "This is also a great platform for anyone who is new to Florida or St. Johns County to understand a little better about why certain decisions are made. You can ask really specific questions and likely get the answer you want in a setting like this."

Food trucks were also on hand so that people could have something to eat as they made the rounds.

The last Politics St. Johns event held at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall was in 2018, after doing the event virtually during the pandemic.



Photos by Anthony Richards  
Casey Woolsey and family.



Jamie Topp and Dennis Clarke.



LaShawnda Pinkney.



## Once again, Gerry James stands alone as the best candidate for Florida Senate, District 7.

Why does Travis Hutson - the poster child for runaway development - keep running away from a debate with Gerry? Hutson's excuse for standing up hundreds of constituents on August 4th at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall was that he had to attend a fundraiser with "prominent leaders." Gerry considers voters to be the most prominent leaders of all, and that's who he'll represent in Tallahassee. He continues to offer to debate Senator Hutson, "anytime anywhere, live."

[Gerry4Senate.com](http://Gerry4Senate.com)



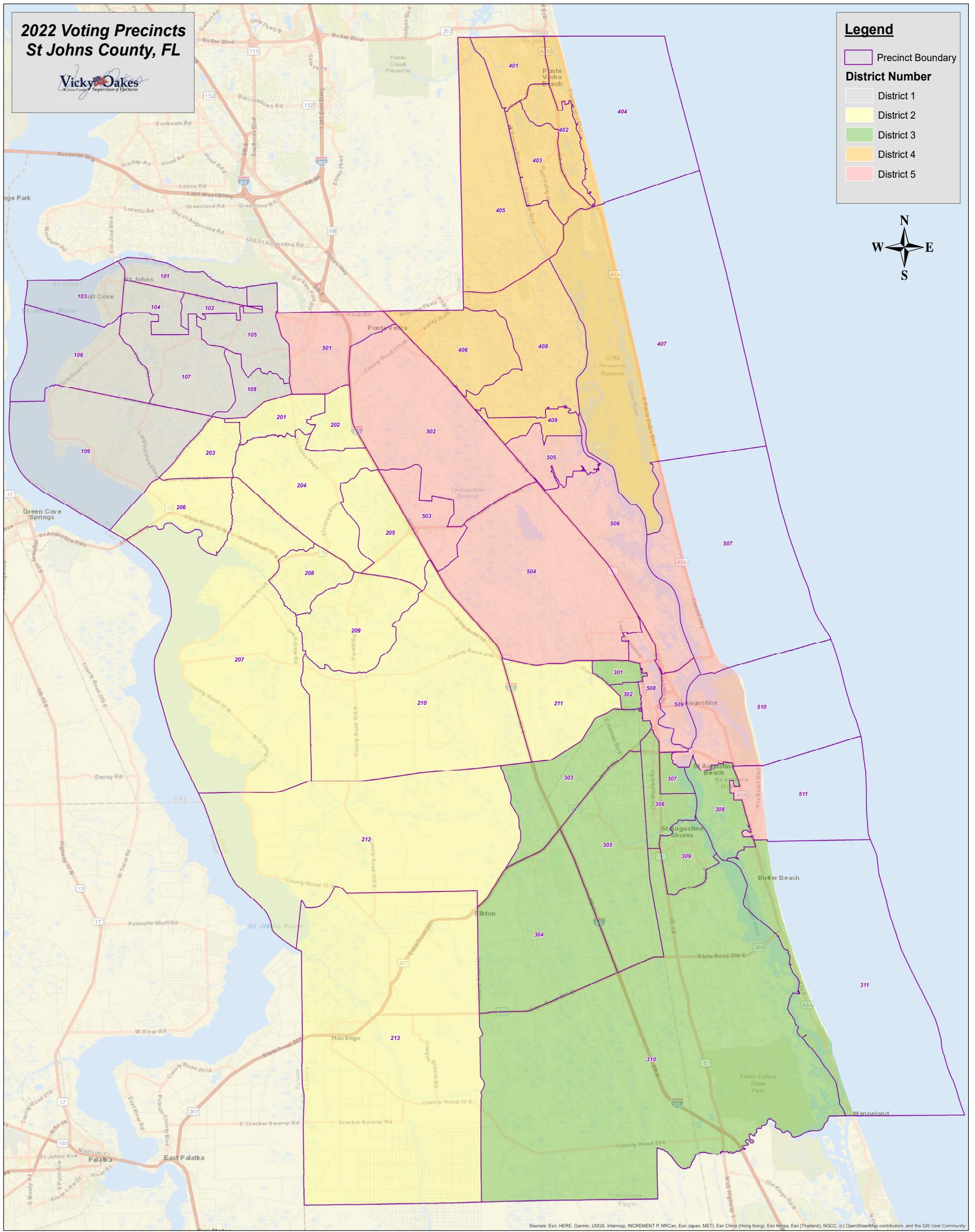
Paid political advertisement paid for by We The People Elect Patriots PAC, 1317 Edgewater Dr. #6177 Orlando, FL 32804 independently of any candidate.

### 2022 Voting Precincts St Johns County, FL



**Legend**

- Precinct Boundary
- District 1
- District 2
- District 3
- District 4
- District 5



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

## SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER (DISTRICT 1)



### BEVERLY SLOUGH

Beverly Slough, chair of the St. Johns County School Board, was first elected in 2002.

As past president of the Florida School Boards Association, Slough is an active advocate for excellence in education throughout the state and on the federal level. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Stephen F. Austin State University.

In addition to her duties with the School Board, Slough is involved in several community organizations. She serves on the United Way Florida board and is vice chair of Florida School Boards Insurance Trust. Locally, she is chair of the board of United Way St. Johns and serves as a Take Stock in Children mentor.



### NANCY TRAY

Nancy Tray majored in social work and sociology as an undergrad and went on to study macro social work in graduate school, earning her MSW. She worked in Washington, D.C., for nonprofits dedicated to affordable housing issues and was a domestic violence counselor on nights and weekends. She also went on to earn a degree in nursing and to work as a hospital RN.

She's always been involved with her kids' schools through PTOs, volunteering, organizing clubs and helping out in their classrooms. Like many families in the area, her family came to St. Johns County in a large part for the top-rated schools.



### RACHEAL HAND

Racheal Hand has been happily married for 10 years and is a mother to two boys. In 2007, she earned her Bachelor's degree in economics with a specialization in business.

As she writes on her website, "Growing up, I witnessed my parents fulfill the American Dream. As a Hispanic woman, statistics would suggest there was a certain path for me. I'm proud to say how I was raised, which was due to hard work and perseverance, you can achieve what you want in life. ... As a parent and advocate for our children, I am determined to empower our kids to learn and live those same values."

## SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER (DISTRICT 3)



### LAUREN ABELL

Lauren Abell is seeking election as the School Board member for District 3. She has been principal for Florida Virtual School, assistant principal at Bartram Trail High School and Gamble Rogers Middle School, director for professional development and coordinator for employee evaluations for the St. Johns County School District, a school counselor at Gamble Rogers Middle School and a school social worker for the district.

She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology at the University of Florida and a Master of education degree at University of North Florida.

She is certified by the Florida Department of Education certification in educational leadership, Exceptional Student Education and guidance and counseling.



### RITA BALDWIN

Rita Baldwin is a married homeschool mother of two and a Florida native.

"I'm not a politician," she writes on her website. "... I'm just a normal, American mom who loves Liberty and the founding principles of this country."

In 2020, Baldwin became closely involved with local government, working to ensure that the people of Florida kept their freedoms and liberty during the periods of school closures, lockdowns, mask hysteria and general disarray.

As her involvement in the St. Johns County Republican Party deepened, she realized the need for stronger involvement and leadership in the local school system and decided to run for office.



### JENNIFER COLLINS

Jennifer Collins is a longtime resident of St. Johns County and was active in the education of her five children. In addition to operating a local small business, she has taught at Showtime USA since 1991 and was an active volunteer at Hastings Elementary, Hartley Elementary, Osceola Elementary and Pedro Menendez High School. Collins and her husband, Stephen, are grandparents with a set of twin granddaughters on the way. A graduate of Ricks

College, Collins and her family are active in their church where she has volunteered as the children's church chorister and teacher.

### DOUGLAS ANTHONY RUSSO

Douglas Anthony Russo did not provide information for this guide.

**YOUR VOTE**  
Counts

**SARAH ARNOLD**  
COUNTY COMMISSION



APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR DESANTIS

MEET SARAH



**THE RIGHT PATH  
FOR ST. JOHNS COUNTY**



Paid for by Sarah Arnold, Republican, for St. Johns County Commission, District 2.

# Kelly Barrera

ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As your District 4 School Board representative, I truly enjoy the opportunity to serve our students, parents, teachers, staff and community.

Since first being elected in 2014, I have fought for and championed the issues that are critical to creating a safe, supportive and successful educational environment for our children.

When our schools became overcrowded, I fought to open new schools and expand existing ones.

When schools in our state and across the nation became targets for violence, I worked to strengthen security while providing students with access to mental health resources.

I have also fought to recruit and retain talented teachers, expand vocational education programs and increase parental involvement in our schools.

Despite the challenges posed by COVID 19 and continued growth, we have achieved great success over the past four years. Our school district has expanded college credit offerings as well as workforce and career opportunities. We have raised our graduation rates. We have increased local partnerships, programs and support services.

Most importantly, we have continued to be an A+ rated school district, leading the entire state of Florida in academic success.

But while we have achieved much success and overcome many challenges, much remains to be done. With the challenges of the pandemic, supply and labor shortages and continued population growth, it is imperative to have experienced leaders advocating for our students.

Make no mistake: The leadership of our school district directly affects the quality of our schools. With 48,000 students and a \$443 million budget, the St. Johns County Schools need qualified, experienced leaders who are willing to invest their time, energy, values and heart in the hard work of keeping them the best in the state. I am that leader!

I am running for re-election to continue the success we have achieved, serving as the bridge for our families, teachers and schools and to ensure their voices are heard. My personal commitment to our children is to help all students find success.

I am passionate about education and children. I believe education equals opportunity for every student and family in St. Johns County. **The stronger our educational system, the stronger our community.**

Together, we can give our students the opportunity to become the best citizens they can be! I ask that you consider me your candidate of choice and would appreciate your vote on August 23.

Sincerely,

*Kelly Barrera*

[www.KellyBarrera.com](http://www.KellyBarrera.com)  
(for more information and voting record)

“ Kelly Barrera is a leading advocate for parents rights and will continue to make sure their voices are heard. We support her wholeheartedly!”

- Dr. Ron Renuart and Tamara Renuart

“ I support Kelly Barrera because she supports The DeSantis Education Agenda, which is “a student-first, parent-centered” initiative focused on setting Florida’s children up for success.”

- Pam Shore

“ Kelly has been a devoted and strong advocate for our children, parents, teachers and community.”

- State Representative Paul Renner

“ I am voting to re-elect Kelly Barrera for our School Board in District 4. Kelly has kept our schools on a steady course through difficult times in the past two years. She has the knowledge and discernment to help St. Johns County continue as the number 1 school district in Florida.”

- Janet Westling

“ I’ve witnessed first hand my mom’s dedication as our school board representative and as an advocate for students, teachers and families. Her passion for education drives her mission to strive for the best learning environments for our district.”

- Lyndsay Barrera

We, the undersigned, are just the beginning of the legions of KELLY BARRERA supporters in St. Johns County, Florida.

We urge you to join us and vote August 23rd for Kelly Barrera for St. Johns County School Board.

- |                    |                     |                    |                 |                  |                        |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Pam Shore          | Tamara Renuart      | Elizabeth Hagy     | Deb Pettry      | Shelley Morgan   | Nancy Russell          |
| Janet Westling     | Devon Witt          | Nancy Layden       | Marsha Keller   | David Logue      | Deborah Blanton        |
| Andy Scott         | Lori Crunden        | Derrick Fisher     | Roy Alaimo      | Jennifer Logue   | Susan Knapp            |
| Kim Scott          | Jim Crunden         | Silvia Nett Fisher | Lisa Barton     | Karen Everett    | Kenneth LaPointe       |
| Lynn Gabrielsen    | Vicki Pappas        | Alyce Decker       | Melissa Roland  | Susan Griffin    | Claire LaPointe        |
| Amy Harris         | Kelly Whitaker      | Molly Thompson     | Larry Roland    | Lana Mason       | Will Hurley            |
| Jennifer Singleton | Toni Crawford       | Joe Bryant         | Will Montoya    | Opal Poole       | Rhonda M. Hurley       |
| Tabita Gatewood    | David Johnson       | Gerri Garcia       | Leslie Montoya  | Emily Parry      | Julie Clairmont        |
| Hal Gatewood       | Katie Johnson       | Enrique Flores     | Laurel Bradshaw | Hunter Parry     | Hasting Williams       |
| Lisa Sandifer      | Jeanie Leapley      | Missy Vanover      | Kelley Bost     | Missy Shore      | Jacqueline P. Williams |
| Lori Regner        | Christy Waldenmaier | Gary Vanover       | Billy Kratzert  | Brandon Shore    | Kacey Roache           |
| Art Lancaster      | Craig Waldenmaier   | Robin Conn         | Janie Kratzert  | Clare Bobbitt    | Lynn Layton            |
| Anita Lancaster    | Colin Barrera       | Jeff Conn          | Carroll Miniard | Harrison Bobbitt | Glenn Layton           |
| Monica Costantino  | Harley Barrera      | Paige Weiland      | Don Miniard     | Geri Price       | Deb Chapin             |
| Debbie Leitman     | Debbie Plotts       | Brad Weiland       | Regina Sanders  | Gil Barrera      | JT Cooper              |
| Tina Schwartz      | Martha Gleason      | Lisa Miles         | Clete Sanders   | Lyndsay Barrera  | Valerie Cooper         |
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# The importance of brushing and flossing

Brushing and flossing ensures the removal of plaque and bacteria, which are culprits in tooth decay and gum disease. Periodontal disease is caused by a buildup of such bacteria and plaque. Brushing removes materials from the surface of the teeth, while floss gets in between teeth where toothbrush bristles cannot reach. The American Dental Association says that a combination of brushing and flossing is the key to good oral health. While both brushing and flossing are necessary, some oral health experts say that, if done correctly, flossing actually may be slightly more important since it gets to

hard-to-reach spots where the most destructive microbes live.

Oral hygiene does not just keep the mouth clean; it also can prevent serious disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says extensive research shows that the bacteria that flourish in an unhealthy mouth can harm the rest of the body, potentially contributing to diabetes, respiratory illness and heart disease, which is the leading cause of death in the United States.

Brushing and flossing also can make dental cleanings and examinations go smoothly.

Plaque is the precursor to tartar and is sticky, but soft and pliable. Tartar forms when plaque has been left undisturbed. Once on teeth, tartar can't be removed without professional help. By removing plaque before it's had a chance to harden into tartar, people can reduce time spent in the dentist's chair. Furthermore, those who clean their teeth and gums regularly will have a lower risk for gingivitis, which is inflammation and bleeding in the gums.

Flossing and brushing are important components of oral hygiene and also are vital to overall health.



## 9 COMMON CAUSES OF TOOTHACHES

Toothaches run the gamut from mild to throbbing to unbearably painful. Toothaches may be temporary, but many persist for some time. Here's a look at nine reasons for toothaches.

• **Orthodontic appliances:** A common cause of discomfort, orthodontic devices can cause toothaches. The pain is most noticeable immediately after an adjustment, but it may ease as the mouth grows accustomed to the wires or pressure.

• **Tooth sensitivity:** Despite being hard, teeth actually are porous. Certain conditions may cause the enamel on the outside of teeth to wear away. Exposure

of the inner layer of the tooth, called dentin, to the air or foods and beverages may result in pain.

• **Sinus congestion:** Sometimes teeth aren't to blame for mouth pain. Pain that persists in the upper teeth only on both sides of the face may occur due to sinusitis. It often is preceded by nasal congestion.

• **TMJ:** Temporomandibular disorders can cause tooth pain. TMJ may result from injury or trauma to the jaw. Tooth grinding, also known as bruxism, can cause tooth pain.

• **Impacted wisdom teeth:** Wisdom

teeth are a dental milestone that takes place between the ages of 17 and 21. Wisdom teeth actually are third molars, and are given the name because they come in at a mature age, according to the American Dental Association. If there isn't enough space for them, wisdom teeth can cause crowding and pain. When molars do not fully erupt, the result is impacted wisdom teeth, which can be very painful.

• **Damaged fillings or dental sealants:** When fillings or sealants come out, vulnerable parts of the teeth become exposed. This can result in pain.

• **Tooth damage:** Dental caries, or cavities, can cause toothache, as can tooth abscesses and tooth fractures.

• **Gum disease:** Gum disease may start with mild inflammation and then become more severe if it is left untreated. The inflammation also may affect the ligament that attaches teeth to the socket in the jaw. This ligament has many nerve fibers. When inflamed, the nerves can get fired up and cause pain.

• **Food:** A kernel of popcorn wedged between teeth or a sharp piece of pizza crust that gets lodged behind a molar can cause pain if not addressed.

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# Joy Vision Acupuncture seeks to open eyes with new location



Dr. Erica Joy Siegel

**By Anthony Richards**

Joy Vision Acupuncture opened its doors on July 18 after moving to the area last year.

For 15 years prior to that owner Dr. Erica Joy Siegel had her practice in Indianapolis, which was known as Indy Acupuncture & Health Services and Indy Downtown Community Acupuncture.

However, she took advantage of the opportunity to start a new practice and specialize in an effective acupuncture protocol designed to help heal the eyes.

“It is a wonderful adjunct therapy and complement to conventional medical treatment for the eyes,” Siegel said. “The needles do not go in the eyes, ever. The points are in the limbs and brow.”

According to Siegel, that is a common question she receives from patients when they first hear about vision acupuncture.

The idea to go in this direction with her business came about several years ago when a patient with a genetic, deteriorating eye disease requested that she travel to learn the Acunova Protocol.

So, always looking to learn more about



the many aspects of her field, she did and gained a new appreciation for the process.

“Dr. Boel, the creator of the Acunova Protocol, was named ‘Acupuncturist of the Century’ by an international congress for this discovery,” Siegel said. “Before I learned the protocol, she (the patient) would travel once a year for a maintenance week to have this protocol done to help slow her deterioration. Not many acupuncturists in the U.S.A. are trained in this unique protocol, as it was developed in Denmark.”

The protocol consists of daily treatments for two weeks, excluding weekends. Patients spend two hours at the clinic daily.

“Our mission is to transform lives by improving vision and helping slow the disease processes that cause blindness,” Siegel said. “Eventually, we would like to build a fund or receive grants to help people struggling financially to have the Acunova Protocol done. We are the only practice in the Southeast U.S.A. specializing in the Acunova Protocol.”

Having only been in business for less than a month, Siegel currently has just one employee on staff in the form of practice manager Heather Howard.

Other than the Acunova Protocol (acupuncture for eye disease), there are many other services Joy Vision offers, including traditional acupuncture, cupping, supplements (Premier Research Labs) and herbal consults.

“Our patients are primarily looking for help with a variety of vision issues,

**JOY VISION** continues on **Page 29**



## OUR MISSION IS TO SAVE PEOPLE'S VISION

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# Can the sun cause cataracts?

By **S. Akbar Hasan, M.D.**,

Florida Eye Specialists



**S. Akbar Hasan, M.D.**

Protecting your eyes from the sun is essential, especially during the summer when UV rays are strongest. The World Health Organization estimates that up to 20% of cataracts worldwide may be caused by overexposure to UV radiation. Additional research has found links between UV exposure and the formation of other chronic eye conditions, including cataracts and skin cancers around the eye.

Learn how to protect your vision and help prevent the early development of cataracts with the tips below. Cataracts are a normal part of aging, but with so many treatment options, they don't have to get in the way of doing the things you love.

## How UV Rays Affect Your Vision

UVA and UVB radiation are known to damage nearly all body parts, but they can be especially harmful to your vision. Ocular damage from UV rays is irreversible and can result in conditions like macular degeneration, cataracts, corneal damage and more.

Given that our eyelids consist of the thinnest skin on our bodies, UV damage can also result in dryness, wrinkles and pigmentation damage around the eye. In addition, conditions like age-related macular degeneration are a leading cause of blindness for Americans over age 55. Unfortunately, there is no cure for these damaging impacts, so it is important to be aware of ways to protect your eyes from the sun as soon as possible.

## UV Rays and Cataracts

Overexposure to UV radiation increases the risk of developing cataracts, which impacts the eye's ability to focus on light. Cataracts are the leading cause of vision loss in the United States and consist of a clouding of the normally clear lens of the eye.

In the early stages of cataract development, the condition is hard to notice. However, as you age, cataract symptoms can impact your daily life and ability to do the things you love. They may make it harder to see or drive at night or cause symptoms like blurry vision, double vision or extreme sensitivity to glare and light.

## Tips to Protect Your Vision This Summer

The first step to lowering risk is wearing UV-blocking sunglasses and brimmed

hats. Consider wrap-around sunglasses to protect your peripheral vision and prevent possible glare as well. Make sure to check that your sunglasses are rated with UVA/UVB protection.

The sun's strongest points of the day are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., so avoid prolonged exposure to UV rays during this time. Always wear sunscreen and reapply regularly. Be sure to practice these tips year-round, as UV damage to the eyes can occur outside of the summer months — especially here in Florida, where the sun is always shining.

## Don't Skip Your Annual Eye Exam

One of the best ways to protect your sight is to schedule an annual eye exam with your eye doctor. They can ensure that your eyes stay healthy and identify any complications at their earliest stages. If you suspect that you may be suffering from cataracts or UV damage, schedule an appointment today.

**S. Akbar Hasan, M.D., is a Ponte Vedra Beach resident and ophthalmologist at Florida Eye Specialists. For more information on Dr. Hasan and his specialty treating cataracts, visit [FloridaEyeSpecialists.com](http://FloridaEyeSpecialists.com) or call 904-780-9690.**

## Joy Vision

Continued from 28

such as macular degeneration and glaucoma," Seigel said. "Research has shown the Acunova Protocol is also very effective for chronic and acute pain conditions. Acunova works via regulating the brain and thus can have widespread influence throughout the body."

According to Siegel, the clinic is spacious yet cozy and the treatment rooms have recliners to relax in during the sessions, which most patients take advantage of by going into deep relaxation or taking a nap during treatments.

"We pride ourselves on being warm, friendly and accommodating," Siegel said. "We want people to feel like they're at home."

Joy Vision Acupuncture is located at 1106 A1A N., Suite 201A in Ponte Vedra Beach. It is part of the Mickler's Landing Shopping Center, in the two-story office building behind Sandwich Man and just one block from Mickler's Beach.

For more information, email [contact@Joyvisionacu.com](mailto:contact@Joyvisionacu.com) or call 904-604-7608. Joy Vision Acupuncture is also on the social media platforms of Linked In, Facebook and Nextdoor.



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Photo provided by THE PLAYERS Championship

A \$25,000 grant to Episcopal Children's Services from THE PLAYERS Championship supports the organization's Outdoor Play and Learning Project.

## Episcopal Children's Services receives \$25K from PLAYERS Championship

THE PLAYERS Championship has awarded Episcopal Children's Services a grant to support the organization's Outdoor Play and Learning Project. This grant of \$25,000 will fund the outdoor project at one of the organization's Early Head Start centers in Northwest Jacksonville.

The center is located in the heart of one of the most challenging areas of

Northwest Jacksonville, where more than 40% of the population earns less than the federal poverty level and the crime rate is among the highest in the city.

Despite these disadvantages, children and families deserve the high-quality early education offered by Episcopal Children's Services so they can enter school ready to learn and succeed.

**EPISCOPAL** continues on Page 31



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# Rendzio, Smith elected to Betty Griffin Center board

Bryan Rendzio and Yanetta Smith have been elected to the Betty Griffin Center Board of Directors.

Renzio, an attorney and partner as Ansbacher Law, is an arbitrator and mediator. He previously served as a circuit court judge for the State of Florida on the Seventh Judicial Circuit. A board-certified construction lawyer, Rendzio was previously selected for inclusion in Super Lawyers magazine beginning in 2010 for construction litigation. He received his Juris Doctor degree from the Florida Coastal School of Law in 2001 and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Florida State University in 1998.

Smith is dean of students at Pedro Menendez High School in St. Augustine, where she has worked for 16 years. A long-time member of the community, Smith graduated from St. Augustine High School and received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. and has mentored for Take Stock in Children for two decades. She is also the inaugural recipient of “Be the Sun not the Salt, Positive Energizer Community Award” sponsored by Bozard Ford and Cox Media Group.



Bryan Rendzio



Yanetta Smith

“We are honored to have Bryan and Yanetta join our board,” said Betty Griffin Center CEO Kelly Franklin. “They both are committed to making our community safer for everyone.”

The board also elected new board officers for the 2022-23 terms, including:

- Jayne G. Evans, a long-time marketing and communications specialist in both the for-profit and nonprofit sectors, was elected as board chair. Evans is currently the executive officer for consulting firm Heart Touch. Evans previously worked locally as marketing director with Wounded Warriors.

- Michelle Wilcox, the executive director of Steele Dynamics, which provides virtual and on-site consulting, was elected vice chair of the board.

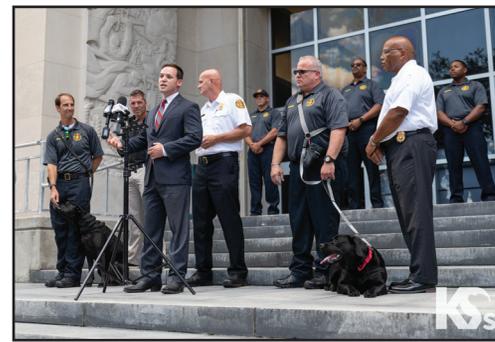
• Lori Brandel, the vice president at VyStar’s St. Augustine North Branch, was elected board treasurer.

• Carolyn Mudgette, the owner of social media and business development agency Easy SociAbility, was elected board secretary.

“Our newly elected board officers for the coming year have the talent and knowledge to strategically guide Betty Griffin Center as our county continues to grow at a rapid pace,” Franklin said.



Gunner



K-9s For Warriors recently announced that it has donated two therapy dogs to the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department.

Contributed photos



Cash

## K9s For Warriors donates therapy dogs to Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department

K9s For Warriors, the nation’s largest provider of trained service dogs to military veterans, recently announced the donation of two therapy dogs, Gunner and Cash, to the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department through its Station Dog program.

As part of its mission, K9s For Warriors partners with law enforcement and first responder agencies to provide reliable, high-quality K9s that provide emotional support to law enforcement officers, firefighters, dispatchers, victims and others who are repeatedly exposed to traumatic events in the line of duty.

Both black labs, Gunner and Cash, are American Kennel Club-recognized therapy dogs. They become the 15th and 16th dogs to be adopted through K9s For Warriors’ Station Dog Program, respectively.

Station dogs ease emotional stress common in this line of public service. Station dogs are made up of retired service dogs or dogs that have received extensive training from professional trainers but were not quite cut out to be service dogs.

These dogs are not diverted from any military veterans in the K9s For Warriors program, and the departments receiving these station dogs are receiving them at no cost. The K9s For Warriors Station Dog Program is an American Kennel Club-

recognized therapy dog program.

“First responders are regularly exposed to traumatic events and stressors that have a similar impact to what we see our veterans experience on a daily basis,” said Rory Diamond, CEO of K9s For Warriors. “Our Station Dog Program’s main goal is to help mitigate stress and elevate emotional wellbeing through the level of companionship these dogs provide. We couldn’t be more thrilled to have station dogs Gunner and Cash working alongside members of JFRD’s peer support team to do just that for our local heroes.”

JFRD’s peer support team provides first responders with resources that help them better process the trauma and stressors they experience on the job. Gunner joins station no. 52 on 6130 Collins Road, and Cash joins station no. 71 at 325 2nd Ave. S. where they will be involved in their station’s peer support team.

“When our firefighters have been to a bad scene or are struggling with stress related to their job, Gunner and Cash provide comfort and companionship,” said JFRD Fire Chief Keith Powers. “They have the ability to sense distress, go up to those folks, help them relax and overcome that stress. They’re a very important part of our department.”

## Episcopal

Continued from 30

Outdoor play is just as important as indoor learning and activities, as both are an integral part of early learning and development. This donation allows the center to have an infant/toddler play area specifically designed to encourage the physical, emotional, creative and mental development of infants and toddlers, as well as integrating art, music and nature experiences that build gross and fine motor skills.

Because the children who attend Episcopal Children’s Services often live in unsafe neighborhoods, many only experience the joy of outdoor play when they are at the Early Head Start center.

“We are delighted to partner with THE PLAYERS, an organization that has been supportive of our mission for many years,” said Connie Stophel, chief executive officer of Episcopal Children’s Services. “This generous grant and investment in our community will no doubt improve the lives of the vulnerable young children and families we work so hard to serve. We could not be more thankful.”

“THE PLAYERS is so honored to support the development of this play area,” said Jared Rice, executive director of THE PLAYERS. “Everything we do as a championship goes back to using our platform to strengthen and improve lives, especially those in underserved areas, particularly our youth. When we heard about this need to give more kids in our community the chance to experience the



Photos provided by THE PLAYERS Championship

joy and peace that come from free play, it was obvious we needed to get on board to support this important project. We have a special place in our heart for supporting youth and giving them the tools and resources to succeed, and we can’t wait to see this area come to life.”



# Business Weekly

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ThePVRecorder](https://www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder)

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2022

[www.PonteVedraRecorder.com](http://www.PonteVedraRecorder.com)

## 'Innovative, honest' approach to how projects are funded

### *Florida TaxWatch uses research with taxpayers in mind*

By Anthony Richards

Since 1979, Florida TaxWatch has been an independent nonpartisan and nonprofit research institute with the goal of looking out for the taxpayers of Florida.

The outfit takes pride in being a government watchdog and focusing on holding state leaders accountable for the financial decisions made with taxpayer money.

"It's the eyes and ears of the taxpayers," said Dominic Calabro, president/CEO of Florida TaxWatch. "We're a bird dog, watchdog and guide dog, but not a lap dog."

According to Calabro, the great thing about being around for 40-plus years, is there is not much that the organization

has not seen, especially as trends or the financial environment goes through ups and downs that have taken place before.

"There's great value in having an institution that has the consistency that very few, if any, other statewide organizations inside or outside of government have," Calabro said.

Florida TaxWatch initially served alongside Bob Graham during his tenure as Florida governor from 1979 to 1987 but has since worked with every governor that has held the position.

"We've worked with Democratic and Republican governors and House and Senate leaders, but most importantly, the business community and the citizens have got to have an organization they can trust," Calabro said. "We're not going to throw a punch and we're not going to pull a punch."

The data gathered by the organization is designed to provide a deep dive into projects taking place across the state, so that residents and policymakers can be

made aware of the possible consequences that could result from certain actions made.

"Usually, we try to catch them before decision is made, but even after the fact, it can always be corrected," Calabro said. "We've been really fortunate in doing that."

One of the unique things TaxWatch does is produce a yearly report it calls the "Turkey Watch," which focuses on raising questions and red flags about any taxpayer-funded projects that are not deemed to be smart spending or proper use of taxpayer money.

"Usually, the governor vetoes about 70% of the items on our list," Calabro said. "By doing the list, we don't lobby."

Over the years TaxWatch has branched out beyond just diving into the financials, but they also use their in-depth research to help pinpoint three elementary, three middle and three high school teachers in the state and recognize them for the job they've done with their principal leader-

ship awards program.

"We know that principals are so important to transforming and leading schools," Calabro said.

The process works similarly to how they explore project funding around the state, as the Department of Education provides data from all public schools and public charter schools, and it is taken and run through very sophisticated algorithms.

"There's nothing like it going on in Florida," Calabro said. "We are able to identify the top three principals at the elementary, middle and high school ranks across the state."

In addition to honoring the principals, they are also given between \$1,000 and \$5,000, all of which TaxWatch raises.

"We also help to start a scholarship fund for each school awarded, even at the elementary level," Calabro said. "It's an amazing thing, because just like everything we do, it's honest, constructive and innovative."

## Mayday celebrates grand opening at St. Augustine midtown location

On July 21, Mayday Handcrafted Ice Creams, a locally owned ice cream shop, celebrated the grand opening of its ninth location at Mayday Midtown, 1765 Tree Blvd., Unit 5, St. Augustine.

"We closed the original 312 location because it didn't have adequate seating to serve our customers," explained Stephen DiMare, owner of Mayday Handcrafted



Mayday Handcrafted Ice Creams offers a wide variety of flavors.

Ice Creams and its sister-company, Hyppo Gourmet Ice Pops. "In this newly-renovated location at midtown, we will have a huge selection of seating inside and outside on our brand new patio. And the outside is very pet friendly."

Mayday Handcrafted Ice Creams offers classic ice cream flavors with a modern twist such as Queen Salted Caramel, Cookie Crush, Triple Vanilla, Blueberry Toast Crunch, Mint Monster, Coffee + Donuts and Ice Box Lemon, as well as non-dairy options like Pistachio Moon, Almond Butter Chocolate and Strawberry Mint Sorbet.

The Mayday midtown location is open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

"Mayday has grown quite quickly in its first few years here, but in some ways our company has been ready for this movement because of our experience growing The Hyppo," said DiMare. "It's really exciting to be creating and serving a product that has resonated with so many



Contributed photo

The team at Mayday Handcrafted Ice Creams stands ready to serve some of the shop's iconic treats.

people. Mayday is all about the intersection of quality and fun. We combine the highest quality ingredients in ways that are fresh, whimsical and approachable. Ice cream is a long-standing tradition, so we want to make sure we have some-

thing to please the die-hard vanilla-only crowd as well as someone looking to be delighted by new and different flavors."

As for the future of Mayday, DiMare

# Benchmarks of Success

*A look at major career changes in the area.*



Meg Rose

## Rose new board chair of Junior Achievement of North Florida

Junior Achievement of North Florida has welcomed Meg Rose as its new chair of the board of directors.

Rose will serve in the position for a term of two years, which began July 1 and will run through June 30, 2024. Rose joined the JA of North Florida board in August 2018 and served on the executive commit-

tee as secretary from 2020 to 2022. She also served as the chair for the nonprofit's 2021 Smart Women Make Change event, an annual fundraiser to support the JA Girl\$ initiative.

Rose is the senior vice president of field operations for Firehouse Subs of America, where she oversees operations and compliance for the 1,225-unit restaurant chain. Rose joined the company in 2007 and has also served as a franchise business manager and director of company operations.

Rose attended the University of Rhode Island and earned a certified franchise ex-

ecutive designation from the International Franchise Association.



Sammie Janica

## Pineapple Corp. director of design achieves NCIDQ certification

The Pineapple Corp., a luxury design-build firm in Northeast Florida, has

announced that Sammie Janica, director of design, recently passed the National

Council for Interior Design Qualification (NCIDQ) examination and received her NCIDQ certification. The certification is recognized as the highest standard and benchmark of proficiency in interior design principles and a designer's commitment to the profession.

Janica joined The Pineapple Corp. as an interior designer in 2016. Her prior experience includes working in residential and commercial interior design settings.

She earned a bachelor's degree in interior design from The Art Institute of Jacksonville.

## Ponte Vedra Auto Show announces agreement with Topcoat Products

The Ponte Vedra Auto Show has announced that it has finalized a multi-year partnership agreement with TopCoat Products LLC. The agreement will position TopCoat as the Presenting Partner of the 20th Annual Ponte Vedra Auto Show in November at the Nocatee Station Event Field.

TopCoat has been a partner of the Auto Show for many years, so organizers say it is a perfect fit to lead the highly anticipated anniversary event.

TopCoat car care products are made in the United States at the company's headquarters in Green Cove Springs. TopCoat is a favorite of the automotive enthusiast community here locally, across the country and worldwide with more than one million satisfied customers.

"We are really excited to partner with the Ponte Vedra Auto Show at their very special 20th anniversary event," said Scott Smith, CEO and founder of TopCoat Products LLC. "We are planning several amazing surprises for the show participants and the spectators. This will be a lot of fun; don't miss it!"

The Ponte Vedra Auto Show has been

embraced by the community as one of the premier automotive events in Northeast Florida, attracting thousands of spectators each year.

"We are grateful to have TopCoat returning as the Presenting Partner for our 20th anniversary edition of the Auto Show," said Justin Felker, president of the Ponte Vedra Auto Show. "Our multi-year partnership agreement will allow us to focus on improving the event for our participants, spectators and vendors. It's a win for everyone involved."

The show takes place in a family-friendly environment that allows the automotive hobby to be enjoyed by everyone of all ages, much in the same way that Felker became interested in automobiles with help from his father. The two opened Art 'n Motion, a collector car showroom on San Marco Avenue in Saint Augustine.

The 20th Ponte Vedra Auto Show will feature nearly 200 of the finest classic and modern collector cars, and their owners vying for prestigious awards in more than 25 professionally judged categories. The event will also include a wide variety

of food trucks and more than 20 product vendors, all locally owned businesses.

TopCoat Products LLC offers surface cleaning, polishing and coating products for automobiles, motorcycles, boats, recreational vehicles and more. The company has been leading the high-tech coatings industry for 35 years, with more than 15,000 five-star reviews. For further information, go to [topcoatproducts.com](http://topcoatproducts.com) or call 877-838-2672.

The 20th anniversary Ponte Vedra Auto Show will be held Nov. 13 at Nocatee

Station Event Field, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Spectator admission and parking are free. Go to [pvautoshow.com](http://pvautoshow.com) for more information.

All show car participants must pre-register in order to participate in the show, judging and awards ceremony. Registration for the first 125 show cars is on a first come-first serve basis, the remaining show car participants will be by invitation only. Go to [pvautoshow.com/register-your-car](http://pvautoshow.com/register-your-car) to register your show car.

## Mayday

Continued from 32

said he would love to see the brand continue to grow into new markets, bringing more people into the artisan ice cream experience

"Our mission is to create an environment for our customers to share their small triumphs, their sunny Saturdays, and even their gloomy afternoons," he said. "A great ice cream shop can really win the day!"

Mayday Handcrafted Ice Creams' locations include midtown St. Augustine, downtown St. Augustine, Lakeland, Jacksonville San Marco, Jacksonville Beach and Jacksonville Riverside. Mayday offers handcrafted ice creams and home-made delicacies such as sprinkles and



Contributed photo

## The new Mayday Handcrafted Ice Creams location offers plenty of outdoor seating.

waffle cones, as well as to-go pints.

Mayday also operates the Mayday Ice Cream Truck, available for residents to purchase handcrafted frozen treats throughout St. Johns, Duval, Hillsborough and Pinellas counties.

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# In the Arts



Send your arts news to  
news@pontevedrarecorder.com

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2022 • PAGE 34 www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Improv allows participants to expand their creativity.



Improv classes have been compared to “recess for adults.”

## Adventure Project kicks off season of improv classes and shows



Contributed photos

Amy Angelilli is founder and chief adventure officer of The Adventure Project.

Laughter, they say, is the best medicine. According to medical professionals, laughter increases circulation, aids in muscle relaxation, improves the immune system and can even relieve pain by causing the body to produce its own natural painkillers.

For Amy Angelilli, founder and chief adventure officer of The Adventure Project, helping her clients find the giggles, guffaws and chuckles in life is all part of a day’s work.

The Adventure Project kicks off its 2022-23 season Aug. 30 at Limelight Theatre in St. Augustine with various levels of improv classes for adults as well as monthly improv shows.

“Improv’s benefits go way beyond the theater’s stage and positively impact life’s stage,” Angelilli explained of the theater form performed without a script. “Improv enables us to be better versions of ourselves by increasing our emotional intelligence, enhancing our interpersonal and intra-personal skills, and giving us tools for better empathy, active listening, creative thinking and collaboration. Plus, it makes us more engaged and engaging — and, of course, fun.”

Originally from Philadelphia, Angelilli is a certified laughter yoga leader with 20 years of improv performing, teaching and facilitating experience. She has led teambuilding and training sessions in

various environments, including corporations, conferences and colleges. In 2016, Angelilli launched the once Denver-based The Adventure Project in St. Augustine, offering individuals and groups a blend of improvisation, laughter yoga and immersive, interactive play experiences.

“Improv for Adults elevated our education program at Limelight Theatre to include programming for all ages,” said Kristin Pidcock, director of education for the theater. “Her ‘yes, and’ approach to improv, and to life, makes her relatable, fun and easy to learn from. I am constantly impressed with the level of commitment from the students.”

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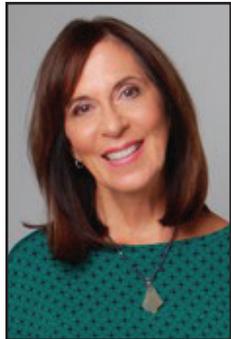


According to Amy Angelilli, improv helps to enhance interpersonal skills.



Two women participate in an improv session with The Adventure Project.

# Local author receives national recognition



Contributed photos  
Author Martha Louise

The 2022 Florida Authors and Publishers Association (FAPA) President's Book Awards has recognized "Adeline in a Gymnastics Jam" by Martha Louise in the category of Children — Grades 3-5 as a gold medal

winner.

Martha Louise — also known as Martha Womack — is a Ponte Vedra Beach resident and a retired school psychologist who worked in the St. Johns County School District for 21 years.

Hosted by the association, this prestigious national award is open to books published between 2020 and 2022. The judges for this national competition are librarians, educators and publishing professionals.

"The FAPA President's Book Award exists to promote excellence in the publishing industry by recognizing talented contemporary authors who put both heart and soul into their work," said Pat Stanford, a past president of the association. "FAPA is proud to be a champion of authors and publishers going the extra mile to produce books of excellence in every aspect."

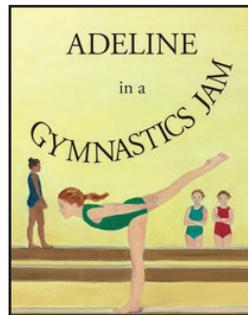
"Adeline in a Gymnastics Jam" is a preteen fiction published by Frey House Publishing. The plot follows a

kind-hearted, tween gymnast navigating unfriendly, cliquy behavior at a new competitive gymnasium.

Young readers are exposed to important life-lessons involving perseverance, the handling of challenges and the achievement of goals. The story highlights of empathy, compassion and resilience encourage readers to find their inner strength.

"We are proud to announce this year's winners who truly embody the excellence this award was created to celebrate," said FAPA's immediate past president, Renee Garrison. "Their works are representative of creative storytelling, bold concepts and innovative ideas, which make the President's Book Awards so well respected by librarians and those in the publishing industry. We salute all our winners for their fine work."

The Florida Authors and Publishers Association is an organization for authors, publishers, illustrators, editors, printers and other professionals involved in the publishing industry. It focuses on providing the highest quality of information, resources and professional development to members and others interested in the writing and publishing profession.



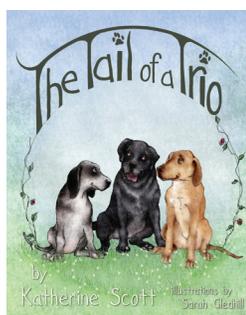
The book cover for "Adeline in a Gymnastics Jam" by Martha Louise.

# Local author's book tells story of therapy dog

Katherine Scott, a local author and therapist living in Ponte Vedra Beach, has announced the release of her book, "The 'Tail' of a Trio." It is to be published by Atmosphere Press.

The book has been compared to "The Invisible String" meets "The Worry Bug." It helps children learn to process their emotions, hold nonjudgmental space for others' experiences, develop a healthy relationship with their mental health and destigmatize therapy through the playful use of a therapy dog.

"The 'Tail' of a Trio" is based on a true story about a therapy pup and her



Contributed photo  
"The 'Tail' of a Trio"

genuine connection with two neighbor dogs. This whimsical story captures how Addie, the therapy dog, helped these pups heal from the adversity of abandonment and anxiety stemming from growing up in the pound.

The book is ideal for people who work with kids in a therapeutic setting, school counselors and parents who want to raise emotionally intelligent children.

According to one reader review: "Scott teaches the importance of patience and kindness and how this can transform your life and the lives of others."

For further information, go to [readersfavorite.com/book-review/the-tail-of-a-trio](http://readersfavorite.com/book-review/the-tail-of-a-trio).

## ON STAGE

A roundup of musical acts appearing before Sept. 12 at local venues

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Box office hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturdays. Tickets sold at the box office are available via credit- and debit-card only. A valid ID is required for all box office transactions and ticket purchases must be made in person.

Tickets may also be purchased at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

For further information about each act, go to [theamp.com/events](http://theamp.com/events).

• **Lee Brice** — With special guests Michael Ray and Jackson Dean. 7 p.m. Aug. 12.

• **Dispatch & O.A.R.** — With special guest G. Love. 7 p.m. Sept. 4.

• **Matisyahu** — 7:30 p.m. Sept. 9

• **Billy Currington** — With special guests Noah Guthrie and Matt Koziol. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 10.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan



Image from The Amp  
Matisyahu will perform Sept. 9 at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre

## CANVAS, STAGE AND MORE

### Exhibition of street artists coming to Jacksonville

Gallery 725 will present "Burner: A Group Exhibition of International Street Artists," from Sept. 14 through Oct. 12. An opening party is set for noon to 3 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Sept. 17. The receptions and exhibition are complimentary and open to the public with RSVPs strongly recommended.

The exhibit features works from globally renowned street artists Dalek, Banksy, Zero Gradient, Harry Bunce, KEF!, Pure Evil and others.

For information, go to [gallery725.com](http://gallery725.com) or call 904-345-9320. To RSVP, go to [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) and search "Gallery 725."

### Concert series kicks off Oct. 22

The Gamble Rogers Music Festival

has partnered with the St. Johns Cultural Council to present "Live from The Waterworks: A Gamble Rogers Concert Series."

On the third Saturday of each month, a local musician will open for a nationally known act at The Waterworks, 184 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine.

On Oct. 22, Ruth Wyand Music opens for Doyle Dykes at the inaugural concert. Doors at 7 p.m.; show starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be available online on Aug. 15. Only 100 seats are available. The ticket fee will go to the nonprofit Gamble Rogers Music Festival. Stay updated at [gamblerogersfest.org](http://gamblerogersfest.org)

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan



First Coast Cultural Center

Have you made time for art and culture lately?

- Saturdays starting 8/6: Youth drama class in Nocatee
- Saturday, 8/20: Wine & Watercolors at the Cultural Center
- Registration is open for Kick StART afterschool art enrichment at 7 St. Johns County schools

Register at [firstcoastculturalcenter.org](http://firstcoastculturalcenter.org) or call Toni Thomas 904-280-0614 X 1206



# Sports



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Send your sports news to [news@pontevedrarecorder.com](mailto:news@pontevedrarecorder.com)

For LIVE Sports and updates, follow our Twitter, @PVR\_sports

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The event was the inaugural "Pickleball 101" youth clinic.



The goal of the First Dink Foundation is to create interest for pickleball in children and teens.

## Next generation of pickleballers

The First Dink Foundation hosted its inaugural "Pickleball 101" youth clinic at South Beach Park in Jacksonville Beach Aug. 6. The clinic was held to commemorate National Pickleball Day, which was officially Aug. 8. First Dink is a new nonprofit organization headquartered in Jacksonville Beach with the goal of raising awareness and interest in playing pickleball among children and teens.



Several volunteers helped coach and teach the fundamentals of pickleball during the clinic.

Photos courtesy of the First Dink Foundation



Photo courtesy of Kam Nedd/Jacksonville Jaguars  
**Tony Boselli unveils his hall of fame bust with help from former teammate Mark Brunell. Boselli became the first Jaguar to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.**

## Boselli named Jaguars' first Hall of Famer

**By Anthony Richards**

After 27 seasons in the National Football League, the Jacksonville Jaguars have their first Hall of Fame player in Tony Boselli, who was enshrined during a ceremony in Canton, Ohio, Aug. 6.

It was fitting that Boselli was the first in more ways in one, because not only was he an all-pro left tackle and a member of the 1990s all-decade team for what he did on the field, but he has been argu-

ably Mr. Jaguar off the field and around the organization as well.

Since being selected as the Jaguars' first ever draft and second overall in the 1995 NFL draft, he has left his mark and been a face of the franchise.

He helped lead the organization to a pair of AFC Championship game appearances in 1996 and 1999, and after his playing days, he continued to be involved

**BOSELLI** continues on Page 37

# NEW SPONSORS ANNOUNCED FOR WOMEN'S CARE PRO-AM TOURNAMENT

More sponsors have joined title sponsor Women's Care as plans continue for the Women's Care Peace at Home Pro-Am Golf Tournament scheduled for Oct. 23-24 at The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach — the first pro-am golf tournament to raise money for the Betty Griffin Center.

New sponsors include KeHE Cares Foundation as "Platinum Sponsor," the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation as "Gold Sponsor" and "Hole-in-One Sponsor" Maserati Jacksonville — along with Ansbacher Law, VyStar, Beaches Dermatology, Lazzara Orthodontic and Postillion Wealth Management, LLC.

Brittany & Billy Horschel previously became the "Healing & Hope Sponsor" for the event, joining other early sponsors including

"Silver Sponsor" Douglas Elliman, Kim Martin-Fisher & Jennifer Martin Faulkner, Realtors Group, Pearmid Properties and the Preddy Law Firm.

Betty Griffin Center board members Dr. Tim Baird and Jayne Evans are co-chairs for the event.

"Our goal for the tournament is to establish a first-tier pro-am that will help fund the critical ongoing work of the Betty Griffin Center," Evans said. "In addition to our sponsors, we're looking forward to announcing the professional players who will join us in the coming weeks."

The tournament kicks off at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 23 with a welcome cocktail reception, dinner, live auction and the announcement of pairings of the foursomes with the professionals.

On Oct. 24, Tournament Day

includes registration and breakfast at 8 a.m., followed by a clinic conducted by professional players. Tee-off is 10:15 a.m. The tournament is followed by a champion's reception from 3 to 5 p.m. All events occur at The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach, 101 Plantation Drive.

For the best golf experience, the field is limited to 80 players, not including the 20 professionals. The cost is \$1,200 per player, which includes dinner, breakfast, a golfer's clinic, the tournament and the champion's reception.

Players can find more information at [bettygriffincenter.org/2022golfproam](http://bettygriffincenter.org/2022golfproam) or register directly at [app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/BettyGriffinHouse/PlayerRegistration.html](http://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/BettyGriffinHouse/PlayerRegistration.html).

## Boselli

Continued from 36

as a color commentator on the team's game broadcasts.

"As the first Jacksonville Jaguar to be welcomed as a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, it is a profound honor, and I thank the Hall for the privilege, and I thank you for allowing me to be your teammates," Boselli said.

Throughout Boselli's acceptance speech he mentioned family and the massive role their support had on him reaching the point where he could be standing up on stage wearing a gold jacket, which they give to each Hall of Fame member, for the whole world to see.

"Without the influence of my family during my early years, my life in football isn't happening," Boselli said. "No way am I standing in front of you at this moment. But, as a kid when you're showered with love by everyone around you, anything was possible. So, I set the bar high, real high, maybe too high. I wanted to be a quarterback in the NFL."

Although he did not become a quarterback, he was still connected to that position but in the form of protecting it as an offensive tackle, which he was able to do at a high level throughout his high school days and excelling at the college level for the University of Southern California before making it to the pros.

Former Jaguars quarterback and teammate Mark Brunell was Boselli's presenter during the ceremony.

Many Jaguars fans made the trip up to Ohio and attended the ceremony at the Pro Football Hall of Fame, as they wanted to feel a part of the historic moment for the franchise.

"Angi and I are blessed incredibly to call Jacksonville our home," Boselli said. "It is where four of our five children were born, and every one of them have been raised. It's a beautiful city where the Bosellis have made lifelong friends, several of you here today."

To wrap things up, Boselli made sure to sum up the experience to all the fans in attendance and watching on TV, the best way he knew how.

"I thank God for football, and I thank God for the people of Jacksonville," Boselli said. "And I have to get this in one time...DUUU-VAL!"

# Planet Swim Aquatics competes at Futures Championships

Planet Swim Aquatics traveled to Cary, North Carolina, on July 27-30 for the USA Swimming Futures Championships. Twenty-three swimmers competed on the national level for Planet Swim. Led by PSA owner and head coach Gus Calado, team highlights from the meet include:

- 400-meter free relay team of Olivia Moore, Brooke Arnold, Penny Zarczynski and Anna Moore clocked in a time of 3:54.35, taking sixth place and qualifying for the Summer Junior National Championships;

- 800-meter free relay team of Brooke Arnold, Anna Moore, Mary Agnes Smith and Olivia Moore swam 8:32.10, placing sixth;

- Nease senior Matt Koziel blazed to a 23.97 in the 50 free, qualifying for the Summer and Winter Junior National Championships;

- Creekside Junior Hayden Sunman crushed the 200 backstroke with a time of 2:06.55, qualifying for the Summer and Winter Junior National Championships;

- Fleming High School Junior Maryn McDade's lightning

fast swim of 26.84 qualified for the Winter Junior National Championships;

- Ponte Vedra High School sophomore Penny Zarczynski clocked an impressive 1:02.69 in the 100 fly, qualifying for the Winter Junior National Championships.

Planet Swim Aquatics has established itself as one of the premier swim programs in the state of Florida. Located at 300 Davis Road in Nocatee, its Olympic size pool is the first for St. Johns County.

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### CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	
11				12		13				14			
15						16				17			
	18				19	20				21			
					22	23				24			
25	26	27	28	29									
30								31					
32									33	34	35	36	37
					38	39	40		41	42			
					43			44					
	45	46	47										
48					49				50	51	52	53	54
55					56				57				58
59					60				61				
62					63					64			

- ACROSS**
- 1. Breezed through
  - 5. Time units (abbr.)
  - 8. Pigeon's murmur
  - 11. Moves aside in fright
  - 13. Partner to "ahh"
  - 14. Taxis
  - 15. Monetary units of Turkey
  - 16. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
  - 17. Prolific Italian opera composer
  - 18. Restaurants
  - 20. One's grandmother
  - 21. Ancient Greek City
  - 22. Italian mountain ranges
  - 25. Data
  - 30. Acted in an obedient way
  - 31. Autonomic nervous system
  - 32. Not on the up-and-up
  - 33. Mock lightly
  - 38. Mimic
  - 41. Built
  - 43. A neighborhood
  - 45. Inflammation of the kidneys
  - 48. Semitic fertility god
  - 49. Temporary name of Seaborgium
  - 50. Wise people
  - 55. Tear down
  - 56. \_\_\_-fi (slang)
  - 57. Diamond weight
  - 59. Frosted
  - 60. Predecessor to EU
  - 61. Makes changes to
  - 62. Some are secret
  - 63. Tooth caregiver
  - 64. Old English poet
- DOWN**
- 1. Sign language
  - 2. In style
  - 3. Norwegian river
  - 4. People with impaired hearing
  - 5. Large stinging paper wasp
  - 6. Bucharest is its capital (abbr.)
  - 7. River in Ireland
  - 8. Type of TV
  - 9. Double-reed instruments
  - 10. Spanish motorcycle manufacturer
  - 12. Midway between south and southeast
  - 14. French commune
  - 19. Alike
  - 23. A bachelor's apartment
  - 24. Foot part between the ball and ankle
  - 25. Belonging to a thing
  - 26. Japanese classical theater
  - 27. Supervises flying
  - 28. Not even
  - 29. Capital of Saudi Arabia
  - 34. Electronic countermeasure
  - 35. Consumed
  - 36. American politician
  - 37. Sun up in New York
  - 39. Casually looked through
  - 40. Revealed the presence of
  - 41. Peyton's little brother
  - 42. Diana \_\_, singer
  - 44. Study of moral values and rules
  - 45. Civil Rights group
  - 46. Makes less severe
  - 47. Made an emotional appeal
  - 48. Vivacity of style
  - 51. One who is highly skilled
  - 52. Gets around in pursuit of pleasure
  - 53. Famed guitarist Clapton
  - 54. Most common Japanese surname
  - 58. Recipe abbreviation

### SUDOKU

	9			1	2			
8	2	7	4	9			1	
			8		7	2		4
	4			7		5		3
7	5	8				1		
	3	9	2	8			4	
4						9		2
					8		5	
	1		3	5		8	7	6

Level: Beginner

**Here's How It Works:**

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

The Recorder's garden columnist Kathy Esfahani of Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery shares her tips for growing gorgeous gardens in Northeast Florida.

## KATHY'S GARDENING GUIDE

# Shade landscaping



Kathy Esfahani

*"S/he who plants a garden plants happiness."  
— Chinese proverb*

**By Kathy Esfahani**

As Florida is the "Sunshine State," we are always talking about plants that need full sun or love the heat! But it is also important to choose the right plants for shady areas of your landscape.

When planning for the shady portion of your yard, start by watching how the sun moves across your landscape. Take notes! Depending on the path of the sun, your area could get four hours of direct sunlight per day combined with partial shade during other times.

Also, notice how dense your shade is and, therefore, how light or dark it is at ground level.

Shade tolerant plants grow well if they receive fewer than four hours of sun, especially if these hours are during a cooler time of day. They grow in shade that moves — for example, shade caused by tall trees — or partial shade throughout the day. These plants prosper in an environment where the soil drains rather than becoming too soggy.

These tips will help guide your shade landscaping:

- **Know your shade:** Understanding the amount of shade and indirect light your area receives is the biggest key to the success of a shady part of your landscape. All plants need sunlight to survive, so look for areas with indirect sunlight instead of dark areas with overly wet soil.

- **Light and Color:** Just because an area is shaded, don't feel like you are limited to only green plants! There are quite a few plants, such as caladium,

with beautiful color to add to a shade landscape.

- **Mixture of Heights:** A mixture of ground cover with medium-to-tall plants will create depth for a lush shade garden.

Several plant varieties love the shade. When planning your shade landscape, be sure to consider arbutus, asiatic jasmine, begonia, border grasses, bromeliads, caladium, cast iron plants, coleus, farfugium, foxtail fern, Hawaiian ti, ornamental ginger, and variegated ginger.

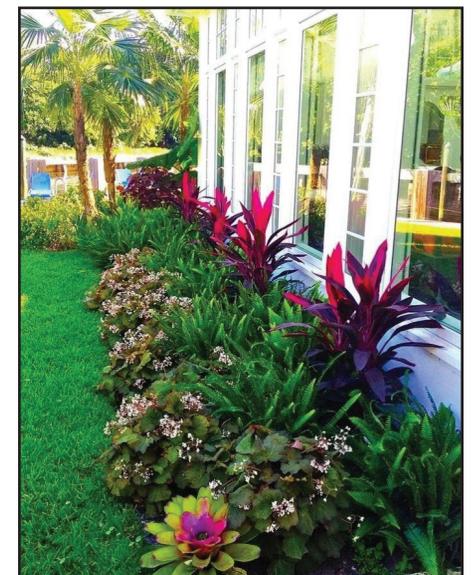
Enjoy the shade!

*Flower of the Week: Caladium*

**Please email Kathy at [kcg.pvr@gmail.com](mailto:kcg.pvr@gmail.com) for any questions or gardening tips you would like to see in the future. For more information & ideas, visit Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery, 196 N. Roscoe Blvd. The phone number is 904-655-7373.**



**Caladium**



Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery  
**Shade Landscape**

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