

# THE RECORDER



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September 22, 2022

Volume 53, No. 47

75 cents

Serving Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine, The Beaches and Greater St. Johns County

PonteVedraRecorder.com



**ON A MISSION:**  
Meet your area charity/nonprofit  
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**BUSINESS WEEKLY:**  
Featuring Local Real Estate Showcase  
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**entertainment EXTRA!**

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

## MORE THAN JUST YOUR AVERAGE SWIM MEET

Fifteen high school swim teams from across the area competed in the Second Annual Frank Holleman Invitational held at Planet Swim and hosted by Nease High. The unique event also served as a food drive to benefit the Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County.

Read the full recap of the event on page 45 and a story about the food drive on page 26.



Photo by Anthony Richards

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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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## BRIEFS

### Arnold elected to County Commission

St. Johns County Commissioner Sarah Arnold has been elected following the withdrawal of write-in candidate Graham McGee.

Arnold is the incumbent, having been originally appointed to the District 2 seat by Gov. Ron DeSantis. She received 50.93% of the vote in the Aug. 23 primary election, defeating challengers Nelson "Davy" Cline, Johnny Coe Counts, Chuck Labanowski and LaShawnda L. Pinkney.

The District 4 seat remains on the Nov. 8 general election ballot. Republican candidate Krista Keating-Joseph will face write-in candidate Michael C. Lanza.

### Palm Valley Market every Tuesday

The Palm Valley Market is held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday at the Palm Valley Community Center, 148 Canal Road. The market offers fresh produce, baked goods, local honey, tea, seasonal treats, soap, jewelry, plants and more.

### New Hastings Senior Center plans open house

Council on Aging (COA) invites the public to attend an open house celebration of the opening of the new Hastings Community Senior Center located at the Al Wilke Community Park & Center, 6150 S. Main St., Hastings. The celebration will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 24. There will be a special presentation and raffle at 11 a.m.

The Hastings Community Day, which coincides with the grand opening, has been arranged by the Rotary Club of Hastings District 6970, and will include food, music, other vendors and a bounce house/slide sponsored by Island Doctors. Attendees are invited to try for a door prize.

For further information, contact senior center coordinator Lorain Vinson at 904-729-9161 or via email at [lvinson@stjohnscoa.com](mailto:lvinson@stjohnscoa.com).

### Seafood is topic for chef's presentation

Celebrity Chef Warren Caterson will present "Seafood 101: Cooking Finfish and Shellfish for Two at Home" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28, at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library, 101 Library Blvd.

An online RSVP is required. To RSVP, go

to [sjcpls.org/branches/ponte-vedra-beach-branch](http://sjcpls.org/branches/ponte-vedra-beach-branch) or call 904-827-6950 for assistance.

In this presentation, the chef shares dozens of kitchen tips, cooking hints and humorous anecdotes about the joys and challenges of cooking seafood for two.

Caterson will answer such questions as: Should I buy my seafood fresh or frozen? My fish seems to always come out dry; is there a fix? What's the best way to cook fish? What's the difference between farm-raised and wild-caught fish, and is one better than the other? Why are fish like tilapia so widely available and inexpensive? Can I use canned oysters or clams in place of fresh? Is it okay to serve red wine with seafood? And many more.

The presentation will end with a seafood cooking demonstration, preparing a healthy seafood entrée that anyone can replicate in their own home in less than 10 minutes.

### Builders Care to build 20 ramps in seven weeks

Beginning Oct. 3, Builders Care will kick off its second annual Ramp-O-Rama to help elderly and disabled homeowners across Northeast Florida gain safe access to their homes.

Last year, Builders Care and volunteers built 10 ramps across Jacksonville in one day. This year, they will build 20 ramps over seven weeks, although there is still substantial need for additional ramps in the community.

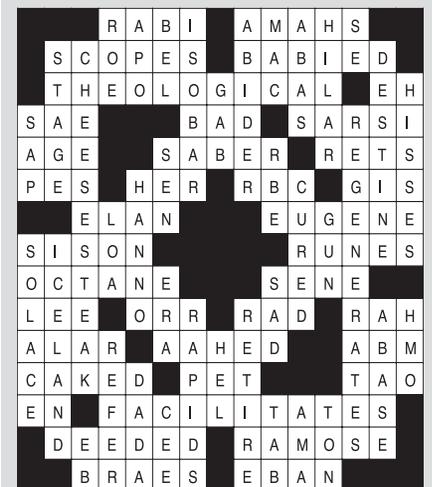
For those interested in volunteering or donating, contact Krissy Barkas at 904-727-3443.

Ramp build dates: Oct. 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 13, 17, 19, 21, 24, 25, 27 and Nov. 1, 2, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16 and 18.

Builders Care is the nonprofit arm of the Northeast Florida Builders Association. It is a faith-based nonprofit construction contractor, and its mission is to provide affordable to no-cost construction services to the elderly, disabled, veterans and other nonprofits in Northeast Florida with the kindred purpose of building a better habitat for all. It combines purchased and donated material with volunteer and professional labor to provide cost effective construction to those in need.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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



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# Dune project nears completion

By Shaun Ryan

The FEMA Dune Enhancement Project is nearing completion, with one segment still under construction over this past week. The work was originally projected to finish in the spring, but delays related to a truck driver shortage have pushed the date back. The trucks have been used to transport sand from a site in Keystone Heights.

The contract for the project will expire

at the end of October.

The \$34 million project, designed to protect the shore from weather-related erosion, encompasses the nine-mile segment south of the Duval County line to the northern boundary of the Guana Reserve. Other portions of the project included a 1.7-mile segment in South Ponte Vedra Beach and a small stretch of Crescent Beach.

The county applied for assistance from

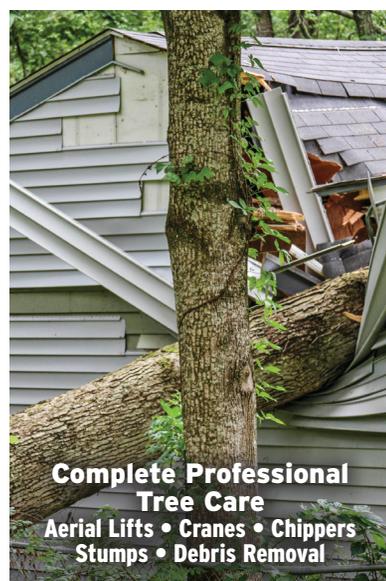
FEMA after the beach was substantially damaged in hurricanes Matthew and Irma in 2016 and 2017, respectively.

This week, workers have been accessing the beach at 965 Ponte Vedra Blvd. The project from that point north to the Duval County line has been completed, as is the area south of Mickler's Landing Beachfront Park. The remaining stretch of beach to be completed is between Mickler's Landing

and the 965 Ponte Vedra Blvd.

As a result, the county issued a public alert last week that heavy construction equipment would be on the beach. Traffic cones, beach patrol officers and flaggers have been on site to assist pedestrians in that area. Work there was expected to be complete by Wednesday, Sept. 21.

For further information about the project, go to [coastalprojects@sjcfl.us](mailto:coastalprojects@sjcfl.us).



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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

# Transplanting Trees

"Nature soothes us. Nature heals us, and something more, the woods are a place of power." — Frederick Lenz



Kathy Esfahani

### By Kathy Esfahani

In Northeast Florida, we are part of Planting Zone 9. We have warm winters and hot summers that allow us to plant year-round. This climate also enables us to transplant trees during the fall, winter and early spring months. Transplant after a tree has dropped leaves in the fall and before new buds appear in the spring. It is best to avoid transplanting trees in the summer as the excessive heat can increase the potential for shock in a newly moved tree.

Keep the following tips in mind for a successful tree transplant:

- Be sure your tree is healthy and free from diseases and/or pests. An unhealthy



Crepe Myrtle

tree may not be strong enough to survive the move.

- Select a new home for the tree that has similar soil and sunlight to what the tree is accustomed to having.

- Prepare your destination hole before removing the tree from its original location. The hole should be approximately three times as wide as the root ball and close to the same depth.

- Gather the branches of the tree with twine or burlap before digging.

- Strive to face the tree in the same direction when you replant it. Mark

the side of the tree facing north with a ribbon or string while it is in the original location and orient it in the same direction when placing it in the new hole.

- Try to move as much of the root system as possible. Dig a root ball approximately 10-12 inches across for every inch diameter of the tree's trunk. (For example, dig a root ball 30-36 inches across for a tree with a 3-inch diameter trunk.)

- Plant the tree only deep enough to line up the soil line of the root ball with the soil line of the new area.

- Fill the hole with subsoil first and then topsoil. Be sure to tamp down the soil as you go to prevent air pockets around the root ball. It can also be helpful to add water to the hole when it is half full of dirt.

- Be sure to water the tree in its new home regularly. Keep the soil moist but not soggy. Continue to monitor the tree, especially for watering as needed, for several months after transplanting.

- Consider adding 2-3 inches of mulch

Photos provided by Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery

## Flower of the Week



Drift Rose

around the tree to help it retain the moisture it needs. Be careful not to let the mulch touch the trunk of the tree.

Transplanting a tree is not an easy project, so be sure to seek professional help if needed. However, moving existing trees can be a great way to redesign your landscape while making use of already successful plants. Happy planting!

### Flower of the Week: Drift Rose

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.

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# County may move amphitheater, concert hall into a nonprofit

By Shaun Ryan

St. Johns County may soon turn over St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall operations to a yet-to-be-created nonprofit organization. The move is being considered to ensure the venues' success and alleviate a significant burden on county departments.

The proposal arose out of a discussion during the April 19 County Commission meeting concerning possible alternatives in the way the venues are being operated. Depending upon what accounting approach is applied, they are either a financial success or failure, though there are other concerns as well.

Currently, the venues operate under the county's Cultural Events Department.

In May, the commission named five people to a temporary committee to advise the board. The Amphitheatre and Concert Hall Advisory Committee was tasked with providing ideas, suggesting changes and exploring options regarding operations while maximizing the venues' economic benefits and ensuring accountability to taxpayers.

The committee conducted exhaustive interviews with stakeholders and presented its recommendation during the Sept. 6 commission meeting.

The board directed the committee to put together a detailed proposal and business plan to transform the Cultural Events Department into a nonprofit that would act as a collaborative contractor to the county. This public-private partnership would presumably protect the community's will while giving the venues a freer rein.

## A valued asset

The amphitheater and concert hall routinely attract major musical acts

while remaining available for community events. In addition to the elevated quality of life they offer local residents, they bring in thousands of tourists who spend money on lodging, restaurants, shops and tourist activities.

In fact, when hotel stays, ancillary spending and collected bed taxes are tabulated, the committee found that, in fiscal year 2022, the venues have had a total economic impact of nearly \$40 million on St. Johns County.

In addition, the amphitheater has been ranked number one in North America and number two in the world. The concert hall, too, has drawn many accolades.

## So, what's the problem?

The committee identified three areas that affect how the venues' finances are judged.

Perhaps the biggest of these is that, operating under the county, they are subject to governmental accounting practices, as opposed to those used in business.

For instance, the \$3 maintenance fee collected for each ticket sold would be shown as revenue under the business model. Over fiscal years 2016-2021, that would have generated \$3,922,508 and the venues would have shown a net \$1,749,714 profit.

However, under the governmental model, the fee would not be counted among operating revenue, so the venues would have shown a net \$2,172,794 loss.

Another area of concern is how capital maintenance is recorded. In those same six years, capital improvements equaled \$1,125,664. A business would spread the cost over the expected life of the asset. But governmental modified accrual basis accounting systems do not amortize capital investments.

In addition, as the result of a full-cost allocation plan conducted every three years, the Cultural Events Department would be billed \$569,976 annually for services rendered by other departments. However, these services don't meet the needs of Cultural Events, and a business would seek out other avenues at a reduced cost.

Moving the venues to a nonprofit would minimize friction between departments and relieve the burden on the Clerk of Courts office, which handles 19,000 transactions each year for Cultural Events.

Also, a nonprofit organization would have the flexibility to make decisions very quickly to adjust to rapidly changing conditions like those found in the entertainment industry. Government can't act that quickly.

The nonprofit would also be able to pursue grants and other revenue sources

not available to it as a department of the local government.

And it would help ensure retention and development of staff.

In his presentation before the commission, committee Chair Jerry Wilson identified this as the most troubling aspect of the current arrangement.

"We've lost several talented people because they've gotten frustrated with the system and have chosen to go other places where they can have more flexibility," he said.

Not everyone was won over by the committee's presentation. A couple of members of the public raised concerns about a possible loss of transparency and accountability.

Commissioner Henry Dean proposed that the county conduct an annual audit of the nonprofit, should it be approved.

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## Edwards & Ragatz, P.A.

Shana Ryan is president and CEO of Conceptual HR Solutions, which helps small business owners with human resources and payroll needs. With a desk at the link, Ryan's company serves Jacksonville, Ponte Vedra and the surrounding areas.

## Shana Ryan

### As told to Shaun Ryan

#### Tell me about your company.

Our slogan is: Giving business owners their time back. We take that HR piece off of them completely. We help them with processing payroll, onboarding, any handbooks that they need, any kind of policies. We help walk them through employee relations issues. So, it's an unlimited, monthly retainer that they pay to us instead of hiring a fulltime HR person, so it's a fraction of the cost. We do whatever they need from an HR perspective, except recruiting.

#### I know you have a new service. Tell me about that.

It's called DIY HR. Our small business owners can go online, and they choose one of three packets and they get consultations from us and all the documentation. There will be a portal you can log into, give the documentations that you need, and then, whether it's one, two or three calls with an HR expert to walk them through. The template is there. They just plug in their logo and their business name, and then we can give them advice on how to submit it or how to make it work for their business.

#### Who are your customers?

We don't do restaurants. We don't do a lot of super-blue-collar companies. So, we have a lot in the tech and the medical, advertising, just any small business of 49 employees or less.

#### Why 49?

When you hit 50, you have ACA [Affordable Care Act] and FMLA [Family and Medical Leave Act] requirements; it changes the ballgame a little bit. And really, at that point, I think the company has hit the place where they need somebody in-house handling all that.

#### What are some of the things you can help with?

We'll help with: if they want to put a PTO [paid time off] policy together, or a holiday policy. ... and then, another big thing that we do is — we're not brokers, but we've got a great relationship with worker's comp brokers, health insurance brokers, retirement specialists. We'll talk to the owner, get a game plan of where they want their business in five years and then help coordinate it.

Just like, you would tell your internal HR person, "Hey, we want to implement benefits at the first of the year." We would take that on. We would shop the plans and then present it to the owner. Because that's time consuming, so we take on that burden. We've done it so many times, we know what to look for.

What you're getting with us is an HR expert of at least 15 years' experience.

#### How nearby must a business be for you to help them?

We can do nationwide. With the tech companies, they're pretty much all over the place. So, we'll set up all the tax requirements, whether it's unemployment, income, if there's any local tax — we set all that up for the clients, under the client's name, of course.

#### How great is the need for HR services here?

There's definitely a need in the Jacksonville market. It's primarily dominated by small businesses.



Photo by Shaun Ryan

Shana Ryan is president and CEO of Conceptual HR Solutions.

#### Are there businesses that don't have HR services?

Yes. A lot of times it's because they haven't had an issue, or they'll think, "I only have 10 employees, so I don't need HR." So, you're rolling the dice. ...

Generally speaking — and I understand that small businesses are very mindful of their spending — so, our service, I equate it to more like insurance. You have insurance to make sure things don't happen. ... Our job is to protect the employer. It's also to protect the employee. We have both interests at heart. It can be a balancing act, but if we see something unfair that's being done to the employees, we will call it to the employer's attention and vice versa.

#### It seems like, if you're protecting one, you're also protecting the other.

Yeah, if something happens to the business that's

detrimental, employees may lose their jobs. So, it's very important to make sure that things are done correctly.

#### While you don't have a traditional office, you do have a desk at the link. How do you like that?

Oh, I think it's great. I have a home office ... but sometimes, I've just got to get out of there. So, it's nice. I'm probably here every week or two just to work for a few hours to get a change of scenery. ... From a business perspective, I really enjoy what they're bringing to this community.

#### What's the best way for a small business to contact you?

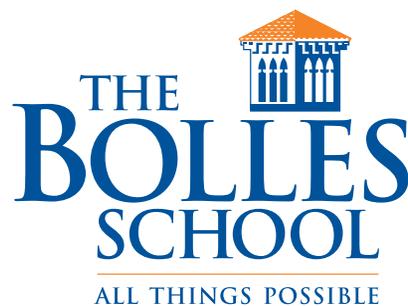
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# Record low school tax rate approved

By Shaun Ryan

The St. Johns County School Board officially approved the district tax rate during a special meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 13, the second of two public hearings on the budget proposal for FY 2022-23.

The rate, unanimously approved, will mark a historic low of \$5.48 per \$1,000

of a property's assessed taxable value. That represents a 33-cent reduction from last year's rate.

The rate is the sum of three parts: required local effort, basic discretionary and capital improvements. The last two have remained unchanged over the years at 75 cents and \$1.50, respectively.

The required local effort is set by the state and is the largest portion of the tax rate. This is the amount that districts must turn over to the state for redistribution across Florida to ensure equitable financial support for the poorer districts. The county's rate has been declining annually since 2011-12. This year, it is \$3.24 per \$1,000 of taxable

value.

Though the tax rate has gone down, taxes are expected to bring in more revenue due to an increase in property values. Last year, the county's taxable value stood at just over \$37 billion. This year, it's nearly \$46 billion.

The full budget, also approved Sept. 13, is \$1.2 billion.

# Memorial service for former COA director planned



Council on Aging (COA), along with her family, invite members of the public to attend a memorial and celebration of the life of former Executive Director Cathy Brown from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, at COA's River House.

Brown served as executive director for 14 years, from 1999 to 2013. She had a tremendous impact on the mission of Council on Aging and the St. Johns County community. Her creative thinking and boundless energy helped to transform the small agency into a force for change and good. Her vision resulted in a thriving agency with five senior centers; a nationally recognized

public transportation system known as the Sunshine Bus; the Sunshine Center, an adult day care center; and IMEP, COA's innovative memory disorder early intervention program.

Her passion for excellence, commitment to good and gift of motivation inspired staff, volunteers, participants and board members.

"Cathy was an incredible visionary and tireless advocate for seniors and caregivers in St. Johns County," said Becky Yanni, executive director of COA. "COA meant so much to Cathy, and Cathy means so much to COA. Her legacy will live on, improving the lives

of our community's elders and caregivers in perpetuity."

River House is located at 179 Marine St. in St. Augustine. In lieu of flowers, her family has requested that donations be made to Council on Aging, or a charity of your choice. If you would like to send a message of condolence or share a memory of Cathy Brown with her family, call 904-977-5288 where you can record a message for them.

For more information on COA's programs and services for seniors and caregivers in St. Johns County, go to coasjc.org.



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# Dine around the world, learn about business resiliency at the link

*Unique facility offers unique experiences*

**By Shaun Ryan**

A lot of things are happening at the link, the co-working space, innovation incubator and membership-based venue in the heart of Nocatee. For most of the activities offered at the link, it isn't necessary to be a member, though membership could mean a discount.

One of the biggest announcements is the launch of its Supper Club, which kicks off Oct. 2. This dining experience is held inside the Flagler Health+ Immersive Studio, where the walls form a 360-degree environment that can put people inside videos and images from around the world.

In fact, diners are invited to "go around the world, under the sea and in the sky" to enjoy their meals.

Each dinner is a five- or six-course meal served over three hours, held virtu-

ally in a different country, with cuisine from the featured locale. The immersive studio will add sight and sound to each dinner's flavors and aromas.

"The idea for the Supper Club is to have a monthly immersive experience where we will have different chefs who specialize in different cuisines," said link co-founder Raghu Misra. "It's going to be as close as possible to being there."

Because Oct. 2 is Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, the cuisine will be Indian fusion food. The chef will be Ashley Amin, who has served her culinary creations to several VIPs, including the King of Jordan.

"We're lucky to get into a partnership with her to start the first one," Misra said.

The dinner will be held 6-9 p.m.

The Nov. 6 dinner will be Italian.

When it's time to feature American dishes, the dinner will be held inside a virtual facsimile of the White House, with each course in a different room of the Executive Mansion.

The British dinner will be held inside another world-famous building.

"We're going to have fish and chips at

Buckingham Palace!" said Misra.

In "France," diners may be able to enjoy their repast seated at the base of the Eiffel Tower.

Seating for these dinners is limited. To register, go to [thelink.zone/events-1](https://thelink.zone/events-1) and click on the Supper Club photo.

## EnterCircle

The EnterCircle Summit returns following its inaugural appearance in 2021. At this exceptional business event, participants will collaborate with fellow entrepreneurs and learn from successful professionals.

The 2022 program will focus on resiliency, featuring inspiring people who have demonstrated courage, leadership and the ability to thrive even in the most challenging circumstances.

There will be opportunities for new business pitches, networking, interactive work sessions and one-on-one discussions.

The summit will be held Nov. 16, 17 and 18. To learn more or to register, go to [entercircle.zone](https://entercircle.zone).

## Gingerbread and Cake

On Dec. 10, the link will conduct its Gingerbread House and Cake Decorating Competitions, an expansion on last year's event.

Participants will have three hours to construct their gingerbread houses or convert a standard commodity cake into a masterpiece of artistic sweetness.

Cake supplies will be provided.

## Child Enrichment Programs

One of the areas the link focuses on is education. To that end, the link is offering full-time programming for students at K-8 schools from 3 to 6 p.m.

Students will have their pick of several activities, including art, coding, dance, martial arts, culinary arts, LEGO robotics, tutoring, homework self study, immersive learning & field trips and more. One of the advantages of this arrangement is that children who lose interest in one activity can easily switch to another.

In addition, the program helps parents

LINK continues on Page 11



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# Link

Continued from 10

who need quiet time for work. And, though this complementary programming is educational, this is not another school.

“There will be a lot more fun,” said Misra. “A lot more games.”

For students who attend Palm Island Academy and commit to a full-term of participation, the link will donate 10% of the enrollment fee to the school’s PTO. Misra said he would eventually like to extend that same offer to other schools.

According to Pine Island Academy PTO President Brittany Barron, the arrangement with the link is being offered through the school’s Partners In Education program, a business partnership program.

Teddy Thompson, vice president of fundraising for the PTO, said that program offers support for teachers and some end-of-year capital projects that the school may not have in its budget.

Businesses can learn more about that program by going to [pipto.org](http://pipto.org) and clicking on the Partners In Education link.

The PTO helps to promote the link’s enrichment program on its Facebook page and through Peach-Jar, which sends digital fliers out to members of the community.

Parents can register their children for the child enrichment programs by going to [thelink.zone/ge-tactive](http://thelink.zone/ge-tactive) and clicking on Enrichment Program.

For further information, email [sales@thelink.zone](mailto:sales@thelink.zone).

The link is located at 425 Town Plaza Ave., Ponte Vedra.

# BMX team puts on show at Nocatee Farmer’s Market



Photo courtesy of the Nocatee Community Facebook page

The Perfection on Wheels BMX Stunt Team performed tricks and dazzled the crowd at the Nocatee Farmer’s Market before rain moved through the area Sept. 17.

## A LIFE OF FINDING BEAUTY AND HISTORY IN RUGS

### C. HARB RETIRING AND LIQUIDATING INVENTORY

Rugs have been a part of Charlie Harb’s life ever since he began working at his father’s business when he was 11 years old, which will make it an emotional moment when he retires later this year.

To say thank you to all the customers that have paid him a visit or talked about rugs with him over the years, he is offering **BUY ONE GET TWO FREE\*** leading up to his eventual retirement in a few weeks.

Charlie has successfully made a name for himself in the Northeast Florida area as the owner of C. Harb’s Rug Gallery.

“It all started with my great uncle, who came to this country about 100 years ago,” Harb said. “He brought with him some rugs and started in the business by putting the rugs in the trunk of his car and driving to neighborhoods and spreading the rugs in grassy lots. He eventually

got a storefront and was able to establish himself in the Oriental rug business.”

Harb’s father immigrated to the U.S. in 1949 and trained in the Oriental rug business under his uncle in Knoxville, Tennessee, before eventually getting married and moving to Wilmington, Delaware, and establishing his own version of the business.

“I grew up in the business, and remember as a kid I would get paid a quarter a day, and I would take my pay across the street to the drug store, because at the time 25 cents would buy you two comic books and even give you change,” Harb chuckled. “That was my start.”

Harb began his own business in 1989 after marrying a girl from Jacksonville and eventually moving down to Florida.

One of the things Harb has mastered over the years is his ability to accurately decipher the region of



the world or country where a rug was created.

“It is always gratifying to have someone come in with their own rug asking if I can clean and repair it, and I’m able to identify the rug for them,” Harb said. “They may not even have been aware or may have known but are surprised.”

“To see a rug and be able to identify it pretty much on sight, helps give me credibility with my customers,” Harb said.

Harb enjoys the stories and education behind each handcrafted rug. Many times, the rugs signify a certain culture of a region or town and created to reflect the pride and



meaning of that area.

Because of this, a handcrafted rug is more than just something that covers the floor, but instead it is a work of art that should be appreciated as such. “I like to refer to them as art underfoot,” Harb said.

As times change, so do the styles that people have, which Harb has had to be cognizant of throughout the years.

When he first moved to Jacksonville, he had a full stock of hand-knotted Persian rugs, but he quickly adapted to the culture here and began acquiring more contemporary and machine-made rugs.

Today his stock is equally split between Oriental rugs and those considered more contemporary. He can even get select rugs in any custom size up to 10’ X 18’ including rounds, in three weeks. Bring your impossibly unusual size needs to him and he will get a beautiful rug to you before he retires.

“Jacksonville and Northeast Florida have been good to me, and I’ve enjoyed being in business and solving problems for my customers with their own rugs, while also having the right rug for them that fits their needs,” Harb said.

Come see Charlie soon in celebration of his success and retirement, and enjoy his **BUY ONE RUG, GET TWO RUGS FREE\*** offer. Don’t need three rugs? No worries, let Charlie make you a deal of a lifetime on the rugs of your choice!



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# Jacksonville Historical Society CEO to speak

Coastal Friends, formerly known as Newcomers Alumnae, will hold its next monthly luncheon on Oct. 5 at Marsh Landing Country Club, 25655 Marsh Landing Parkway, Ponte Vedra Beach, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This month's guest speaker will be Dr. Alan Bliss, CEO of Jacksonville Historical Society.

Bliss will discuss Jacksonville's bicentennial.

The luncheon is open to all members of Coastal Friends, their guests and anyone interested in joining this ladies' social club, which has been in existence since 1998. For this occasion, Marsh Landing's chef will prepare a house

salad, pork medallions with a demi glaze served over rice with asparagus and the chef's choice of a mouth-watering dessert.

The cost to attend the luncheon is \$25 and reservations must be made in advance to reserve a seat by contacting the luncheon chairman (bartshar@

comcast.net) as soon as possible since the deadline to sign up and get in your check is Friday morning, Sept. 30.

For details on how to join Coastal Friends, contact brookemeister@msn.com or go to coastalfriends.wildapricot.org for more information on the club.

# DeSantis declares September Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month

The Trinity Love Hoblit Foundation has announced that Gov. Ron DeSantis has issued a proclamation declaring September "Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month" in the state of Florida.

Compared to other conditions like cardiac arrest and stroke, many people have little awareness about the signs and symptoms of a brain aneurysm. Just like a heart attack or a stroke, a ruptured brain aneurysm is a medical emergency that requires immediate treatment.

"Awareness is the beginning of prevention," said Olivia Hoblit, president and founder of the Trinity Love Hoblit Foundation, a Northeast Florida non-profit dedicated to raising awareness and providing funding for neurological

research for brain aneurysms. "September is national Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month, and we are honored that Gov. DeSantis has declared September as Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month here in Florida."

According to the Brain Aneurysm Foundation, about one in 50 people has an unruptured brain aneurysm and the annual rate of ruptured aneurysms in the United States is about eight to 10 in every 100,000 people, or about 30,000 people a year. Every 18 minutes, a brain aneurysm ruptures. And when it does, death or lifelong disabilities often result. Researchers estimate 6 million Americans have an unruptured brain aneurysm.

"Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month is the ideal time to educate our community about brain aneurysms," said Hoblit. "In addition, we will hold our annual fundraising event on September 17, 2022, in Amelia Island. The funds raised will help us to continue to meet our mission of supporting and funding neurological research, training and treatment, and raising awareness for brain aneurysms, stroke and other cerebrovascular conditions."

The accurate and early diagnosis of a ruptured brain aneurysm can greatly affect outcomes. Thanks to medical advancements, treatment for brain aneurysms is more promising today than it was just a few years ago.

Survivors of a ruptured brain aneurysm often experience what they describe as "the worst headache ever." A sudden, severe headache is a common warning sign that someone may be suffering a ruptured brain aneurysm. Other signs include dilated pupils, blurred vi-

sion, pain behind the eye, weakness and numbness and difficulty speaking.

Aneurysm risk factors include: smoking, high blood pressure, family history of brain aneurysm, age over 40, female, person of color and drug use (particularly cocaine).

Sudden warning signs/symptoms include: loss of consciousness, confusion, seizure, nausea and vomiting, stiff neck, sensitivity to light, numbness or weakness and pain behind the eye.

To learn more about brain aneurysms and the foundation, or to donate, go to [www.TrinityHoblit.org](http://www.TrinityHoblit.org).

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# Vintage Market Days planned for holiday season



Contributed photos

**Vintage Market Days brings together a variety of vintage-inspired vendors in one place.**

Just in time for holiday shopping, Vintage Market Days Jacksonville will bring more than 120 unique, vintage-inspired vendors to one place – making gift-giving for everyone on the “Nice List” a breeze. From homemade candles and home décor to vintage furniture, original artwork, clothing and much more, the three-day event will be held at Clay County Fairgrounds in Green Cove Springs.

“Just over six years ago, I was a health care director in Richmond, Indiana, and recently diagnosed with breast cancer,” said Tonya Ross, the owner of Vintage Market Days (VMD) Jacksonville, a franchise under the VMD umbrella. “I was sitting in chemo treatment and saw an article about Vintage Market Days. I didn’t hesitate and joined VMD in 2016. A year ago, I moved to St. Augustine and now manage the Jacksonville and Dayton-Cincinnati markets. Sometimes we endure hardships to find the direction our life is supposed to take.”

Founded in 2012, Vintage Market Days hosts events throughout the year and all over the United States. This particular three-day event in Jacksonville will provide a special holiday time shopping experience complete with visits from Santa Claus. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 2-4.

Admission for children under 12 is free. Cash and credit cards are accepted at the gate. Once purchased, tickets are good for re-entry into the event all weekend.

Learn more about early shopping opportunities and ticket purchase at [vintagemarketdays.com/market/Jacksonville](http://vintagemarketdays.com/market/Jacksonville).

“There will also be live music, food trucks and more family-friendly attractions on hand at this year’s market,” said Ross. “It’s a fun community event that really showcases the talented artisans and makers this region has to offer. We can’t wait to see everyone there!”

Vintage Market Days Jacksonville is an upscale vintage-inspired and open-air market.

The Clay County Fairgrounds are located at 2497 S.R. 16 West, Green Cove Springs.



**Santa Claus will make appearances at Vintage Market Days.**



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# IQ Fiber plans fiber-optic network in Jacksonville Beach



Contributed photos

**IQ Fiber is constructing a fiber-optic network in Jacksonville Beach.**

IQ Fiber, Northeast Florida’s only local residential fiber-optic internet service provider, has announced that it will bring its 100% fiber-optic network to Jacksonville Beach. The private investment is estimated at more than \$10 million, part of a significant \$45 million expansion of IQ Fiber’s network deployment in Northeast Florida.

“Broadband has truly become a necessity, and Jacksonville Beach residents will now have a new and better choice for this critical ‘fourth utility,’” said Ted Schremp, CEO of IQ Fiber. “Our 100% fiber-optic network is purpose-built for the modern internet and our local Jacksonville-based team is committed to delivering a streamlined and simplified customer experience.”

Design and engineering work for this expansion is complete, and construction will begin over the next several weeks. Residents will be informed when network construction begins in their area, and they can sign up for email updates at iqfiber.com.

IQ Fiber’s network is capable of symmetrical speeds of up to 10 gigabits per second. The network consists of underground conduit and fiber-optic cables extending from the core internet backbone directly into individual homes, allowing for the fastest internet speeds available while supporting the explosive growth in internet usage and demand.

“Broadband internet service is now crucial for everyday life at home,” said Jacksonville Beach Mayor Chris Hoffman. “Access and availability of this upgraded fiber-based technology is important to our residents, and we welcome IQ Fiber to our city.”

IQ Fiber recently activated the first portion of its fiber-to-the-home network in San Jose Forest, and its San Marco and Atlantic Beach networks will be coming online in multiple phases over the next



**IQ Fiber CEO Ted Schremp**

several months. To support this rapid growth, the company has expanded its team to 50 local employees and recently opened a new Engineering and Technical Operations Center at 4502 Lenox Ave.

With average broadband usage increasing over 25% per year in the U.S., demand has increased for symmetrical speeds, reduced lag time and massive network capacity only fiber offers. IQ Fiber’s three service plans deliver symmetrical internet speeds between 250 and 1,000 Mbps, and whole-home Wi-Fi service with a simple app to manage connections and settings.

IQ Fiber, headquartered in Jacksonville, and is bringing high-speed, state-of-the-art 100% fiber-optic internet to areas of Northeast Florida that do not currently have access to modern, symmetrical broadband services. IQ Fiber is privately funded and launched in August 2021.

Residents across Northeast Florida can check for IQ Fiber availability by going to iqfiber.com and clicking on “Get Connected.”

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GUEST COLUMN

# COUSIN VINNIE'S HISTORY LESSON

By Vic DiGenti



Vic DiGenti

My cousin Vinnie arrived unexpectedly last week. Imagine my surprise when he parked his semi-truck in our driveway, dripping oil on the new pavers. I rushed to

greet him, and a husky German shepherd bounded from the cab, bared his teeth and growled at me before running to do his business in our flower bed.

“Hey, Cuz,” Vinnie said, engulfing me in a bear hug that would make a momma grizzly proud. “How’s your writing going?”

Vinnie has always been an avid reader, a lover of all things Stephen King. I had sent him a few of my books and short stories over the years, and he’d always replied with a terse critique. His last one read, “Stephen King doesn’t have anything to worry about.”

I asked him how long he was planning to stay and offered to show him around the beaches.

“I plan to head south to Cassadaga and

get my fortune told, but first I want you to show me where Stephen lived in Jacksonville Beach.”

Assuming he meant Stephen King, I said, “King doesn’t live anywhere near here, but when he’s not in Maine, you might find him at his house near Sarasota.”

“Not that Stephen, writer boy. Don’t you think I know where King lives? I meant Stephen Crane, one of America’s most amazing writers.”

With that, he whipped out a dog-eared copy of “The Red Badge of Courage.” “The poor guy was only 28 when he died, but he wrote some awesome stories. I know he lived in your neck of the woods for a time with his common-law wife, Cora.”

Some of this rang a distant bell with me, but I didn’t know Crane had lived at the beach and told him I’d have to do a little research. Later, after he took the shepherd for a walk, I took the opportunity to visit my friend, Google.

Scrolling through multiple Stephen and Cora Crane websites, I quickly learned the author had indeed resided in the area in the late 1890s. But he’d stayed in Jacksonville, not Jacksonville Beach or Pablo Beach as it was known then. I marveled at

the story of these two fascinating individuals and the role they played, however briefly, in the history of Jacksonville and the Beaches.

Stephen Crane was an established poet, novelist and newspaper journalist when he came to Jacksonville, a major port city at the time, to connect with a ship bound for Cuba. While he waited, Crane familiarized himself with Jacksonville. According to a reporter friend, Crane began “haunting the backrooms of waterfront saloons, chain-smoking and drinking countless bottles of beer.” He also visited a few of the city’s many brothels, and met Cora Taylor, the owner of the Hotel de Dream. The two hit it off and became close, shall we say.

Crane’s ship departed for Cuba on New Year’s Eve, 1896, but didn’t get far. The vessel took on water, and the crew abandoned ship. After floating in a small boat with three other men for a day and a half, the boat overturned, and Crane nearly drowned. He returned to Jacksonville with Cora and wrote “The Open Boat,” based on his near-death experience.

Reading on, I learned that Stephen Crane had suffered from tuberculosis for years, and he died at a spa in Germany on June 5, 1900.

Cora returned to Jacksonville shortly

after the Great Fire of 1901, and found backing to build The Court, a grand bordello and entertainment center located at Ward (now Houston) and Davis streets. The Court became an instant hit, and Cora’s influence grew as she bought into other Ward Street brothels and bars.

Her connection to Pablo Beach came in 1905 when she built a two-story surfside “resort” called the Palmetto Lodge. It all came to an untimely end in 1910 when 46-year-old Cora Crane, relaxing on the porch of the Palmetto Lodge, noticed a female motorist’s car stuck in the sand. She helped the woman push the car free, but later suffered a stroke and died of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Vinnie eventually returned from his dog walk, and I told him what I’d learned about Stephen and Cora. “What are we waiting for?” he bellowed. “Let’s go.”

“Go where?” I asked. “There’s nothing to see.”

“Hey, do you think I drove 2,000 miles just to see you? I want to see where Stephen and Cora lived.”

We first drove to 9th Avenue North where the Palmetto Lodge once stood. Vinnie remained far from water because

VINNIE continues on Page 16



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# Vinnie

Continued from 15

of his fear of sharks and snapped a few pictures of the beachfront before we made the trek over the ditch to see Jacksonville's City Hall. According to my research, Crane had a room at the St. James Hotel, where city hall now stood. Vinnie clicked off more pictures, and we walked to Ashley and Jefferson streets to view

the Hotel de Dream's location. Finding nothing there but a grassy lot with a few parked cars, we scouted the site of Cora Crane's largest brothel, The Court, where we found another grassy lot.

Vinnie remained strangely quiet during the drive back to the beach. I finally asked, "What did you think you'd find after all these years?"

He shook his head and said, "I'm not sure, but it's sad to think that people like Stephen and Cora Crane could leave so

little of themselves behind."

I was amazed. The Vinnie I knew would have shrugged it off with a joke, but here he was talking about the transitory nature of life and fame. "It does give you pause, doesn't it?" I said.

"Sure does. And it also makes me thirsty. Let's go to Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville in Jax Beach and get a beer. And you know what? I'm going to jump into the Atlantic Ocean."

"But I thought you were —"

"Yeah, yeah, afraid to go in the water. But life is short. Plus, I'm sure Jacksonville Beach has plenty of lifeguards to protect us."

"Vinnie," I said, "I have another history lesson for you."

**Vic DiGenti, aka Parker Francis, is an author, editor and publisher, with 14 books to his credit. He lives and works in Ponte Vedra Beach. Go to [www.parkerfrancis.com](http://www.parkerfrancis.com).**

## Another Ponte Vedra

Recorder reader Mike Mulhern shared this photo taken by his friend, Jim Cassidy, who encountered the sign recently while hiking through Spain. Pontevedra (one word) is a city in the north-western part of the Iberian Peninsula.

Photo by Jim Cassidy



## Happiness defined by a new generation

Generations come and go. Styles and fads change. And always, adults find themselves scratching their heads over the interests of the youth and children of their day.

But it seems that some things are eternal. Recently the first graders at Jacksonville Country Day School were asked for their secret to happiness. The results will resonate with people of all ages.

Here's a list of what the students said:

1. Playing with friends.
2. Doing something exciting like riding a rollercoaster at Busch Gardens.
3. Getting things you have wanted.
4. Doing things you love.
5. Buying food for others.
6. Telling funny jokes.
7. Being kind to others.
8. Playing with animals.



Contributed photo

The first graders at Jacksonville Country Day School were asked for their secret to happiness. Some things, it seems, never get old.

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# ON A MISSION

## MEET YOUR AREA CHARITY/NONPROFIT

**Boys & Girls Club celebrates 60 years with past and future events** PAGE 18

**Family delivers food to 150 homes with Care Connect+** PAGE 19

**PLAYERS, Jay Fund team up to deliver meals to families** PAGE 20

**Epic-Cure food rescue feeds hungry, helps environment** PAGE 24

**K9s United offers specialty license plate** PAGE 29

...AND MORE INSIDE

THE  
**RECORDER**

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022





Photos courtesy of Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida

Silent and live auctions were part of the Summer Nights event hosted by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida.

# Boys & Girls Club celebrates 60 years with past and future events

By Anthony Richards

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida recently celebrated a huge win for the nearly 5,000 children and teens they serve daily after school and during the summer at 48 Boys & Girls Clubs across Northeast Florida.

Through their Summer Nights event presented by 121 Financial Credit Union, Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida was able to surpass their goal by raising more than \$260,000 to help local youth reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible residents of the

community.

The event took place at Glass Factory in Jacksonville and featured signature dishes from top restaurants, live music from the Bold City Classics, premium cocktails, as well as silent and live auctions, a club member art gallery and a timeline celebrating the organization's 60th anniversary.

One of the highlights of the night was hearing from two of the Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year winners, Kennadi and Lauren, about their experiences at their club.

In celebration of the organization's 60th anniversary, Kennadi's and Lauren's stories helped raise \$66,000 within only 15 minutes through a Fund-A-Future paddle raise.

However, not only have the Boys & Girls Clubs had success with recent events, but they hope to build on that success, as the attention now turns to future events,

such as Great Futures Weekend, which will include the annual charity golf classic Nov. 18, followed by McKenzie's Run Nov. 19.

Both the golf tournament and McKenzie's Run will take place on the TPC Sawgrass Stadium Course, which provides a special moment for everyone involved, whether they are playing the course or running it.

The golf classic will begin with a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m. Nov. 18, while the run begins at 9 a.m. Nov. 19 with a "fun run" taking place prior to the actual race at 8:30 a.m.

For more information regarding both events during Great Futures Weekend, go to [mckenzie'srun.org](http://mckenzie'srun.org) and find out how you can get involved, either by volunteering or signing up for the run.

This year's McKenzie's Run marks the 13th time the event has been held.

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Florida State Senator Audrey Gibson (left) and her two assistants celebrated with Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida at the organization's 60th anniversary party.

# Family delivers food to 150 homes with Care Connect+

One year ago, a local couple, Debra and Bill Logeson, began volunteering for Care Connect+, a program of Flagler Health+, and in that time, they have delivered food to more than 150 homes.

This milestone was recently celebrated with gas cards given to the Logeson family, donated by Jimmy Jam Community Outreach. With St. Johns County continuing to grow and the need for food increasing, Care Connect+ is looking for more food delivery drivers to join the Logeson family in their efforts.

“Through this food delivery service, I have learned so much about the community,” said Bill Logeson. “With St. Johns County being the fastest growing county in Florida and all the tourists that come to the area, it’s hard to realize families are struggling. You can throw a rock from any building in the area and hit a community that needs help.”

Care Connect+ started the food delivery program in early 2020 when people recognized the increased community need due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through volunteer drivers, like the Logeson family, and Epic-Cure, a group of volunteers dedicated to eliminating food waste and ending hunger, Care Connect+ was able to start screening individuals for their needs and determine if they were eligible to be put on a list for food delivery.

The program has since continued to grow, meaning more delivery drivers are needed.

The food delivery schedule is released every Monday, and then the food delivery is every Thursday. Volunteers will receive the list of addresses that morning, stop by Epic-Cure to pick up the bags of food, then deliver them to each home.

“This is an amazing volunteer opportunity,” said Debra Logeson, “You can give back to so many families in the area without having to commit hours of time. This is a great opportunity for people with a busy schedule that still want to give back to the community.”

Care Connect+ was established by Flagler Health+ to link area residents in need with available services and address social determinants of health in a coordinated way throughout Northeast Florida. By aligning community resources into a single access point, Care Connect+ increases coordination and access of available resources. For more information, go to [stjohnscareconnect.com](http://stjohnscareconnect.com).

To learn more about becoming a food delivery driver for Care Connect+, go to [CareConnectVolunteers.com](http://CareConnectVolunteers.com) or email [Jennifer.Wills@FlaglerHealth.Org](mailto:Jennifer.Wills@FlaglerHealth.Org).

To learn more about Care Connect+ and other ways to get involved, go to [CareConnectPlus.com](http://CareConnectPlus.com).



Contributed photo

Care Connect+ volunteers Bill and Debra Logeson have delivered food to more than 150 homes in the past year. The effort is seeking more people who would like to help.



## Great Futures Weekend

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2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

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Tiffany Rodriguez talks to PGA TOUR Chef Eric Butcher as Liliana Rodriguez hugs her stuffed unicorn on Saturday, Sept. 17, after a group of volunteers from THE PLAYERS and the Jay Fund delivered a meal and gift card.



Photos by Shaun Ryan

Jay Fund CEO Keli Coughlin, far left, speaks to a gathering of volunteers prior to distribution of meals to 31 families.

# PLAYERS, Jay Fund team up to deliver meals to families

By Shaun Ryan

Little Liliana Rodriguez clutched her stuffed unicorn and beamed as a group of visitors presented a delicious, healthy meal and a \$200 gift card from Publix to her mom, Tiffany Rodriguez.

Liliana's family was one of 31 Tom Coughlin Jay Fund families to receive a specially prepared meal and gift card on

Saturday, Sept. 17. The Jay Fund provides financial, emotional and practical support to families tackling childhood cancer. Kindergarten-age Liliana is fighting leukemia.

Among those making the deliveries were team members and volunteers from THE PLAYERS. The meals were created by PGA TOUR Chef Director Eric Butcher and his team.

"I have a great team who came out and helped support this today, helped put everything together," Butcher said. "We are really excited about this initiative."

Jay Fund CEO Keli Coughlin said the nonprofit was happy to partner with THE PLAYERS and Butcher to make the deliveries possible.

"We know that prices have gone up," she said. "It's always challenging for

families to deal with childhood cancer, regardless, but we've really seen an increase in need."

She said the deliveries would mean one less thing for the families to worry about — what would be on the table that night.

Families — like Liliana's — face not just the obvious medical costs, but hidden

JAY FUND continues on Page 21

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# Jay Fund

Continued from 20

costs, as well. There's regular transportation to the hospital and back, having to eat out more frequently and childcare for siblings. For that reason, about 65% of the assistance the Jay Fund provides is financial.

"Almost always when one child is diagnosed with cancer, a parent has to stop working and become a fulltime caregiver," Coughlin said. "Often, that means there's a decrease in their income at the same time that their costs are going up."

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, more than 38 million Americans, including 12 million children, experience food insecurity. At the height of the pandemic, the Jay Fund saw a 52% increase in requests from its families for emergency financial assistance.

The Rodriguez family has been working with the Jay Fund since Liliana's diagnosis. Tiffany Rodriguez said the nonprofit's help means a lot to them. She called the delivery on Sept. 17 "super helpful," because it's hard to carve out

time to cook. Among other things, the family is moving into a new home and her husband, Gregory Rodriguez, who serves in the U.S. military, had been away for a period of deployment.

PLAYERS Executive Director Jared Rice said the Jay Fund was "a high priority for us."

"THE PLAYERS Championship has been a partner with the Jay Fund for a number of years, and we just take a ton of pride in being able to support Coach Coughlin and Keli and the amazing things they do for families fighting cancer," said Rice. "Chef Eric from the PGA TOUR had heard about our relationship and wanted to do something special. He's an amazing chef."

Butcher's team had been preparing the meals over a course of three days. Each meal consisted of soup, salad, a roast chicken and strawberry vanilla bean cheesecakes. Preparing for the delivery, Butcher's culinary staff cooked about 70 chickens and 100 pounds of mashed potatoes.

The Jay Fund is always looking for volunteers who want to help. For further information, go to [tcjayfund.org](http://tcjayfund.org).



Photos by Shaun Ryan

**Volunteers pack automobiles with meals created for Jay Fund families by PGA TOUR Chef Eric Butcher and his team. The meals were delivered by volunteers to the families on Sept. 17.**



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# Angelwood Gala enjoys ‘most successful year to date’



Soaring Possibilities award winner Tyler Anderson speaks with Angelwood chief executive officer Diane Tuttle after receiving his award on stage during the 2022 Angelwood Gala.



Photos by Susan Griffin

The 2022 Angelwood Gala had a “cruise” theme.

## By Anthony Richards

Angelwood hosted its annual Soaring Possibilities Celebration, which benefits individuals and families in Northeast Florida living with intellectual and developmental differences, such as autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and spina bifida.

This year’s event was attended by 280 people, which was a huge turnout, according to Angelwood chief development officer Damara Farwell.

One of the highlights of the night was the handing out of the “soaring possibilities” award, which this year’s recipient was Tyler Anderson, who first started

coming to Angelwood’s summer day camp at 7 years old, and now going on 28 years old he lives in one of Angelwood’s group homes.

“That was by far my favorite part of the evening,” Farwell said. “Watching his reaction to winning the award was just priceless.”

According to Farwell, that is what the night of celebration was intended for, when it first began with a fashion show more than two decades ago.

“That is really what the evening is all about,” Farwell said. “It’s about recogniz-

**ANGELWOOD** continues on **Page 23**

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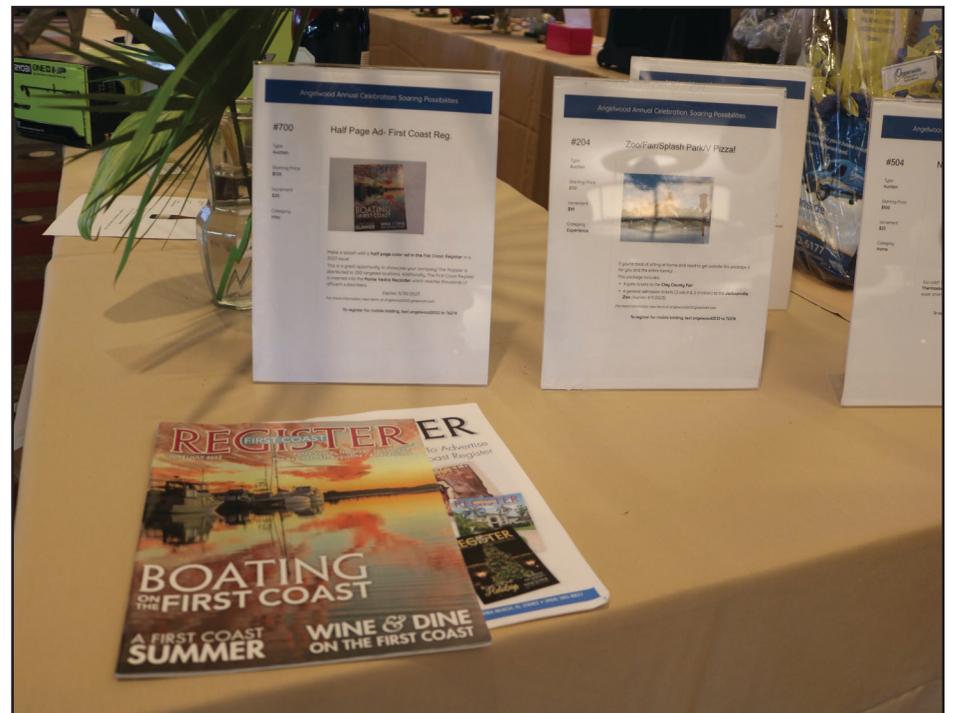
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Underwood Jewelers raffle winner Tracie Wolford (second from left) is joined by Rebecca Mason, Scott Granger and Kelli Roberts Whitman.



Photos by Susan Griffin

The Recorder supported Angelwood as a silver angel sponsor of the event.

## Angelwood

Continued from 22

ing all the lives we service. It really has had an impact on not just him (Anderson), but on his family as well.”

It moved from the fashion show to more of the gala format during the event’s 25th anniversary and it now has some nice momentum heading into its 30th anniversary

celebration next year, after Farwell called it the “most successful year to date.”

Another sign of that success is when Anderson’s mother thanked the organization during the event for giving her son the “opportunities for a rich and meaningful life” that she believes he would not have if not for Angelwood and the continued support of the community through events like that.

“The community gives back, because

I think they see the need of families in our community the true importance of the lives that are being touched here,” Farwell said.

The event included a silent and live auction and various activities throughout the night where attendees could take part in, such as a bracelet raffle donated by Underwood Jewelers and wine ring toss, where the winners got to pick a bottle of wine of their choice.

This year’s event had a “cruise” theme to the night.

According to Farwell, she believes one of the main contributing factors to being the most successful event, was that it was the first “full” event of its kind in the last couple of years, with it being virtual in 2020 and having a cap on the number of attendees in 2021.

“It was so nice not to be capped, and it showed,” Farwell said.

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# Epic-Cure food rescue feeds hungry, helps environment

At a time when food insecurity is a significant concern — even here in prosperous St. Johns County — a local, all-volunteer organization is rescuing food that would otherwise have been thrown away and providing it to those in need.

Epic-Cure Inc. was founded in 2018 in response to the staggering amount of food waste in the county. With one in six Americans facing hunger while 30% to 40% of the food supply ends up in landfills, these volunteers felt a call to action.

Since opening the doors to its first warehouse a little over three years ago, the organization has:

- rescued and distributed more than 10 million pounds of food and
- provided an average of 62 pounds of food more than 162,000 times to families experiencing need or food insecurity.

Food rescue goes beyond providing good, healthy and nutritious food to families. It is helping to move the needle on a serious environmental problem.

Annually, food waste is the largest component in landfills and accounts for 6% of all greenhouse gas emissions. When food decomposes without the benefit of oxygen, it emits methane gas, which, according to the EPA, is 25 times as potent than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the atmosphere.



The 10 million pounds of food Epic-Cure volunteers have helped divert from landfills has prevented 4,431 tons of methane gas from harming the atmosphere.

In addition, approximately 21% of freshwater resources and 21% of farmland are used each year to produce food that will ultimately be wasted.

Beyond food rescue and distribution, Epic-Cure fosters self-reliance for veterans and students at Title 1 schools through cooking classes. Senior citizens teach children to safely prepare meals, providing them with practical life skills and the self-confidence that comes from real achievement. This connects generations through a shared purpose, improving the

wellbeing of both the children and their senior citizen mentors.

Because food waste happens in all phases of production — from distribution to end use — Epic-Cure is adding a pilot composting program to address the problem of — and educate people about — food waste at the home level.

Because it is a 100% volunteer organization, Epic-Cure's costs are low, and its

production is efficient. It has been able to return \$29 in value to the communities it serves for every dollar it spends.

Since its inception, the total value of the food volunteers have distributed is more than \$17.5 million, but its operating costs over that time are not quite \$600,000.

To learn more go to [epic-cure.org](http://epic-cure.org).



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More than 400 non-perishable food items were collected during the Frank Holleman Invitational food drive to benefit the Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County.

# Food drive offers unique twist to swim meet

By Anthony Richards

In just two years, the Frank Holleman Invitational has left its mark on the community by having a food drive to benefit the Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County.

According to Nease swim coach Gus Calado, the goal of the event was to honor retired longtime St. Augustine High swim coach Frank Holleman, and it was decided the best way to do that was to come up with something that makes it more than just another swim meet.

That goal did not take long to be achieved, as more than 400 non-perishable food items were collected throughout the meet.

“After the meet, we collect everything and take it down to St. Augustine,” Calado said. “It’s pretty cool to have the

ability to be able to do this and have the local public high schools giving back to their communities.”

According to Calado, not only does the food drive provide support for those who are homeless and in need, but it also gives the student-athletes a sense of pride to know that they were able to make a difference in someone else’s life.

“Being aware of what’s out there is very important, and it’s cool when everyone really buys into it,” Calado said. “We’re definitely going to continue doing this food drive for the years to come.”

Some schools even hold a drive at their school knowing that the swim meet will be coming up, and then drop off all that they collected the day of the meet.

The food items collected are then delivered to the Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County headquarters in St. Augustine a couple of days after the event.

“It’s really rewarding, especially when you hand everything to them,” Calado said. “To see the look on their faces is just priceless.”

Fifteen schools took part in the event, including most public schools in both St. Johns and Clay counties.

“We are really trying to target the local public schools, because most public schools don’t have an opportunity to swim in an invitational championship in town with prelims and finals,” Calado said. “We trying to target a different audience but offer the same thing for the kids.”

According to Calado, the feedback from other coaches has been so appreciative and they are happy to have such an event taking place in their backyard.

“Last year really laid out the foundation of what to expect from the event, so that this year, people were asking about it and even more excited for the event to come,” Calado said.

He credits the food drive for also helping to drive interest in the event, because it separates the Frank Holleman Invitational apart from other swim meets taking place annually across the country.

“People are looking for ways to give back and this is a good format for that,” Calado said. “We’re happy with how everything has gone.”

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# Realtor is finalist for national volunteering award

Longtime Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR) member MaliVai Washington, a former ATP Tour star and a Realtor with Diamond Life Realty, has been selected as one of 10 finalists for the National Association of Realtors (NAR) 2022 Good Neighbor Award.

A Realtor for more than 25 years, Washington was selected for his dedication to the MaliVai Youth Foundation, a nonprofit that works to break the cycle of poverty through a vibrant after-school mentoring program and tennis instruction in the Durkeeville neighborhood of Jacksonville.

Each year, NAR recognizes Realtors throughout the United States who have made an extraordinary impact on their communities through volunteer work. All nominees were judged on their personal contribution of time as well as financial and material contributions to benefit their cause.

Ten finalists are selected with five Realtors eventually winning \$10,000 grants for the charities they support, including an article in the fall edition of Realtor Magazine. The winners will also receive travel expenses to the conference and be recognized at the NAR Conference & Expo, which is now called NAR NXT. The conference will

take place in Orlando from Nov. 11-13, and the winners will be honored both during the general sessions as well as during a special Good Neighbor Award dinner on Nov. 12.

From now through Oct. 3, the public is invited to go online and vote for MaliVai Washington as their “Web Choice Favorite” of the 10 NAR Good Neighbor finalists. The three finalists with the most votes will receive more than \$1,000 in bonus grant money for their nonprofits.

To vote go to [realtor.com/goodneighbor](http://realtor.com/goodneighbor). Information about NAR’s Good Neighbors may be found at [nar.realtor/gna](http://nar.realtor/gna). The “Web Choice Award” winners as well as the five 2022 Good Neighbor Award winners will be announced Oct. 6.

A former tennis pro who has competed in ATP competitions all over the globe, Washington, a Ponte Vedra Beach resident, once attained a career-high ranking of 11th in the world. In tennis, he represented the United States in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and was runner-up at Wimbledon the same year.

His charitable work centers around the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation, a nonprofit that he established in



Contributed Photo

MaliVai Washington

AWARD continues on Page 28

## Beach Bash

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## Award

Continued from 27

1994, first as a grant-writing foundation for underprivileged children and later as a place where underserved kids would be provided with tennis and academic instruction in Durkeeville, which is considered by many to be one of the “deadliest neighborhoods” in Jacksonville.

In 2008, Washington’s foundation opened its youth center and tennis complex after raising \$3.8 million. The facility allowed him to expand his foundation’s after-school programming and begin offering summer camps. In 2020, the foundation opened its Club 904 Teen Center after raising \$5 million. The new center, which is located across the street from the youth center and tennis complex, provides teens with a space of their own and has allowed the nonprofit to increase its capacity.

Today, the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation serves low-income youth both after-school and during the summer with academic assistance, life skills, tennis instruction, college and career preparation, mental health counseling, scholarships and leadership training. Now serving 500 kids annually, Washington is proud of the founda-

tion’s 100% high school graduation rate within the program as the surrounding neighborhood’s dropout rate is 20%.

“MaliVai has gone above and beyond to help build stronger communities and improve the lives of people across this country,” said NAR President Leslie Rouda Smith. “His determination and selfless commitment embody everything that we strive for as Realtors and as compassionate members of our community. I’m proud of MaliVai and the rest of this year’s Good Neighbor Award finalists for devoting hundreds of hours of their personal time to these important causes.”

In 2007, Washington received an honorable mention in NAR’s Good Neighbor program as one of the 10 finalists and took home a \$2,500 grant and a \$500 Lowes gift card. He was also profiled in the November 2007 issue of Realtor Magazine. At that time, Washington was selected from more than 350 semi-finalists.

NAR’s Good Neighbor Awards were launched in 2000 and have since recognized nearly 200 Realtors for their service to their communities. Through Good Neighbor Award grants and associated programs, Realtor-led Good Neighbor charities have received more than \$1 million in donations.

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Linda Johnson, Director of Community Outreach

# K9s United offers specialty license plate

K9s United, a national nonprofit dedicated to supporting law enforcement K9 units with vital equipment and training, is in the final months of accepting pre-orders for its approved state of Florida K9s United specialty license plate. The organization, based in Jacksonville, is encouraging Florida drivers to pre-order their K9s United license plates by Oct. 15 to meet the state requirement of 3,000 plates sold in order to be produced and offered statewide.

“K9s United was born through a passion for our K9 officers who silently work so hard to protect and serve our communities,” said Debbie Johnson, K9s United founder and president. “While they don’t have a voice to communicate their needs, we do, and we work hard to provide our canine officers and their handlers with training and equipment to stay safe in the field. By supporting our K9s United specialty license plate, you are not only advocating for our organization, you are also supporting our furry officers for years and years to come. The revenue generated from the plates will help take our mission to the next level to provide the programs and supplies these selfless

dogs need to serve our communities.”

The unique plate design was created to honor two special K9 officers and was voted on by Florida residents and K9 supporters prior to release.

The specialty license plates can be preordered by Florida residents with active state driver’s licenses for \$33 from any authorized motor vehicle service center throughout the state of Florida (in person or online), or at [k9sunitd.org/florida-license-plate](http://k9sunitd.org/florida-license-plate) for \$34. Most importantly, \$25 from each plate sold will directly benefit K9s United to support the nonprofit’s mission to educate, train and provide vital equipment and services to K9s who protect and serve their communities.

Many law enforcement agencies don’t have adequate funding to provide K9 units with the necessary resources they need, including advanced training, equipment and kennels, vehicle heat alarms and door poppers, canine emergency kits and bulletproof vests, along with other larger health expenses. K9s United helps fill that void and aid law enforcement agencies to ensure the K9 units have the programs and supplies the dogs need most.



Contributed photo

**K9 Drago is seen with the specialty plate that bears his image, along with that of a deceased St. Johns County K9.**

Additionally, K9s United advocates for legislation that protects and serves these dogs. The organization has successfully championed Florida legislation to create harsher penalties for criminals who intentionally harm a working K9 and allows injured K9s to

be transported via emergency vehicles to the nearest emergency vet. K9s United is committed to supporting legislation on local, state and federal levels to protect K9 teams across the country.

For more information or to donate, go to [k9sunitd.org](http://k9sunitd.org).

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ENTERPRISE VILLAGE

# RSM Birdies Fore Love launches fifth year of program

RSM US LLP, a national provider of audit, tax and consulting services focused on the middle market, and the PGA TOUR, have announced the start of the fifth annual RSM Birdies Fore Love charitable giving platform through an on-course competition over the fall portion of the 2022-23 FedEx-Cup Regular Season.

In 2018, RSM expanded its successful internal Birdies Fore Love program and created RSM Birdies Fore Love to recognize and award the top-three finishers in total birdies (or better) from all fall TOUR events.

The top three finishers earn \$300,000, \$150,000 and \$50,000, respectively, for charities of their choice. In addition, the player who records the most birdies (or better) in each fall event (excluding the

Presidents Cup) earns \$50,000 for a charity of his choice.

In total, TOUR players will direct \$1 million to charities during the fall portion of the schedule through RSM Birdies Fore Love annually.

“Since The RSM Classic began in 2010, in coordination with the PGA TOUR and the Davis Love Foundation, we have raised more than \$28 million for charities that support education and organizations that support children and families in the areas of hunger, housing and health,” said Andy Bosman, chief marketing officer with RSM. “Each year more than 90 organizations across the U.S. and in Canada benefit from the generosity of our colleagues and our clients, and the stories of the impact reinforce the importance of

stewardship and supporting all of our communities.”

The program began with the Fortinet Championship at Silverado Resort and Spa in Napa, Calif., on Sept. 15, and concludes with The RSM Classic in Sea Island, Georgia, on Nov. 20, in which the top three players will be awarded the aforementioned totals for charitable donations to children- or family-focused charitable organizations of the players’ choice.

Winning players from this year’s RSM Birdies Fore Love program will be encouraged to designate funds to charitable organizations that align with the RSM US Foundation’s mission of building tomorrow’s middle-market leaders and improving the lives of youth.

# Jax residents thank police officers

Jacksonville residents publicly expressed their gratitude to past and present police officers by endorsing the proclamation banner circulated by the We Can Be Heroes Foundation. The large banner was presented at the Jacksonville Police Memorial Building on Thursday, Sept. 15.

The proclamation thanks and salutes past and present law enforcement officers for standing watch to protect individuals, families, neighborhoods and property against crime.

“Sometimes in the wake of recent tragedies, police officers have not received the gratitude and thanks they deserve,” We Can Be Heroes Foundation President Beth Heath said. “This banner reminds law enforcement their service is respected by countless thousands of grateful people in or passing through this city.”

We Can Be Heroes Foundation publicizes nominations from across nation for heroes and unsung heroes, including first responders, community volunteers, veterans and youth. In addition, it hosts tributes to heroes and educational forums to promote American values and help veterans and those in need.



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# Art, poetry winners in calendar contest named

Contributed photos

Judges helped Betty Griffin Center go through hundreds of entries from students in the St. Johns County School District to select winners in the 2023 Day Without Violence Art and Poetry Calendar Contest.

“The number of submissions made it a real challenge for our judges to narrow them down to the final winners, but we appreciated all of the St. Johns County students who entered the contest,” said Betty Griffin Center CEO Kelly Franklin. “We also thank the St. Johns County School District for their continued support of our prevention work and our calendar contest.”

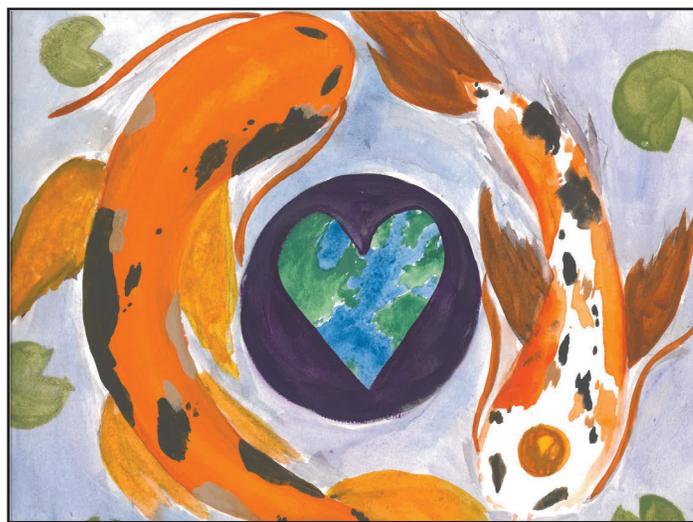
Local family-owned-and-operated print company Hartley is sponsoring production of the calendar for a second consecutive year, printing 3,000 for distribution throughout the county this fall.

In the art contest, Charita Parvahaneni, a seventh grader at Fruit Cove Middle School, won first place and Danica Klir, a ninth grader at Allen D. Nease High School, won second place.

In the poetry contest, fifth-grade student Katie Meyer from Hickory Creek Elementary School won first place and Brynn Jenkins, a sixth grader from Fruit Cove Middle School, was the second-place winner.

Those receiving honorable mention include:

- Freya Nesargi – 5th grade, Patriot Oaks Academy



**Charita Parvahaneni, a seventh grader at Fruit Cove Middle School, won first place in the 2023 Day Without Violence Art Contest.**

- Annabelle Hollis — 4th grade, Hickory Creek Elementary School
- Amanda Faldman — 9th grade, Creekside Hickory Creek Elementary
- Alissa Carde — 11th grade, Creekside Hickory Creek Elementary
- Mckenzie Gladden — 7th grade, Pacetti Bay Middle School
- Lily Cullinane — 7th grade, Pacetti Bay Middle School
- Maya Alexander — 7th grade, Fruit Cove Middle School
- LeighAnn Landrum — 7th grade, Fruit Cove Middle School



**Danica Klir, a ninth grader at Allen D. Nease High School, won second place in the 2023 Day Without Violence Art Contest.**

- Ellie Cantor — 7th grade, Fruit Cove Middle School
  - Olivia Gullion — 7th grade, Mill Creek Academy
  - Jocelyn Rivera-Cook — 9th grade, Toco Creek High School
  - Olivia Strickland — 9th grade, Toco Creek High School
- Judging was conducted by Antonio C. Scott, a long-time professional in the arts world, and Fonya Lord, a St. Augustine-based writer and visual artist.
- Contest winners will receive special recognition during a St. Johns County School

Board meeting and have their artwork displayed at the Crisp Ellert Art Museum throughout October during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The contest was open to all St. Johns County students in kindergarten through 12th grade, whether they attended public school, private school or were home-schooled. The number of entries vary each year, depending on the number of students who participate. First-place winners receive \$50, second-place winners receive \$25 and all students receiving honorable mentions receive \$10 each.

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# Business Weekly

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PAGE 33 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022



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Photos by Anthony Richards



Neil McGuinness signs copies of his books following a presentation at the NEFAR breakfast Sept. 13.



Neil McGuinness spoke about the history surrounding "The Beaches Island," as he calls it.

## 'The Beaches Island' history discussed during NEFAR breakfast

By Anthony Richards

The Northeast Florida Association of Realtors held its quarterly breakfast at The Plantation in Ponte Vedra Beach Sept. 13.

The guest speaker for the meeting

was Neil McGuinness, who spoke to the crowd about the history of The Beaches and the Ponte Vedra Beach area.

He talked about the beginning with early Spanish settlement and Native American tribes in the area and showed a

map of the area that used to be San Diego cattle ranch before the 60,000 acres were eventually sold and is now the area consisting of Mickler's Road and beyond.

During that time, a lot of political turmoil ensued, causing Florida to go back

and forth between Spanish and British rule before eventually becoming a U.S. state.

"Eventually, towns at the beach began

NEFAR continues on Page 34

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Photo by Anthony Richards

# NEFAR

Continued from 33

popping up at railroad stops,” McGuinness said.

According to McGuinness, this is when the growth of the beach communities in Northeast Florida really started taking off.

That growth led to the dredging of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway in 1912, which he referred to as the “Palm Valley cut.”

“It was done to connect the rivers and it made The Beaches a true island,” McGuinness said.

Around this time was also when titanium was found along Ponte Vedra’s beaches, which was used in the creation of flares used during World War I.

He wrapped up his presentation by talking about the importance of Jimmy Stockton in the development of the “Original Sawgrass” in 1972, which was made possible with the help of his dad, who he purchased 500 acres from.

“The Beaches Island” is 37 miles long and has remained without an official name since its creation in 1912.

“The island had been a peninsula before the dredging took place,” McGuinness said.

He published a book in 2010 called “The Beaches: A History and Tour,” where he talks more in depth about all the events he discussed during the meeting



A nice crowd was on hand for the quarterly NEFAR breakfast at The Plantation in Ponte Vedra Beach.

and more.

“A lot of Realtors use the book as closing gifts when selling a house,” McGuinness said.

According to McGuinness, he and his wife are Realtors themselves, but history

has always been something that fascinated him and was the main prompt for writing the book.

It took two years for him to do the research, gather the information and write the book.

He is currently working on another book, but it has taken much longer, as he aims to cover events that took place from the Bering Land Bridge to the moon landing.

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# Keller Williams Realty Atlantic Partners celebrates new office



Photo by Susan Griffin

Margaret Sherrill, operating principle, cuts the ribbon for Keller Williams Realty Atlantic Partners' new office in Sawgrass Village as team leader Mark Dilworth looks on. St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Veda Beach Division conducted the ceremony.

## Chamber's Ponte Veda Division holds ribbon cutting

Keller Williams Realty Atlantic Partners continues to expand their market presence in Ponte Veda Beach.

This June, Keller Williams Atlantic Partners, part of the largest real estate company in the world, moved to a new location, right in the heart of Ponte Veda. The new office is located at 13000 Sawgrass Village Circle Building 1, Suite 3, in the Village Professional Center.

This new office includes space for other real estate support services, including Blue Ocean Title and Bank of England.

Keller Williams opened a small business center in Ponte Veda at the end of 2019. This office was extremely productive and in 2021 sold more than \$426 million dollars of real estate with more than 500 individual units closed.

As Keller Williams' presence in Ponte Veda expanded, a new office was the logical next step, allowing the already productive office space to incorporate additional real agents.

According to those who have viewed

OFFICE continues on Page 36

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# Office

Continued from 35

it, the new Keller Williams Ponte Veda Beach office is “fabulous” with several meeting spaces for closings, entertaining clients and working with vendors. The contemporary coastal style and natural light make the office space inviting. There’s plenty of space for agents and their support staff. Currently, there are about 40 agents working out of the office with room for more as

the company grows.

Having a presence in the heart of Ponte Veda Beach is essential for Keller Williams’ success. This prime location allows for more opportunities for connections and interaction with the Ponte Veda Beach community. In addition, the shops and restaurants of Sawgrass Village are just steps away.

The grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Sept. 15. Clients, agents and neighboring businesses were invited to celebrate the new space. The event was a smashing success.



There was live music at the grand opening of Keller Williams Realty Atlantic Partners’ new office.



Charcuterie board at the event.



Photos by Susan Griffin

Realtors Kathleen Floryan, left, and Shelley Morgan attend the grand opening.



Jim Zeller, left, and Aaron Bacus attend the grand opening.

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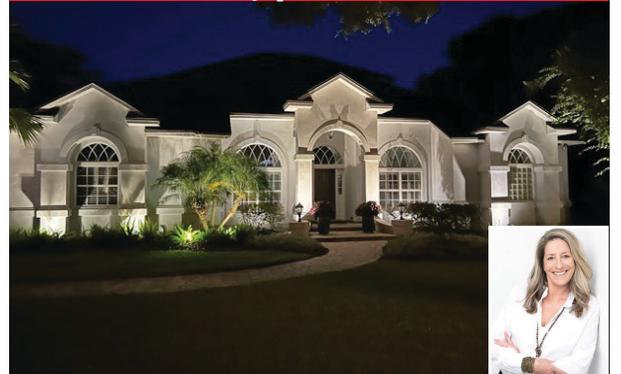
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\*Source: Keller Williams Multi-Trend Report & MLS

# Moderation in the housing market shows a shift toward affordability

In most areas of Northeast Florida the August housing market reflected a slight drop in median prices while the number of days homes sat on the market has gradually continued to climb.

Buyers can relish the good news that, for single-family homes, the percent closed-over list price went down 27.7% as did the average list price, 1%, indicating a small tick up in affordability throughout the region.

As far as affordability goes, the market still has a way to go to get back to the point where homes are affordable for people making the median family income. However, there are many indications that it is finally moving in the right direction. For instance, the region's Home Affordability Index inched up 2.9% to 70 for single-family homes. The index measures housing affordability by measuring whether a typical family earns enough to qualify for a mortgage on a typical home, based on current interest rates, median income and median home prices. A higher number means greater affordability.

"Moving into fall 2022 we continue

to see the residential real estate market, which includes single-family homes, condos and townhomes, continue to moderate and normalize," said Mark Rosener, president of the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR). "While still an 18% increase year over year, the median price in our six-county market has shown mild fluctuations month to month of between \$350,000 and \$365,000 since March. This indicates that the dramatic increases that were seen during the pandemic are coming to an end."

Rosener said that closed and pending sales have leveled off in the 2,300 to 2,500 range over the past several months and are now well below the 3,000 to 3,500 peak a little more than a year ago.

"Median days on the market have continued to increase to 31 days with only 19.1% of homes selling over list price and the sale-to-list price ratio settling into a more normal 98.6%," he continued. "New listings are hitting the market and active inventory has stabilized, with 3,200 new listings and 6,348 active listings. The combination of fewer unit



sales and our current active inventory has increased the region's months of supply to 2.7 months, which has been stable over the past couple of months."

As far as single-family homes go, \$393,900 was the median price for the region in August, a scant 1.5% decline. As seen in the combined market of single-family, condos and townhomes, the median days on the market for single-family residences hiked up 34.8%.

Still, inventory remains historically low, with a 2.7-month supply and an active inventory of 5,323 single-family homes.

St. Johns County remains the most expensive area to live with a median

single-family home price of \$555,000 and a Home Affordability Index number of 49. Yet the August median days on the market for single-family homes leaped up 34.6% to 35 days.

In contrast, Putnam County, which is the most affordable place to live in Northeast Florida compared to its other counties, saw the median price of single-family homes increase 24.1% to \$242,000 and its Home Affordability Index drop to 113, a 19.3% decrease from the month before. The median days on the market in August also increased 43.7% to 51.

Putnam County's Home Affordability Index indicated the county was becoming less affordable when it registered at 113, a 19.3% decrease from July.

As the market levels off into its new normal, sellers and buyers may need to adjust their mindsets, said Rosener.

"Sellers will need to price their homes in line with current comparable sold and active listings," he said. "The tried-and-true factors of location and condition for

**MARKET** continues on **Page 40**



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

## Congratulations to our August Leaders!



**Meredith Schwarz**  
Ponte Vedra Beach



**Lara Hoffman**  
Ponte Vedra Beach



**Will Landay & Rachael Ridaught**  
Ponte Vedra Beach



**Jennifer Zeiller**  
Nocatee



**Matt & Naomi Wilkinson**  
Nocatee



### KINGSTON DUNES

Fabulous intercostal waterway and marsh views. High end home with fantastic Sunsets! 3 BR, 2 BA, 1,824 SF MLS 1191336 \$795,000  
**Julie Jones (904) 501-7235**



### KINGSTON DUNES

Well maintained home, updated kitchen and 2 master suites. 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 1,823 SF MLS 1192141 \$659,000  
**Julie Jones (904) 501-7235**



### ADDISON PARK

One level home with 3 way split bedrooms. Gourmet kitchen with gas cooktop & Island. 4 BR, 3 BA, 2,285 SF MLS 1189209 \$670,000  
**Oksana Pondo (904) 305-6074**



### COASTAL OAKS

Private, extraordinary lanai oasis awaits! Gated community. Live exclusively. 4 BR, 3.5 BA, 2,923 SF MLS 1184638 \$1,049,000  
**Nicole Middlebrook (352) 228-2882**



### OUTLOOK AT TWENTY MILE

1 story ranch style home. Screened patio & fully fenced backyard. 4 BR, 3 BA, 2,816 SF MLS 1190035 \$899,900  
**Matt & Naomi (904) 234-5014**



### TIMBERLAND RIDGE

Wood-look tile and screened lanai. 3 BR+ Office / Flex space, 2 BA, 1,950 SF MLS 1188652 \$589,000  
**Matt & Naomi (904) 234-5014**



### INTRACOASTAL ACCESS

Over 1 acre in a small private community. Direct access to the intracoastal waterway. MLS 1185030 \$825,000  
**Malia Finger (904) 994-8444**



### SAN SALITO

Move in ready! Desirable location with stunning pond views. Newer build & heated spa. 4 BR, 2 BA, 1,828 SF MLS 1186761 \$479,900  
**Nicole Middlebrook (352) 228-2882**



### SETTLER'S LANDING

Move-in ready! Large preserve lot. Wood floors, elegant kitchen with custom backsplash. 3 BR, 2 BA, 1,824 SF MLS 1188198 \$610,000  
**Josh Foster (317) 439-2024**



### DEL WEBB PONTE VEDRA

Maintained home with granite countertops & tile flooring. Fenced backyard and screened lanai. 2 BR, 2 BA, 1,348 SF MLS 1185900 \$513,000  
**Brian Sacks (904) 466-1879**



### EPPING FOREST

Gorgeous, St. Johns Riverfront estate located in a gated community! 5 BR, 7.5 BA, 7,921 SF MLS 1163821 \$2,950,000  
**Cheryl Gillespie (904) 338-8697**



### OXFORD CHASE

Water views! Beautiful move-in ready home is light & bright. HOA \$200 / Month. 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 1,878 SF MLS 1183862 \$369,000  
**Robert & Kyle Svirsky (904) 403-1177**



### HYDE PARK CIRCLE

Amazing Waterfront Home On Cedar River which connects to the Ocean. No HOA or CDD! 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 2,054 SF MLS 1188843 \$533,000  
**Kathy Slusser (904) 760-9763**



### SETTLER'S LANDING

Available Now! Upgrades galore & abundance of natural light. 4 BR + Loft & Landing, 2.5 BA, 2,315 SF MLS 1192166 \$699,900  
**Kathy Slusser (904) 760-9763**



### DEL WEBB PONTE VEDRA

Open, bright floorplan. Spacious kitchen with granite counters. Screened lanai. 2 BR + office/den, 2 BA, 1,604 SF \$499,900  
**Michael Paull (904) 705-1004**



### TURTLE SHORES

Ocean Views & Ocean Breezes! Enjoy the beach life in a gated community. 4 BR, 3 BA, 2,677 SF MLS 1187630 \$895,000  
**Christine & Richard (904) 349-6163**

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# PulteGroup opens for sales at Summer Bay at Grand Oaks

PulteGroup has announced that sales are underway at its newest 55+ active adult community, Summer Bay at Grand Oaks.

“The interest in our active adult community under the Pulte Homes Active Adult name has been tremendous,” said Tony Nason, division president of PulteGroup’s Northeast Florida Division. “With its exclusive amenities, sought-after location and consumer-inspired homes, Summer Bay at Grand Oaks will truly be a special 55+ community.”

Summer Bay at Grand Oaks consists of 40-, 50- and 65-foot-wide home sites designed to showcase conservation, lake and park views. Located within the Grand Oaks master-planned community, Pulte Homes Active Adult offers 15 single-family open concept home designs with designer upgrades starting in the low \$300,000s.

The gated, 55+ neighborhood will be home to the exclusive Summer Bay Amenity Center with a resort-style pool featuring lap lanes, cabanas and a spa. Residents will find state-of-the-art pickleball and bocce ball sports courts, a



Contributed rendering

**Designed exclusively for Summer Bay at Grand Oaks residents, the Summer Bay Amenity Center offers an active and relaxing lifestyle.**

fitness center, an outdoor firepit and fireplace, a community garden and more.

Summer Bay at Grand Oaks is locat-

ed at 22 Myrtle Oak Court, St. Augustine. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call 904-604-6880 or go to [pultehomes.com/summerbay](https://pultehomes.com/summerbay).

## Market

Continued from 38

a home have become as important as ever and are specific to each neighborhood.”

Meanwhile, for buyers, the additional inventory now on the market is good news, Rosener said.

“It allows for more selection and perhaps a less competitive frenzy of activity for each listing,” he said. “Multiple offers on properties are still a reality in many areas of the market but not as much of a factor as it was at the peak.”

Month-to-month in St. Johns County, closed sales dropped 6.3% to 475, pending sales dropped 3.9% to 394 and new listings dropped 10.3% to 574. Active inventory rose to 1,312 homes, a 1.1% increase, and a 2.8-month supply.

In Duval County, the August median price of single-family housing was \$343,995, a nearly 1% drop from June and July. The median days on the market in August was 28, a 33.3% increase over July and a 115.4% increase from the year before. Month-to-month, closed sales dropped 1.5% to 956, pending sales increased 6.6% to 1,018, and new listings dropped 12.9% to 1,365. Active inventory for the county was 2,580 homes, a slight decline from last month and a 2.7-month supply. In August, the home affordability index registered at 79.5, a minuscule increase over July’s index of 79.

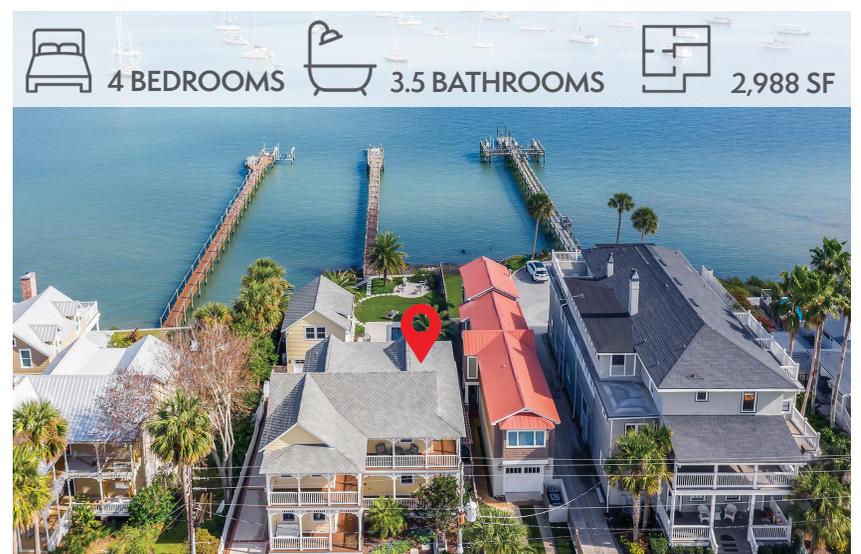


Ponte Vedra Club  
REALTY

// featured LISTINGS

269 PLANTATION CIRCLE S // PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL  
\$2,800,000 // MLS#1191009 // LISTED BY JO MITCHELL

103 MARINE STREET // ST. AUGUSTINE, FL  
\$2,999,000 // MLS#1177615 // LISTED BY SHANNON MURRAY



Preferred Membership Initiation Fee pricing for the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, The Lodge & Club, Epping Forest Yacht & Country Club and The River Club is available exclusively through Ponte Vedra Club Realty. Call us today to see how to take advantage of this offer.

# Bond issuance for Vicar's Landing project OK'd

In June, the St. Johns County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) board unanimously approved the issuance of up to \$30 million in industrial revenue bonds for Life Care Ponte Vedra/Vicar's Landing.

Vicar's Landing, established in 1983, provides continuing retirement care for the community. The bond funding will be used to support the development of the second phase of Vicar's Landing at Oak Bridge, which is the organization's newest of two campuses in Ponte Vedra Beach.

For this phase of the project, an apartment building that offers 33 additional independent living units will be constructed.

"The IDA has supported Vicar's Landing and its projects since the 1980s," said Melissa Churchwell, chair of the IDA board. "It's wonderful to see the continued success of Vicar's Landing here in St. Johns County."

The primary purpose of the St. Johns County IDA is to issue tax-exempt bond financing for manufacturing facilities and other eligible capital projects being

constructed within St. Johns County.

This tax-exempt financing is intended to give St. Johns County a competitive advantage by improving the economic viability of eligible projects. Since its establishment in 1980, the IDA has approved more than \$1.3 billion in industrial revenue bonds to support local projects.

Vicar's Landing plans to continue the development of the Oak Bridge campus, including the construction of two more buildings. When fully developed, the campus will offer 175 independent living

units and 60 assisted living units.

"For 35 years, Vicar's Landing has provided exceptional service to older adults in the heart of Ponte Vedra Beach, and we are pleased to continue that legacy of excellence," said Bruce Jones, chief executive officer at Vicar's Landing. "We are excited to finance our second phase through a bond issuance with the St. Johns County IDA."

For more information about the St. Johns County IDA, go to [sjcfl.us/IDA](http://sjcfl.us/IDA) or call 904-209-0560.

## Baptist Medical Center Beaches among 'World's Best' for cardiology

Baptist Medical Center Beaches been named to Newsweek's list of World's Best Specialized Hospitals 2023. This award is presented by Newsweek and Statista Inc., a statistics portal and industry ranking provider.

The World's Best Specialized Hospitals 2023 ranking identifies the best hospitals in a variety of specialties. Baptist Beaches was recognized for being one of Newsweek's World's Best for cardiology.

Newsweek and Statista invited more than 40,000 medical experts — including doctors, hospital managers and health care professionals — to participate in online surveys that allowed them to recommend and assess various hospitals within their

respective specializations. The results of the survey were then validated by a global board of renowned medical experts.

"To be recognized as a Newsweek World's Best for cardiology is a testament to the advanced, high-quality heart care the community has at Baptist Beaches," said hospital President Joe Mitrick. "We have world-class physicians who studied at some of the most prestigious universities in the nation who provide advanced, leading-edge prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation for heart and vascular conditions. I am incredibly proud of our team members and physicians who provide this care day in and day out to improve, and often, save lives."



Contributed photo

Baptist Medical Center Beaches been named to Newsweek's list of World's Best Specialized Hospitals 2023.

## Chamber Before Hours held at TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse



Mark Ryan, Kathleen Floryan and Peter verDorn

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division held a Before Hours event for its members at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse Sept. 14. The Chamber thanked the staff at the clubhouse for all they did to help put on the networking event.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Peter verDorn and Tim Crosby



Members of the Chamber network while enjoying food.



Photo provided by SJC Chamber

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Division held a Before Hours networking event at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse Sept. 14.

# In the Arts

Send your arts news to  
news@pontevedrarecorder.com

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

## Quilts subject of Lightner Museum exhibit

The Lightner Museum will exhibit “Handstitched Worlds: The Cartography of Quilts” from Oct. 7 through Jan. 20.

An American pastime, quilting was a hobby promoted by museum founder Otto Lightner in his magazine *Hobbies*. Writing in the 1940s about his plans for his St. Augustine museum, Lightner envisioned the building “decorated with museum material such as historical quilts, fine needle work, and rich fabrics.”

Like many objects rooted in the everyday, quilts have the capacity to communicate stories about the context in which they were made and used. They represent maps of the quilters’ lives — living records of cultural traditions, rites of passage, relationships, political and spiritual beliefs, landmark events and future aspirations. As a map is a pocket-sized abstraction of the world beyond what can be seen, a quilt maker’s choice of fabric and design reveals insights into the topography of her world and place within it.

“Handstitched Worlds: The Cartography of Quilts” invites viewers to read quilts as maps, tracing the paths of individual stories and experiences that illuminate larger historic events and cultural trends.

Spanning the 19th, 20th and first decades of the 21st century, the exhibition brings together 18 quilts from the collection of the American Folk Art Museum, New York, representing a range of materials, motifs, and techniques — from traditional, early-American quilts to more contemporary sculptural assemblage.

The quilts in “Handstitched Worlds” reveal how this often overlooked medium balances creativity with tradition, individuality with the spirit of the times.

The exhibition will kick off with a free community open house at the Lightner Museum from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 7.

“Handstitched Worlds: The Cartography of Quilts” is presented at the Lightner by the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. Additional support comes from the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The exhibition was organized by the American Folk Art Museum, New York, and is toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C.

Founded in 1948 by Chicago publisher, collector, and professional hobbyist Otto C. Lightner, the museum offers an immersive experience of art, architecture, history and design. At the heart of the museum’s offerings are its compelling collections, including lamps by Tiffany, geological samples from around the world, porcelain produced at Sèvres and Victorian mechanical musical instruments.

The museum is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 75 King St., St. Augustine. For further information, go to [lightnermuseum.org](http://lightnermuseum.org) or call 904-824-2874.

For information about the American Folk Art Museum, go to [folkartmuseum.org](http://folkartmuseum.org). For information about International Arts & Artists, go to [artsandartists.org](http://artsandartists.org).



Image Courtesy of the American Folk Art Museum, Gift of Altria Group, Inc. Photo by Gavin Ashworth

The artist of this wool soldier’s quilt is unknown. The quilt was created in 1850-75 in India and is probably from military uniforms with embroidery thread, rickrack and velvet binding. It is hand-embroidered and has an inlaid, layered-applique.

## ON STAGE

A roundup of musical acts appearing before Oct. 23 at local venues

### PONTE VEDRA CONCERT HALL 1050 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach

Purchase tickets at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office or [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

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

- **Molly Hatchet** — With special guest Strayin’ Anchors. 8 p.m. Sept. 30
- **Todd Barry** — 8 p.m. Oct. 1
- **Ainsley Earhardt** — With Sean Hannity. 2 p.m. Oct. 2
- **Victor Wooten, Steve Bailey & Derico Watson** — 8 p.m. Oct. 5
- **Jen Fulwiler** — 7 p.m. Oct. 8
- **Acoustic Alchemy** — 8 p.m. Oct. 9
- **Bob Mould** — 8 p.m. Oct. 14
- **Steve Vai** — 8 p.m. Oct. 21

### ST. AUGUSTINE AMPHITHEATRE 1340C A1A South, St. Augustine

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).

- **Sing Out Loud: St. Augustine Record Fair** — Free event. 11 a.m. Sept. 25
- **Sing Out Loud: Shovels & Rope** — Free event. 6 p.m. Sept. 25
- **Earth, Wind & Fire** — 7:30 p.m. Sept. 27

- **Sing Out Loud: Lucius** — Free event. 7 p.m. Sept. 30. Sold out.
- **The War on Drugs** — 7 p.m. Oct. 6
- **The Head And The Heart** — With special guest Shakey Graves. 6:30 p.m. Oct. 13
- **Gov’t Mule & Old Crow Medicine Show** — 7 p.m. Oct. 14
- **Trace Adkins** — 7 p.m. Oct. 15  
— *Compiled by Shaun Ryan*

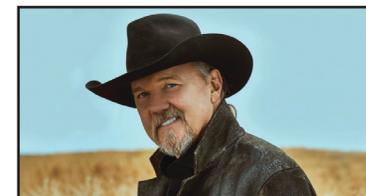


Image from The Amp

Trace Adkins will perform at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre on Oct. 15.

# Theatrical shows for students, student groups announced

The Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) Artist Series, sponsored by VyStar Credit Union, has announced its 2022-23 school performance season. The performances include both a virtual performance and in-theater performances.

## Virtual Performance

Now through June 2, 2023: “Bite-Size Science”

## In-Theater Performances

**Oct. 19:** “Doktor Kaboom!”

**Oct. 27:** “School House Rock”

**Dec. 6:** “Holiday Traditions Around The World”

**Jan. 12-13:** “Grand Shanghai Circus”

**Jan. 20:** “Let’s Go Science”

All in-theater performances are approximately 60 minutes long and are presented at the Nathan H. Wilson Center for the Arts located on the FSCJ South Campus, 11901 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville. The virtual program consists of more than three hours of content and can be experienced at a time and place of your convenience.

## 2022-23 School Performances

**“Bite-Size Science”** — A 15-episode series of curriculum-related, 10- to 15-minute videos covering life science topics such as cheetah adaptations, ocean food chains, wetlands, monarch butterflies, pollination and much more. The series includes more than three hours of content, curriculum connections, hilarious animations, nature footage, quizzes and a study guide with fun activities and additional resources. Virtual program pricing varies depending on group size. Check website or call 904-632-5050.

**“Doktor Kaboom!”** — The original Doktor Kaboom! show in which the good Doktor takes his audience on an educational tour of the modern scientific method, using humor and comedy while demonstrating spectacular applications of the physical sciences. Topics include: safety; pressure and force; simple machines; velocity; application of science to everyday life; the scientific method; multiple experimentation; constant discovery of new information and data; definitions:

chemical reactions, exothermic, external and chemical formula; mass; air pressure and demonstration vs. experimentation.

**“School House Rock”** — The Emmy Award-winning 1970’s pop culture phenomenon comes to the musical stage. The action begins when a young schoolteacher nervous about his first day of teaching, tries to relax by watching TV. Suddenly the Schoolhouse Rock bunch appear in his home and help him to instruct his students on a variety of subjects including math, science, history, politics and grammar.

**“Holiday Traditions Around the World”** — This is a fast-paced, rollicking musical that takes a joyous tour of the dances, songs and stories from Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and many more. Performed by Stages Productions.

**“Grand Shanghai Circus”** — “Grand Shanghai Circus: Amazing Acrobats of Shanghai” is a top performance troupe famous for excellent skills, daredevil acts and a harmonious combination of various kinds of performing arts. The show begins by honoring the essence of the old historic Shanghai culture and transports

the audience to current Shanghai through the dazzling performances, which include mystifying acts of strength, colorful dance, breathtaking acrobatics mixed with charismatic personalities.

**“Let’s Go Science”** — This show is a wacky look at “how things work” with Professor Smart and Ms. Knowitall. This fun-filled production teaches physics concepts through theatrically based experiments and demonstrations. Lots of audience interaction, great scenery and awesome lighting and illusions all make this one science lesson that students won’t want to miss.

All in-person shows cost \$8.50 per person. Everyone, including infants and toddlers, must have a ticket for admission. Tickets go fast so hold a spot for your student group by requesting a reservation today.

Call us at 904-632-5050 or email [groupsales@fscjartistseries.org](mailto:groupsales@fscjartistseries.org). You can also go to [fscjartistseries.org/education/school-performances](http://fscjartistseries.org/education/school-performances) and click on the Request Form button to complete a simple request form.

# Jazz percussionist uses music to empower Jacksonville youth

Grammy Award-winning jazz percussionist, producer and educator Ulysses Owens Jr. was recently named the 2022 Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award recipient by The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

The award, bestowed annually, recognizes a gifted local artist whose work brings distinction to Northeast Florida. The award is named for the late Ann McDonald Baker and includes a \$10,000 unrestricted grant for the recipient.

A graduate of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts and the Juilliard School of Music, and a Jacksonville native, Owens was called “a drummer who takes a back seat to no one,” by the New York Times. Owens’ artistic command of percussion has earned him positions in some of the most successful jazz ensembles in the world. His accolades are numerous, including being named a “Rising Star” by DownBeat Magazine five times in a row; the Gold Medal winner in the 2014 Global Music Awards; and a 2015 Jazz at Lincoln Center Awards Honoree.

His most notable accomplishments are performances on the 2021 Grammy Award-winning album “Dedicated to You,” and the 2021 Grammy Award-winning big band album, “The Good Feeling.”

In addition to touring, he is regularly involved in special projects, including serving as artist-in-residence at the Park Avenue Armory Conservancy. He was also commissioned by Jazz at Lincoln Center and the Museum of Modern Art to compose a work for the museum’s Summer Garden Series. Owens has

demonstrated a lifelong commitment to educating music’s next generation and has held music positions at numerous music schools.

Alongside his international touring schedule, Owens is deeply invested in Jacksonville. In 2008, he was inspired to create a nonprofit organization, Don’t Miss A Beat, with his family as an antidote to the level of high school dropouts and murder rates among young Black people in the community.

The program began with the singular objective of helping suspended youth stay in school so they wouldn’t “miss a beat.” Today, Don’t Miss A Beat blends music, art, academic achievement and civic engagement to enhance the lives of children, teens and their parents in the Riverside, Brooklyn and Woodstock communities of Jacksonville. The organization uses the performing arts to facilitate youth development, cultivate talent, provide academic support and enhance educational achievement and graduation rates.

“Ulysses’ superior artistry has brought a singular distinction to Northeast Florida,” said Amy Crane, senior program director at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida and coordinator of the award’s selection process. “It is this type of dedication to craft Ann McDonald Baker sought to recognize in her lifetime through Art Ventures.”

Owens was introduced as the 2022 Ann McDonald Baker Award winner at the Don’t Miss A Beat Summer Camp finale and the Broadway production of “Dreamgirls” held last month in Jacksonville.



Photo by Felicia Bass

**Ulysses Owens Jr. was recently named the 2022 Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award recipient.**

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First Coast Cultural Center



  
**HOLIDAY SHOPPES**  
12/2 & 12/3

# Sing Out Loud Festival concludes this week

## By Shaun Ryan

The Sing Out Loud Festival concludes this week, but there is still plenty of great music in store. Most of the performances are free to attend, and a wide range of musical genres is represented.

For complete information, go to [singoutloudflorida.com](http://singoutloudflorida.com).

Here's a look at this week's schedule:

### Sept. 22-25

**St. Augustine Songwriters Festival:** Songwriters will take the stages at Colonial Oak Music Park, Prohibition Kitchen, St. Augustine Distillery and Trade Winds Lounge. Admission is free. For the performance schedule and other information, go to [staugustinesongwritersfestival.com](http://staugustinesongwritersfestival.com).

### Sept. 23

**Dave Brainard:** Noon-1 p.m., Prohibition Kitchen. Free

**Jenny Tolman:** Noon-1 p.m., Prohibition Kitchen. Free

**Russell Sutton:** 1:30-2:30 p.m., Prohibition Kitchen. Free

**Murphy Elmore:** 1:30-2:30

p.m., Prohibition Kitchen. Free

**Mark Irwin:** 2:30-4 p.m., Prohibition Kitchen. Free

**Emily Brooke:** 3:30-4:30 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Free

**Matt Warren:** 4:30-5:30 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Free

**McCoy Moore:** 4:30-5:30 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Free

**Davis Loose:** 4:30-5:30 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Free

**Erik Dylan:** 5:30-7 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Free

**Jaida Dreyer:** 5:30-7 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Free

**War Hippies:** 7-7:30 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Free

**The Beacon Showcase:** 7-10 p.m., The Beacon. Free

**Dog Rose Showcase:** 7-11 p.m., Dog Rose Brewing Co. Free

**Will Weatherly:** 7:30-9 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Free

**Healthy Showcase at Sarbez:** 8-11:59 p.m., Sarbez! Free

**Mental Showcase at Nobby's:** 8:30-11:59 p.m., Shanghai Nobby's. Free

**Casey Beathard:** 9-10:30

p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Free

**Charlie Worsham:** 9-10:30 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Free

**Tucker Beathard:** 9-10:30 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Free

### Sept. 24

**Clint Daniels:** 10:30-11:30 a.m., St. Augustine Distillery. Free

**Josh Phillips:** 1-2:30 p.m., Prohibition Kitchen. Free

**Styles Haury:** 1-2:30 p.m., Prohibition Kitchen. Free

**Matt McKinney:** 2:30-3:30 p.m., Prohibition Kitchen. Free

**Joe Nash:** 3:30-4:30 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Free

**Jolie:** 3:30-4:30 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Free

**Quinn Loggins:** 4:30-5:30 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Free

**Adam James:** 5:30-7 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Free

**Chris DeStefano:** 7-8:30 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Free

**Chris Tompkins:** 7-8:30 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Free

**Dog Rose Showcase:** 7-11 p.m., Dog Rose Brewing Co. Free

**The Beacon Showcase:** 7:30-10 p.m., The Beacon. Free

**Healthy Showcase at Sarbez:** 8-11:59 p.m., Sarbez! Free

**Mac McAnally:** 8:30-10 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Free

**Mental Showcase at Nobby's:** 8:30-11:59 p.m., Shanghai Nobby's. Free

### Sept. 25

**St. Augustine Record Fair featuring Bears & Lions and DJ Papi Disco at The Amp:** 11 a.m.-5 p.m., The St. Augustine Amphitheatre. Free. The public is welcome to shop thousands of music-related items, including new and used vinyl records, CDs, cassettes, posters, turntable equipment and supplies, memorabilia, collectibles and more.

**Shovels & Rope with Fortune Child & Brad Edmondson:** 6 p.m., Backyard Stage at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre. Free

**Justin Wilson:** 10:30 a.m.-noon, Colonial Oak Music Park. Free

**Lost Saints:** noon-12:30 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Free

**Brian Davis:** 1:30-3 p.m., Colonial Oak Music Park. Free

### Sept. 30

**Lucius with HUAN and Clare Vandriver:** 7-9 p.m., Backyard Stage at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre. Free

### The Venues

- Colonial Oak Music Park, 21 St. George St., St. Augustine
- Dog Rose Brewing Co., 77 Bridge St., St. Augustine
- Prohibition Kitchen, 119 St. George St., St. Augustine
- Sarbez! 115 Anastasia Blvd., St. Augustine
- Shanghai Nobby's, 10 Anastasia Blvd., St. Augustine
- St. Augustine Amphitheatre, 1340C A1A South, St. Augustine
- St. Augustine Distillery, 112 Iberia St., St. Augustine
- The Beacon, 830 Anastasia Blvd., St. Augustine
- Trade Winds Lounge, 124 Charlotte St., St. Augustine

# Southern Gothic genre is writers' meeting topic

Acclaimed American writers like William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor, Truman Capote and Carson McCullers established their place in the traditional Southern Gothic canon.

Author Darlyn Finch Kuhn explores the past and contemporary direction of

Southern Gothic in her presentation, "Weird Characters, Strange Places, and Tough Times: Writing New Southern Gothic," at the FWA Ponte Vedra Writers meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library.

In her presentation, Kuhn will discuss

how current writers are rediscovering this sub-genre dealing with disenfranchised voices in warped communities, not necessarily set in the American South. She'll examine several Southern Gothic classics before moving into current examples and allow participating writers to generate

their own story ideas.

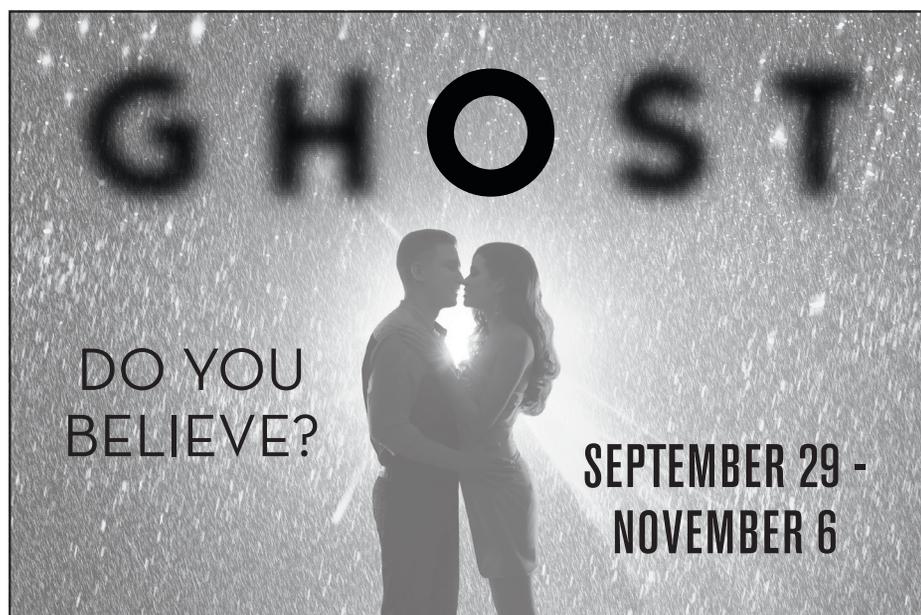
Kuhn was born and raised in Jacksonville and obtained an AA from FSCJ (when it was Florida Junior College), a BA from Rollins College and an MFA from Spalding University.

She was the 19th writer-in-residence at the Jack Kerouac Project house in Orlando. Her poetry collections are "Red Wax Rose" (published by Shady Lane Press) and "Three Houses" (published by Scribbles). Her debut novel, "Sewing Holes," was published by Twisted Road Publications in 2015, and won that year's Royal Palm Award from the Florida Writers Association.

Since moving back to Jacksonville in 2017, she and husband Brad Kuhn are co-directors of the JaxbyJax Literary Arts Festival.

The Ponte Vedra Writers group is part of the Florida Writers Association, a statewide, nonprofit organization dedicated to the support of both aspiring and published writers in any genre. The Sept. 24 meeting is free and open to members and nonmembers alike.

For information on FWA, go to [floridawriters.org](http://floridawriters.org).



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# Sports



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022 • PAGE 45

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Fifteen area high school swim teams, including Nease and Ponte Vedra competed in the Second Annual Frank Holleman Invitational Sept. 17.



Photos by Anthony Richards

Members of the Nease swim team cheer on one of the teammates during a race.

## Panthers, Sharks showcase skill at Frank Holleman Invitational

By Anthony Richards

The swim teams from Nease and Ponte Vedra High Schools left their mark against some of the best swimmers in the Northeast Florida area during the Second Annual Frank Holleman Invitational Sept. 17.

The competition was held at Planet Swim Aquatics in Ponte Vedra and hosted by Nease High. Fifteen schools took part, including nearly every public high school in St. Johns and Clay counties.

It was a memorable performance put forth by the Sharks' girls swim team, who won the team competition by 173 points.

Leading the way for the Sharks was the reigning state champion 200 medley relay team of Annie Wohlgemuth, Annabelle MacAdams, Mary Agnes Smith and Penny Zarczynski, who won their event.

"It's really cool being a senior, especially when you've got all these freshmen coming up," Wohlgemuth said. "It's fun to help guide the freshmen and really show them what our culture and our team is all about. Just trying to do all the right things that people can pick up on even when you don't realize it."

Wohlgemuth's big day continued as she also claimed the title in both the 100 fly and 100 backstroke. Not only did the senior win, but she also set a new school record time of 55.48 in the 100 fly.

"I really like staying underwater, and a big part of backstroke is just that, which is what really appeals to me," Wohlgemuth said. "The same thing goes for fly, because I swim way less strokes if I use my underwater skills to my advantage."

Ponte Vedra's boys' swim team placed third overall and had several great swims, such as a third-place finish in the 200 freestyle relay. The team included John Finnemore, Fabrizio Lijeron-Herrera, Jason Li and Ryan Yang.

"It's like a family atmosphere," Ponte Vedra senior Dominic Ambrosio said. "I didn't grow up in the Ponte Vedra area, so being able to be a part of the Ponte Vedra swim team was a big help."

Ambrosio competes in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle. Sprint events are something he has built up to after competing in the 200- and 500-yard distances his first three years of high school.

"It's a grind and can be really grueling with late nights doing homework and then having to get up in the early morning for practices. But being able to see your teammates gives you a lot of energy," Ambrosio said.

Distance races are a specialty for Nease senior Kate Rieger who competes in the 200 and 500 freestyle events for the Panthers.

"The 500 (freestyle) is my favorite

race, and I think it's because I'm very tall, so it allows me to get my speed up over time and use my length to my advantage," Rieger said.

According to Rieger, there is nothing like competing in a high school swim meet.

"It's really fun, and I love it more than club," Rieger said. "You swim for your team, and you know you are getting good points if you touch the wall before the person next to you. The team comradery is what's so special for me. It's just such a cool experience."

For the Panthers, the day resulted in a pair of runner-up finishes in both the boys' and girls' overall standings.

Sophomore Olivia Moore won the girls' 200 and 500 freestyle, while fellow sophomore Charlotte Driesse won the 200 individual medley.

Senior Matthew Koziol had a busy day and was victorious in the boys' freestyle at both the 50- and 100-yard distances.

Nease's veteran leadership continued to come to the forefront as seniors Joseph Wyatt and Ethan Clifford won the 100 fly and 500 freestyle, respectively.

"It's (butterfly) really taxing on the body, but it just makes me stronger," Wyatt said.

According to Wyatt, since he has been competing in the Nease program since



The event included preliminary races prior to the finals.

he was a freshman, he has learned over time how to read his body and can get a sense during certain meets when he feels locked in and there's a good chance to have a special day.

"My body definitely knows when something's going good," Wyatt said. "When I'm in the water, everything just feels like a flash. I'll dive in, and it feels like the wall is right there."

A couple of Ponte Vedra school records kept falling as Zarczynski took home first place in the 100 freestyle and posted a time of 51.44, which beat the former school record by more than two seconds.

Other winners included MacAdams, who joined in on the fun and won the 100 breaststroke for the Sharks, and Nease junior Arron Storlie who won the boys' 1-meter diving competition.

**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							65					
			66						67					

**ACROSS**

1. Crops sown in winter in India
5. Nursemaids in East Asia
10. Investigates
12. Treated like a child
14. About religious belief
16. Widely used exclamation
18. Car mechanics group
19. Not good
20. Indigenous people of Alberta
22. Everyone has one
23. Fencing sword
25. Soaks
26. The human foot
27. Of she
28. Erythrocyte (abbr.)
30. Soldiers
31. Energy, style and enthusiasm
33. Playwright O'Neill
35. Stone parsley
37. Small stones
38. Gas descriptor
40. Monetary unit of Samoa
41. Jeans manufacturer
42. NHL great Bobby
44. Cool!
45. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
48. Winged
50. Partner to "oohed"
52. Defensive nuclear weapon
53. Coated
55. Furry household friend
56. Chinese principle underlying the universe
57. Prefix meaning "within"
58. Makes easier
63. Transferred property
65. Branched
66. Hillsides
67. Abba \_\_, Israeli diplomat

- connecting similar points
5. One who accepts
6. Partner to cheese
7. Ancient Greek sophist
8. About hilus
9. Southeast
10. Where actors ply their trade
11. Beloved Philly sandwich
13. Intend
15. Talk excessively
17. Bronx cheers
18. Drain
21. Renews
23. Monetary unit in Asia
24. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
27. Carthaginian statesman
29. Aged
32. Mauna \_\_, Hawaiian volcano
34. Firearm

35. Consolation
36. An island in the north Atlantic
39. Pitching statistic
40. Disconsolate
43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
44. Call it a career
46. Behave in a way that degrades someone
47. Health insurance
49. Recommend
51. Baltic peninsula
54. Father
59. After B
60. Bar bill
61. Doctors' group
62. 2,000 lbs.
64. Equal to one quintillion bytes

**DOWN**

1. Eggs in a female fish
2. Military mailbox
3. Unit to compare power levels
4. Line on a map

**SUDOKU**

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

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!

# WEEK 5 FOOTBALL PREVIEW

## Sharks look to carry momentum from first victory

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Vedra Sharks are riding high following their first win of the season, and the next step is now building upon that success as they welcome in county foe Menendez this Friday.

One of the exciting things the Sharks (1-2) will look to carry over from their win against Middleburg last week is the production by the offense.

It was a coming out party of sorts for junior quarterback Ben Burk, who took command of the game and finished with four touchdowns on the night, two passing and two on the ground.

One of Burk's favorite targets was sophomore tight end Landon Okla, who caught both of Burk's scoring strikes.

If both Burk and Okla continue to unlock their potential as players, opponents should look out because a passing attack like that could open the Sharks' offense up to an entirely new level.

On defense, the Sharks continue to be led by middle linebacker Trooper Price, who is averaging 13.5 tackles per game.

The Falcons (2-2) have had an up and down season scoring 40 points in both their wins and only seven points in both losses.

Regardless of which Menendez team shows up, the Sharks will be hungry to continue their current momentum and get a winning streak going.

What better way than to do it in front of their home fans?

For the Nease Panthers, the secret to this season seems to be finding a way to win close games, because each of their contests this year have been close at some point during the second half, but the Panthers (0-4) have been unable to come out on the



Photo by Anthony Richards

**The Sharks' coaches and players have plenty to be happy about following last week's win against Middleburg.**

winning end.

It is something that there is no obvious solution to, but one way that could help the Panthers is by starting the game fast and grabbing an early lead instead of having to climb their way out of an early deficit.

Everything comes a little easier when playing with the lead, and it could be just what the Panthers need to get their team confidence and swagger back just in time for district play and the push to the playoffs in the coming weeks.

However, the Panthers go on the road to face the Orange Park Raiders (1-3) this week, who have struggled with close games so far this season as well.

They also have struggled to stop teams on defense, giving up an average of 35 points per game, which could mean certain areas where the Panthers can take advantage of when they have the ball.

The defense has really come on for the Panthers the last couple of weeks and that coupled with a strong running game has been the key to success this season for Nease.

Look for them to feed senior running back Samuel Milton and lean on their offensive line to set the tone against the Raiders.

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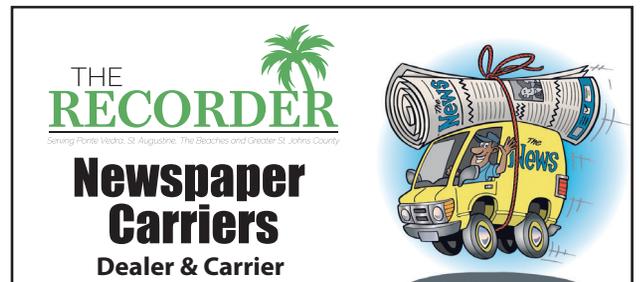
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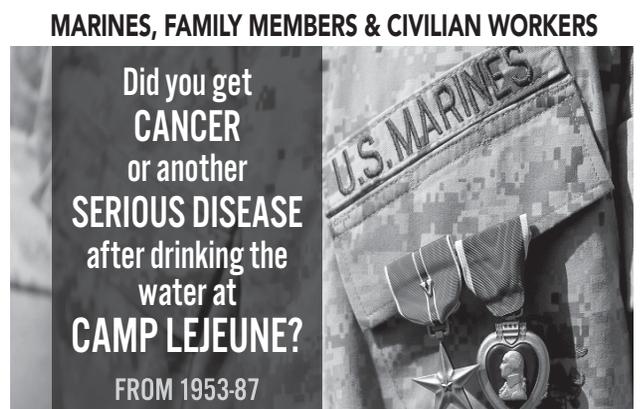
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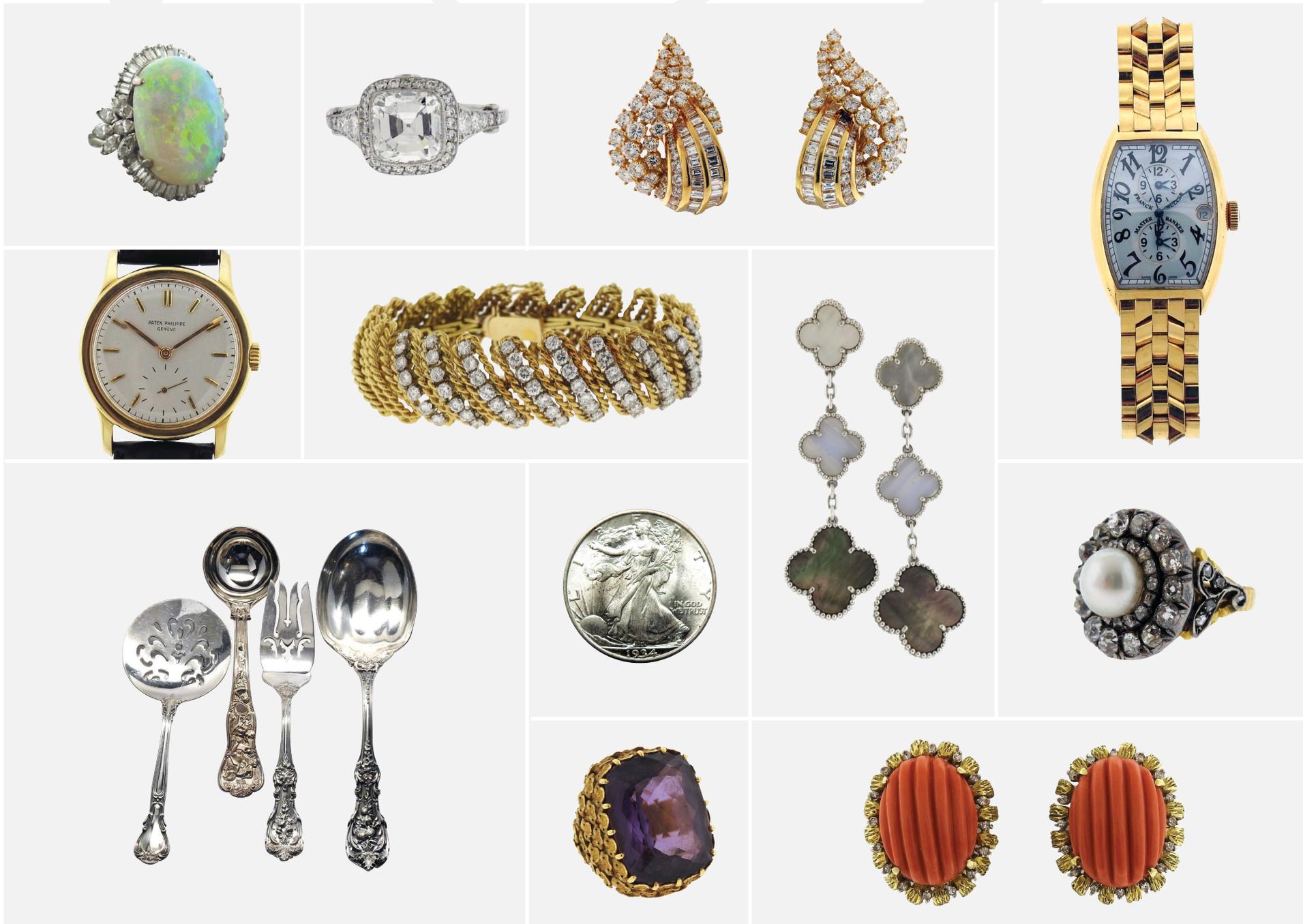
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