



THE RECORDER



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Page 16

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Thursday, November 30, 2023

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Lightner hosts major art exhibit

By Shaun Ryan

The Lightner Museum is completing its 75th anniversary celebration with a major touring exhibition, "The Triumph of Nature: Art Nouveau from the Chrysler Museum of Art," which will run through March 15.

The exhibit features a remarkable selection of ceramics, furniture, glass, jewelry, paintings, posters, prints, sculptures and textiles from one of the largest Art Nouveau collections in the United States. Most of the approximately 120 pieces are from the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk, Virginia, though some are from the Lightner

LIGHTNER continues on Page 27

Neddo's First Tee experience includes national scholarship

Up to \$20k, additional opportunities await

By Anthony Richards

The First Tee has been a part of 17-year-old Joey Neddo's life for some time now, and he credits the organization for teaching him so much and help prepare him for life in the future, which includes him recently being selected to be a national scholarship recipient through the First Tee.

He was one of four recipients selected from a pool of applicants across the country, and the scholarship is worth up to \$20,000 in college financial assistance and will also include the opportunity for professional development opportunities and an assigned mentor to help guide the recipients through their college years.

Being selected among such a select few is something Neddo is very proud of.

He is a senior at Ponte Vedra High School and has been accepted to attend the Uni-



Contributed photo

The future is bright for Ponte Vedra High senior Joey Neddo after being one of four recipients to receive a national scholarship through First Tee.

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The Recorder's Entertainment EXTRA featuring TV listings, streaming information, puzzles and more!



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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 or bring them by our office at **1102 A1A N., Unit 108, Ponte Vedra Beach.**



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Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder

BRIEFS

Essential tremor meeting is Dec. 5

First Coast Essential Temor (a support group for people with “ET” and their families and friends) will meet Tuesday, Dec. 5, at Baptist HealthPlace in Nocatee, 400 Colonnade Drive.

Jessica Wood of the Florida Alliance for Assistive Services & Technology (FAAST) will bring a range of adaptive devices to show and demonstrate for those with tremors. They can be checked out just like books from a library allowing you to “try before you buy.”

RSVP and address questions to Jan Kary, jkary@verizon.net or 202-438-8750.

company and has coached executives since his retirement.

Wilson served two five-year terms as a Mercer trustee and was chair of the board’s marketing committee. This year, he received Mercer’s Distinguished Alumnus Award, and he is a past recipient of the university’s Meritorious Service Award.

He and his wife, Ginny Wilson, a Mercer alumna, are life members of Mercer’s President’s Club.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan

Palm Valley Market every Tuesday

The Palm Valley Market is held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday inside 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.

Festival of Trees starts Dec. 4

The third annual Festival of Trees will be held Dec. 4-7 at the Lightner Museum, 74 King St., St. Augustine. Theme-decorated trees and wreaths on display will be available in a silent auction. Plus, there will be holiday music, a “Letters to Santa Mailbox,” door prizes and more. Admission is free and open to the public.

Dates and times are: 1-5 p.m. Dec. 4, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 5 and 6, and 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 7.

Proceeds benefit the homeless youth, families, men and women at St. Francis House and Port in the Storm Homeless Youth Center.

Wilson recognized for service to Mercer University’s board

Jerry S. Wilson, a 1986 graduate of the Mercer University School of Business, where he earned his MBA in marketing, was recognized for completing a five-year term on the university’s board of trustees during its annual fall meeting Nov. 10 during homecoming.

Wilson spent 24 years at The Coca-Cola Co., serving from regional account executive to board-elected senior vice president. He founded an independent business consulting firm, started a commercial organic beverage

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Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra to host 'Trash Bash' Dec. 9

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra has scheduled a "Trash Bash" community cleanup event Dec. 9 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. to pick up litter in Nocatee area.

The cleanup will take place along the cart path that extends from Anejo restaurant in Nocatee to the GATE gas station near Davis Park.

The reason for the cleanup is due to a lot of trash recently having been spotted piling up along that stretch of cart path and has led to area wildlife often having to navigate through large debris in the collection streams coming out of the woods near the path.

Trash bags and gloves will be supplied on

site and there will be at least one five-foot long pick-up tool. However, if a member of the community is attending that has one of their own, they are encouraged to bring it as there will be certain instances expected where some trash must be picked up out of water streams.

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra invites the entire community to come out and invite their friends and family to join them in making a difference in their community.

The event will get started and meet in the parking lot of Anejo. Coffee and breakfast pastries will be available for everyone prior to the cleanup getting started.

DEATH NOTICES

Philip Gerald Clark

Philip Gerald Clark, 85, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Nov. 22, 2023. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Marie Louise Cochrane

Marie Louise Cochrane, 95, of Atlantic Beach, Florida, died Nov. 17, 2023. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Gisela Conchita Croft

Gisela Conchita Croft, 82, of Jacksonville, Florida, died Nov. 18, 2023. Arrangements

by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Miriam Cason Hudson

Miriam Cason Hudson, 103, of Atlantic Beach, Florida, died Nov. 14, 2023. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100

Joseph Charles Panebianco

Joseph Charles Panebianco, 49, of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, died Nov. 23, 2023. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre. www.quinn-shalz.com. 904-249-1100




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Tickets now on sale for 50th anniversary of THE PLAYERS

In celebration of the 50-year anniversary of THE PLAYERS Championship, tournament officials have announced that tickets are on sale for THE PLAYERS 2024.

“Over the past 50 years, this legendary event and its iconic venue have become a sanctuary for passionate fans and a symbol of athletic excellence, and we cannot wait to celebrate the storied history of this championship this upcoming March,” said Lee Smith, executive director of THE PLAYERS. “The team is hard at work to ensure that this year’s offerings are thrilling, inspiring and relentlessly entertaining as is standard for THE PLAYERS.”

While fiercely competitive golf remains the centerpiece of the tournament, THE PLAYERS consistently offers an unrivaled lineup of food, drink and entertainment options for fans, including its annual Military Appreciation Day which will take place on Tuesday, March 12, and feature a concert

on the course’s famed 17th hole island green.

THE PLAYERS 2024 will take place on March 12-17 and fans are encouraged to purchase tickets early to guarantee the lowest price; tickets can be purchased at THEPLAYERS.com/tickets.

Fans can purchase up to six tickets per day, per account. Tickets are dynamically priced and start as low as \$30 plus taxes and fees.

Introducing The Intracoastal Club: The Intracoastal Club will provide fans with an exciting new destination to relax and refuel while enjoying the tournament. The venue offers the perfect blend of sophistication and sport with abundant TVs, bar-style seating and the ability to purchase upscale food and beverage, including beer, wine and signature cocktails. Situated be-

TICKETS continues on Page 5



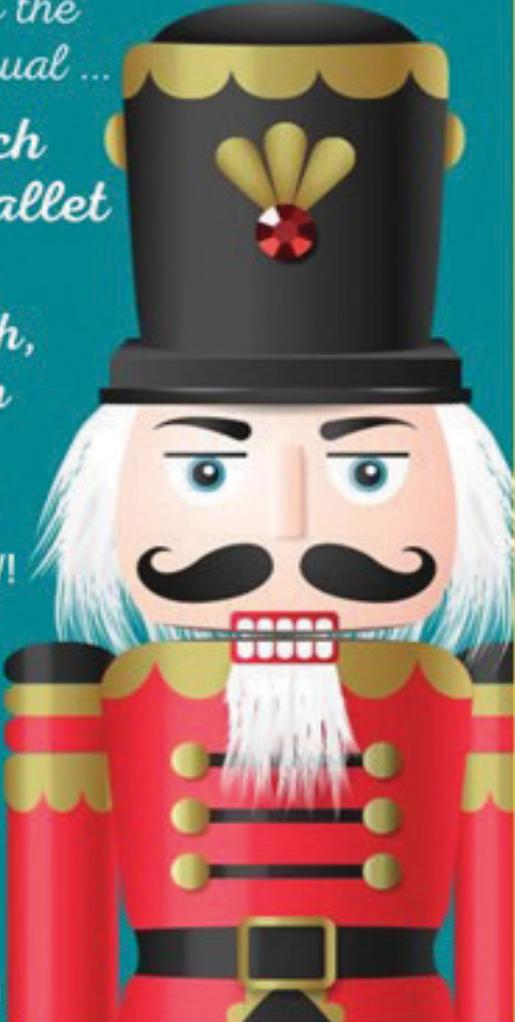
Photo by Anthony Richards

Children ages 15 and younger will be admitted free with a ticketed adult all week long.

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Tickets

Continued from 4

tween holes 12 and 13, this open-air venue provides great views of two of the most thrilling holes on the course. Tickets are limited in quantity.

Mastercard Cardholders: Mastercard cardholders will receive preferred pricing on Stadium Passes purchased using their Mastercard at checkout. Cardholders have the opportunity to purchase up to four stadium passes per day, per account. This offer is available while supplies last and terms and conditions apply.

Youth Tickets: Up to two children, ages 15 and younger will be admitted free with a ticketed adult all week long. All children six and older must have a ticket to access hospitality venues.

Military Tickets: Military tickets will launch in early 2024 and will be available while supplies last. Additional military appreciation offerings for THE PLAYERS 2024 include a concert on Tuesday, March 12 and access to the Patriots' Outpost, a lounge dedicated to service members and their families. A full list of military appreciation activities will be shared in the upcoming months.

Chip In for Charity: THE PLAYERS invite fans to support their favorite local nonprofit by participating in the Chip In for Charity ticket fundraising program. THE

PLAYERS will donate up to \$40 for every competitive round ticket sold on behalf of eligible nonprofits, while supplies last. A complete list of participating organizations is available at THEPLAYERS.com/chip-in.

Birdies for Charity: Birdies for Charity is a fundraising platform available to all nonprofits based in Northeast Florida. Nonprofits can raise money by inviting fans to make a minimum \$20 donation to their organization and guess the number of birdies that will be made over the course of the tournament.

The individual who guesses the exact number of birdies will be awarded a grand prize of \$10,000. Participating charities will receive 100% of every donation collected for their organization, as well as funding from a \$150,000 bonus pool provided by THE PLAYERS.

A complete list of participating organizations and contest rules are available at THEPLAYERS.com/birdies.

Parking: Parking passes are not included in any ticket purchases. A separate parking pass is required each day of tournament week and must be purchased online in advance via THEPLAYERS.com/parking.

Tuesday and Wednesday parking will be \$15 per day, plus tax and fees; Thursday through Sunday is \$40 per day, plus tax and fees. Parking will not be sold on-site, and all parking passes will be digital. Rideshare is also available and will drop off and pick up at the Couples entry off ATP Boulevard.



Photo by Anthony Richards

THE PLAYERS goes beyond a golf tournament and is one of the area's highlighted social events of the year.



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Susan King is president and CEO of Feeding Northeast Florida, and she loves volunteering and figuring out solutions to the food insecurity problem in the 12 counties the organization serves. She loves what she does and does not feel like she's working when she's dedicated to a cause and helping others.

Susan King

As told to Anthony Richards

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

I'm a CPA by trade and I was working as a CFO for a large international company with about 10,000 employees, and I just woke up one day and asked myself "What do I really love to do?"

I was always pretty much a compulsive volunteer, and I knew I loved to help out with nonprofits and serve the poor, so I was at a party, and someone asked me if I would consider being on the board of a small organization here at the beach, and I perfectly said "No, I'd like to be the director one day."

Eight months later he called me and asked if I was serious about what I said and I told him yes.

I had two kids in college and took a 70% pay cut and my husband was crazy and went along with it, so I went from being in charge of 10,000 employees to being the fourth in this little tiny organization, which also operated a food bank.

I ended up growing that organization and have never felt like I've worked a day in my life since I made that change.

So, the lesson is to try to figure it out before you are 52 years old, because it really isn't work if you love what you do.

What led you to get involved with Feeding Northeast Florida?

We've only been around for 10 years and when we started it was a brand new and fledgling organization. It feels like 12, but it's only been 10.

We started it to replace a food bank that had lost a contract with Feeding America, so there was a definite need because we didn't have a food bank in this community.

It led a group of us getting together and saying, "How could we not?" and "We have to," because how else were we going to help the food insecure in this area?

What are your goals and objectives for the organization moving forward?

We currently cover 12 counties, and we go all the way to the Gulf, so we serve an area the size of New Jersey which covers about 8,300 square miles.

In the areas that we serve, we estimate about 265,000 people who are food insecure, and that means any degree of food insecurity, so it may be that you miss a few meals in a month or maybe you only eat breakfast or lunch at school and a child doesn't have a dinner to come home to. It's all kinds of degrees.

Food-banking is not just about food, but now it's about how do we shorten the lines and even eliminate the lines of those who are battling food insecurity.

It's really become about advocacy and looking at the bigger picture. It's about how to cook healthier foods and how to make healthier choices so that you don't have to spend your money on medications and instead you can put your resources toward a roof, electric bills and food.

We know we can't solve it with just pounds of food, but we've got to create that awareness. People sometimes feel like they don't have a voice, especially in the poorer



Contributed photo

Susan King is the president and CEO of Feeding Northeast Florida.

communities, but that's why we're there to help listen to what they really want.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I think if you find something that you're really passionate about and something that's important to you, then success and failure is not really a thing because you're driven to change something and improve something or be something.

If you're true, transparent and genuine, the chances are that's going to attract others to want to help out and be a part of the cause as well.

What are some of the aspects you have learned since getting involved with the cause?

Everybody stumbles, and what would success be if we didn't have failure.

It's just the highs and lows of life and they are going to be there, but if you keep your eye on your goal, whatever that is, whether it's saving the world, eliminating hunger, winning THE PLAYERS or being the best parent possible.

I don't have a great platform, but I have a great story.

Talking and sharing stories is one of the best ways to come up with the solutions to the problems that we're encountering, no matter what you may be faced with.



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OBITUARIES

**Judith "Judy" Schulze**

In Loving Memory of Judith "Judy" Schulze

Judith "Judy" Elizabeth Schulze (née O'Donnell) went to be with our Lord at the age of 87 on November 23, 2023, at McGraw Community Hospice in

Jacksonville, Florida. Born in Monroe, Wisconsin on May 2, 1936, to the late Francis James O'Donnell and the late Norah Irene O'Donnell (née Mani), Judy was blessed with a life filled with the love of family and friends.

In 1954, at the age of 18, Judy married the love of her life, Frederick Killian Schulze, in Waukesha, Wisconsin. Together, they lived a life full of adventure; whether boating, camping, rock climbing, or traveling the world, they never had a dull moment — a spirit that transcends generations and continues in the lives of their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Fred and Judy shared a beautiful journey together for 56 years until his passing in 2011. Their love and commitment were an inspiration to all who knew them, and their family finds solace knowing that they are together again, reunited for eternity in heaven.

Judy was a remarkable woman who lived a fulfilling life as a cherished wife and mother, beloved sister, grandmother, and great-grandmother, and integral member of her community. Known for her social nature and vibrant spirit, Judy loved to entertain for any occasion, filling her home with the laughter of friends and family, and irresistible aromas from

the kitchen. When she wasn't entertaining, one could find Judy playing bridge or participating in various community activities. In her moments of independence, Judy loved to express her creativity through hobbies such as knitting, needlework, painting, and gardening.

Judy will be deeply missed by her surviving family members, including her son, Frederick James Schulze (Kris) of Eagan, Minnesota, her daughter, Elizabeth Ann Haack (Russell) of Egg Harbor, Wisconsin, her daughter, Mary Leigh Van Sistine (Peter) of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, her son, Daniel Killian Schulze (Stephanie) of Melissa, TX, and her brother, Lt. Col. John O'Donnell (Barbara) of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Judy is also survived by her eight grandchildren: Sara Anne Eberle (Ryan), Kevin Russell Haack (Katelyn), Nicholas Peter Van Sistine (Molly), Shannon Rae Schulze, Lindsay Elizabeth Fitzpatrick (Jimmy), Miles Christian Schulze, Alexander Killian Schulze, Hannah Hiller Schulze, and nine great-grandchildren: Thomas, Kellan, Miles, Annabelle, James, Marina, Daisy, Peter, and another baby due in February.

Judy was preceded in death by her son Thomas Carl Schulze, her husband Fred-

erick Killian Schulze, her brother James Michael O'Donnell, and her beloved dog Charlie Mozart, who was a loyal source of comfort and companionship. Their memories will forever be cherished by those who loved them.

A Funeral Mass to honor Judy's life will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2023, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 545 A1A N #545, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, 32082. A Memorial Service and burial will be held in early summer 2024 at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Waukesha, Wisconsin. <https://denvercatholic.org/thanksgiving-and-the-paradox-of-death/>

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made in Judy's honor to St. Jude's for Children, a foundation the Schulze, Van Sistine, and Haack families continuously support. Please visit her online Tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com.

Arrangements by



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Chemo Noir set to hold inaugural Cycle For Cancer ride

By Anthony Richards

Wine and fitness are at the heart of so many Chemo Noir events and the latest one for the nonprofit organization, that strives to help people battling cancer by providing financial assistance, revolves around those two once again.

The nonprofit's new event is Cycle For Cancer, which will be held Dec. 2 starting at Casa Marina and taking place along Jacksonville Beach.

As the name implies, the fundraising event will be highlighted by people riding their beach cruisers up and down the shoreline as part of a five-mile ride.

Check-in for the ride will be at Casa Marina beginning at 7 a.m. with the ride set for 7:30 a.m. A minimum \$250 donation is required to join in on the ride, and every rider will get a limited-edition hat commemorating the inaugural event.

Chemo Noir has set a fundraising goal of \$20,000 for the ride.

One of the most interesting aspects of the ride is that if someone wants to take part to help the cause but does not have a bike of their own, some beach cruisers will be available to use without any ad-



ditional charge if needed.

However, participants are encouraged to bring their own bike if possible.

Coffee and mimosas will be available for all who participate to enjoy as part of the post-ride festivities in the courtyard at Casa Marina, and awards will be handed out to the top three donors of the event.

Donations can be made in a one-time payment or friends and family can help a person reach their total by that person going to secure.givelively.org/donate/chemo-noir-inc/cycle-for-cancer-2023 and clicking on the "I want to fundraise for this" tab to setup a special page connected to them where others can go to donate to help them reach their registra-



tion goal.

This is not the first time Chemo Noir has promoted the importance of having an active lifestyle as part of their fundraisers, as their annual one mile & tasting event, also along Jacksonville Beach's sandy shores.

The one-mile run has been a staple since Katrin Casey started the nonprofit

after confronting cancer herself in 2014, and she has partnered with other cycling fundraisers in the past.

As a former athlete herself, having played soccer in college, promoting healthy lifestyles just seemed like a perfect fit and it is a major reason why it is a major part of Chemo Noir's philanthropic mission.

Volunteers gather at the link to fill Thanksgiving baskets

By Shaun Ryan

About 100 local residents gathered Saturday, Nov. 25, at the link in Nocatee to help make Thanksgiving happy for several area families.

This was the second year for the local effort, which is part of The Tony Robbins Foundation's International Basket Brigade Movement. The 100% volunteer-run program is dedicated to feeding those in need by providing baskets of donated food and household items.

"We're here to serve the community," said Rob Swymer, a member of the core local group.

In 2022, the local volunteers fed 50 families. This year, they doubled that.

"We want to do more every year," said Swymer. "So, next year, maybe 200."

On the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving each year, volunteers in the movement gather assembly-line style to fill their baskets.

To identify recipients, the local group



Photo by Aidan Fridman

About 100 volunteers gathered at the link Saturday, Nov. 25, to fill baskets with Thanksgiving meals for area families in need.

relies on lists from various shelters in the area. This year, a number of veterans were added.

The group only has about a dozen core members, so it was necessary to reach out to the community — largely through social media and networking — for volunteers. And the community responded.

"We asked for 100 volunteers; we hit

that," said Swymer. "We asked for 50 drivers, because we have to have drivers to actually deliver the food; we hit that. We asked for \$5,000; we hit that."

The local group was started by Steven and Katie Drewes, who had participated in Connecticut prior to moving to Nocatee.

"They're the masterminds," said Swymer, who quoted the group's

motto: "A life worth living is a life of giving."

He said people sometimes forget that there are those who need help.

"It really affects you when you deliver the food," he said. "I've been in that situation before where somebody came to my door, and I'll never forget that. So, it's my turn to give back now that I can."

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Cordova Coastal Chophouse & Bar opens in St. Augustine

Photos by Shaun Ryan

By Shaun Ryan

Casa Monica Resort & Spa in St. Augustine has launched its newest restaurant concept, one that builds on its past and synthesizes multiple cultural influences.

Cordova Coastal Chophouse & Bar recently opened at 95 Cordova St. in the former location of Costa Brava and the original restaurant, which was named simply for its address. Set in an environment boasting authentic Old World influences and offering a menu to match, the new concept stands out even in a city already rich with diverse culinary experiences.

The restaurant and hotel lobby have been undergoing a renovation that refreshes the ambience while preserving the Spanish-Moorish influences. Key elements of this milieu include hand-carved panels from Morocco that adorn the walls and the nearby front desk. All of the restaurant's light fixtures also come from Morocco, as do the handmade



Executive Chef Robert DeGrassi, left, and Casa Monica Resort & Spa General Manager Jordan Stokes are seen inside the Cordova Coastal Chophouse & Bar.



The sign over the door of the Cordova Coastal Chophouse & Bar.

CORDOVA continues on Page 11

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Contributed photos

Cordova

Continued from 10

tiles on a wall in the wine room and the fountain in the lobby.

In creating a new menu, Executive Chef Robert DeGrassi has included a flavor profile that features spices associated with Moroccan fare, such as cinnamon, ginger, cardamom, clove, saffron and allspice. At the same time, each plate draws from Spanish traditions, and diners will find Mediterranean tastes and local source flavors, as well. For instance, datil peppers are an important part of the new cuisine.

DeGrassi said he had fun working with the flavor profiles for his new menu.

“How do I mix Mediterranean Spain with Morocco but then keep it true to myself and true to the hotel?” he asked rhetorically.

As he developed his dishes, he determined what worked, what didn’t, what needed changed and what he wanted to accentuate more.

With regards to seafood, diners will find Florida grouper, roasted halibut, local redfish, grilled branzino and more.

Steak, too, is a central focus.

“All of our steaks are high-end, prime cuts of meat,” DeGrassi said. “There’s an 8 oz. filet, a 14 oz. strip, a 16 oz. ribeye. You’re able to get that with your choice of roasted garlic butter or truffle butter.”



The wine room at Cordova Coastal Chophouse & Bar.

In addition, Cordova offers its own signature steak sauce. Diners may choose to add other accompaniments, such as blue cheese gratin or lobster tail or the dish can be served Oscar style, with blue crab and béarnaise.

“One of my favorite dishes is the tuna tartare,” DeGrassi said, “because it’s not a traditional Asian-style tuna tartare. I kept it more Mediterranean-flavored with capers and olives and then served with plantain chips and datil aioli. That plate



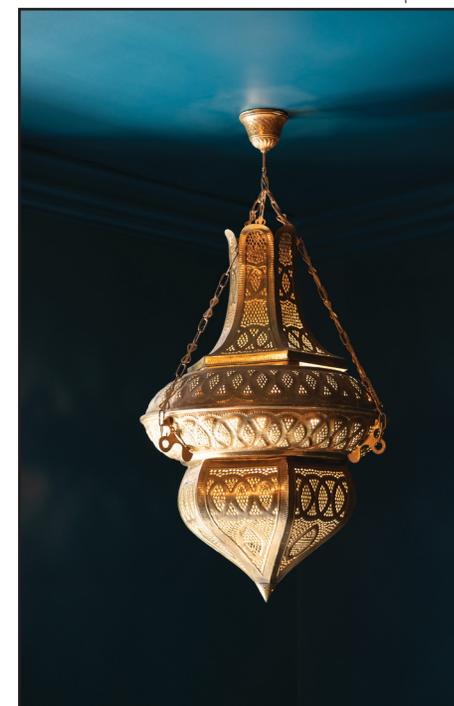
Authentic Moroccan accents give the restaurant its unique style.

to me is what the fusion of the restaurant is all about.”

Throughout the year, DeGrassi plans to adapt the menu to seasonal foods.

The restaurant has 145 indoor seats, a lounge, private dining room — which can accommodate about 20-24 people — and an intimate wine room. The wine and cocktail list has also been reimagined.

The hotel is an important part of the city’s long history, something the man-



The lights are from Morocco.

agement appreciates.

“It’s part of the culture,” said General Manager Jordan Stokes. “It’s part of the feel and the vibe of St. Augustine. It’s really important to us to not lose any of that. ... We’re so grateful to the community that has supported us and continues to support us. We’re excited for them to come out and try the newest edition.”

To view the Cordova Coastal Chophouse & Bar menu and hours go to cordovachophouse.com.

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MESH fights to prevent student homelessness in St. Johns County

By Anthony Richards

The holiday season is a time for reflection for so many people, not only to realize what all they are thankful for in their lives, but also to look at their community and to help give back to those who are less fortunate or facing difficult times.

One of the ways to give back to the local community this holiday season is to support Mission to End Student Homelessness, which is a nonprofit organization based in St. Augustine.

However, its mission is to serve the entire St. Johns County school system and help prevent students and their families from becoming homeless.

According to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which was passed by the federal government in 1987, it defines a homeless student as one who lacks a fixed, regular or adequate nighttime residence, which can include living in a hotel, car, a public area not meant for housing.

Although in some cases it also defines it as a student living in a sub-par housing environment, having to double-up with others or being in a homeless shelter.

MESH works closely with the St. Johns County school system continually identify certain students that fit into those situations each school year.

According to the MESH website,

since the organization got its start in 2018, about 800 students within the county on average are classified as homeless by the end of a school year.

The nonprofit was created through grassroots means by a group of concerned residents, who developed the initial goal of focusing on helping homeless juniors and seniors in high school.

But it did not take long to realize that the issue was bigger than that and one year later the organization expanded its focus from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade.

There are many ways that MESH can help to prevent students from being homeless, including providing financial support to provide academic assistance, involvement in extracurricular activities or summer camps, daily living expenses or by offering short-term and crisis housing options.

They also provide grants to other community organizations that help meet students' needs.

Donations are accepted by MESH in the forms of both time or monetary, depending on the best option to help that suits the individual interested in getting involved.

Volunteers can become a mentor, which is a valuable and much needed part of the process because so many of the students they are helping do not have a responsible adult in their lives.

Typically, mentors meet with their assigned student at their school during the designated lunch hour.

Any adults who show interest in becoming a mentor are then referred to the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of St. Johns County, who will handle performing background checks and conduct the required training needed prior to finding a student match.

Helping MESH accomplish its mission is the support of fellow community organizations, such as the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra, which is in the midst of a fundraising effort that partners with MESH and has a set goal of raising \$20,000 through the initiative by March 1, 2024.

The best way to connect with MESH to inquire about volunteer opportunities is by calling 904-330-4650 or by emailing mesh@meshstaugustine.org.

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The Nights of Lights and the park and ride shuttle are produced by the City of St. Augustine with funding assistance from the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council.



Ascension AFib trial underway

Cardiologist Dr. Saumil Oza and the heart care team at Ascension St. Vincent's are part of a landmark trial for patients with AFib evaluating the potential to deliver pulsed field ablation treatment that safely avoids collateral damage to structures around the heart.

Instead of burning or freezing tissue, pulse field ablation shocks targeted cardiology tissues with a controlled electric field for a more precise and faster procedure. This non-thermal energy delivery under investigation may lead to safer and more effective patient outcomes.

Potential patients may call 904-308-5761 to schedule an appointment with Ascension St. Vincent's and begin the process of trial enrollment.

To learn about the cardiology program, go to Ascension.org/JaxHeart.

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The link announces its December schedule

December is upon us and so is fun at the link! Take a look at the activities, classes and camps that will help you and your family celebrate the season:

Gingerbread House Competition

Dec. 2, 9 a.m. to noon

Don't miss out on this favorite family-fun event. Get the family together to build the best gingerbread house that you can. The link is giving away more than \$1,000 in prizes. Register at app.thelink.zone

Collisions and Coffee Networking

Dec. 6, 9 to 10:30 a.m.

One of Ponte Vedra's favorite free networking events is back. Collisions & Coffee is designed to bring people together in a great setting where ideas flow freely, to network and discuss business and entrepreneurship. Sponsored by Voyce Admins. Register at app.thelink.zone

Christmas Party

Dec. 8, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Stop by and write your letter to Santa and drop it into a special mailbox for delivery at the North Pole. Take a family photo with Santa on your cell phone. Enjoy fun and games for the entire family. Don't miss the snowy finale.



There will be a 100% chance of snow! Register at app.thelink.zone

Mommy and Me Classes

Weekly classes, Tuesdays and Fridays

These weekly classes are designed for parents and their precious little ones to get fit together, learn and play. Classes include fit class, Music and Me and yoga. Classes cater to ages 1 month to 5 years old. See specific class details at app.thelink.zone

College Student Talks: College Life 101

Dec. 16, 10 a.m. to noon

The link introduces its inaugural Life 101 College Student Talks. As a valuable component of the Teen Club, this event features a dynamic panel of college students hailing from various Florida colleges and universities including UNF, UF, FSU, UT, UCF and Flagler. This is a free event and open to members and nonmembers alike. Register at app.thelink.zone

STEM Adventure Camp with Coach Ivan

Dec. 26-29, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Engage your child's curiosity with a journey through the realms of science,

technology, engineering and math. Coach Ivan will lead an immersive STEM camp featuring LEGO robotics, drones, coding and Carrera slot car racing. This four-day experience will challenge young minds and spark their interest in the world of STEM. Register at app.thelink.zone

Culinary & More Camp — Kids in the Kitchen with Kara

Dec. 26-29, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For those who have a passion for the culinary arts, Kids in the Kitchen with Kara is the perfect fit. This camp combines arts and crafts, cooking, etiquette, kitchen skills and more. Kids will have the opportunity to meal prep and bring home a delicious creation each day that will feed 2-3 people. Register at app.thelink.zone

Weekly Fitness Classes

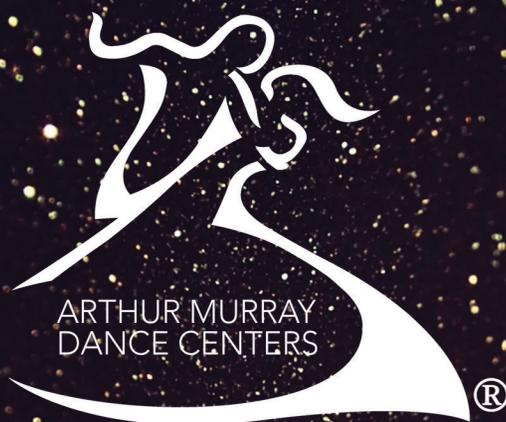
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday through Saturday

The link is home to a robust fitness program with classes for all ages and fitness levels. Take part in yoga/pilates, strength training, kids' yoga and more. Classes are free for members, and nonmembers can pay a small drop-in fee for classes. See all class details and register at app.thelink.zone

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Thanksgiving Sorting Event unites 150 volunteers to help 100 families

In a notable demonstration of community, the MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation hosted its annual Thanksgiving Sorting Event on Tuesday, Nov. 21, bringing together 150 dedicated volunteers. The purpose of the event was to organize and sort Thanksgiving non-perishable food donations, ensuring that 100 families in the 32209 ZIP code served by the foundation would receive a warm Thanksgiving dinner for their whole family.

SE Grocers/Winn-Dixie, the foundation's largest food donor for the event, supplied eight pallets of food. This substantial contribution reinforces both organizations' dedication to community well-being and the mission of the foundation in supporting these residents.

The Thanksgiving Sorting Event hosted a diverse group of volunteers, including community members,



Contributed photos

local businesses and foundation supporters. Their collective efforts demonstrated the power of community

engagement and the shared commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of those in need.

"We are deeply grateful for the overwhelming support from our volunteers and the generous contribution from our community and SE Grocers/Winn-Dixie," said Terri Florio, executive director. "This event showcases the strength of our community when we come together to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need."

The MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation is an after-school and summer youth development program in Jacksonville's urban core that promotes academic achievement and positive life skills. Its mission is to develop champions in classrooms, on tennis courts and throughout communities.

Learn more at malwashington.com.

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Volunteers from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society will again offer a gift-wrapping service.

Gift wrap service returns

Beaches-area residents are getting their Christmas wish this year: Gift wrapping from dozens of volunteers from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, North Florida Chapter.

The service, in its 10th year, begins Dec. 9-10 and is located between Hallmark and Five Below in South Beach Regional Mall. Hours are 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The wrapping continues Dec. 16-24.

All donations benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and help provide programs and services to the more than 18,000 people impacted in North Florida.

Volunteers will wrap all packages — from stores and online purchases. For special concierge service — overnight wrapping and next-day delivery — call 904-982-6510 or e-mail Slowride36@gmail.com.

Fall and winter skincare tips

As the seasons change and weather gets cooler, many changes take place. In addition to changing landscapes, men and women may need to adapt their health and wellness habits to ensure that they stay healthy and happy. Part of that daily regimen includes how to care for skin as the seasons change.

Just as skin requires certain protection from the sun and heat in the summer, skin has special needs in the fall and winter. Fall and winter are often characterized by cold, dry weather, which can make these times of year particularly challenging for people with dry or sensitive skin. These tips can help people maintain their skin's appearance and health.

• **Don't skip the sunscreen.** Sunscreen is not a summer-only requirement. UV rays can damage the skin any time of year, even if the rays are not as strong as during the summer. UV radiation accelerates and increases the risk of skin cancer. It also can lead to premature aging. Utilize a sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher every day.

• **Invest in a humidifier.** Dry, cold temperatures can rob the skin of essential moisture, even indoors. Dermatologists



suggest using a humidifier at home to boost the amount of moisture in the air. This can make skin more comfortable and can have other health benefits as well.

• **Skip hot showers.** It can be tempting to sit under a hot stream of water to warm up. However, hot water dries out the skin by depleting its stores of natural oils, says Glacier Med Spa. Take warm showers

instead and don't stay in for longer than 15 minutes.

• **Limit exfoliation.** While exfoliation can remove dead skin, overdoing it can make already sensitive skin more raw. Increase the time between exfoliation treatments. Consult with a dermatologist for more advice about dealing with flaky skin.

• **Don't forget your lips.** Using a thicker moisturizer on the body and face can help add and retain moisture. But pay attention to your lips and eyes as well. Something as simple as petroleum jelly on the lips can help prevent chapping. Invest in a quality eye cream to help the delicate skin around the eyes as well.

Modifications must be made to skincare routines in anticipation of seasonal weather changes.

Luminaria kits support charities

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty has announced that Luminaria 2023 will be held Dec. 23 (rain date: Dec. 24) in Atlantic Beach and Neptune Beach. Communities in Ponte Vedra, St. Augustine and Fleming Island are also planning luminaria events.

Luminaria kits are available at the following Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty locations now, while supplies last:

- Beaches/Intracoastal West/Southside, 375-1 Atlantic Blvd., Atlantic Beach.
- Fleming Island/Orange Park, 3535 Highway 17, Suite 10, Fleming Island.
- Ponte Vedra/Nocatee, 333 Village Main St., Suite 670, Ponte Vedra Beach.
- St. Augustine, 112 Sea Grove Main St., Suite 210, St. Augustine Beach.

• Murabella at World Golf Village, 196 Capulet Drive, Suite 3, St. Augustine.

Each kit costs \$20 and contains 12 bags, 12 candles and sand to assemble the luminarias. All of the proceeds from the sale of each luminaria kit will be donated to local charities, including AB Cares, No Empty Stockings, Boy Scout Troop 15 and Pine Castle. The luminaria kits are handmade by Pine Castle, a Jacksonville charitable organization that empowers adults with intellectual and developmental differences through opportunities to learn, work and connect.

Purchase of kits is by cash or check only. (Make checks payable to Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty.)

For more information, go to FloridaNetworkRealty.com/Luminaria.

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SANTA PAWS



Thursday, November 30, 2023 • PAGE 16 **ALL ABOUT PETS** www.pontevedrerecorder.com

GUEST COLUMN

The unyielding loyalty of protection dogs

In an era of rapidly advancing technology and evolving security challenges, the inclusion of protection dogs in security regimens is a concept worth exploring. Security, as we know, is not just about weapons and surveillance equipment, but also about the intelligent and instinctive ability to detect, deter and respond to threats. This is where a well-trained protection dog can make an invaluable contribution.

Firstly, let's consider the legal and practical limitations that often govern our ability to carry weapons for personal protection. Whether due to legal restrictions, the potential for misuse or the threat of weapon theft, personal firearms may not always be the most suitable option. In contrast, protection dogs provide a ver-

satile and socially acceptable form of security. They can accompany you in places where weapons are prohibited, such as public parks, shopping centers and even on airplanes, providing an extra layer of security in these common settings.

Dogs, with their acute senses, offer capabilities that far surpass even the most advanced technology. Their hearing is significantly more sensitive than our own, and they can detect sounds at frequencies outside the range of human perception. Similarly, a dog's sense of smell is estimated to be between 10,000 to 100,000 times more sensitive than a human's. This enables them to detect threats that we, and even our technology, might miss.

Protection dogs are trained specifically to leverage these natural abilities, along

with their physical strength and speed, to detect and deter potential threats. They can sense tension in body language, hear the faintest sounds of an intruder and smell the unique scent of a stranger approaching. In situations that might be ambiguous to a human observer or a surveillance camera, a protection dog can provide a swift and accurate assessment.

Beyond their physical capabilities, protection dogs offer an unmatched level of psychological deterrence. The mere presence of a large, alert dog can make a potential intruder think twice. This psychological deterrent is a powerful tool in any security regimen. Additionally, in the unfortunate event of a confrontation, a protection dog's training allows it to intervene and protect its handler with a

level of courage and tenacity that is often enough to subdue a threat.

However, what truly sets protection dogs apart in a security regimen is their unwavering loyalty and dedication to their handlers. Unlike human security personnel, who can be bribed or manipulated, a protection dog's allegiance is unshakable. This loyalty is not merely a function of their training, but a fundamental aspect of their nature. Dogs, as pack animals, form incredibly strong bonds with their human families, viewing them as part of their pack. This bond, once established, is virtually unbreakable, and drives a protection dog to defend its handler at all costs.

DOGS continues on Page 17

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Dogs

Continued from 16

This loyalty, combined with their training, makes protection dogs incredibly reliable in high-pressure situations. They will not abandon their post, be swayed by threats or become complacent over time. Instead, they remain constantly vigilant, their loyalty keeping them focused on their duty to protect their handler.

Furthermore, protection dogs provide not just physical security, but emotional comfort as well. In times of stress or danger, the presence of a loyal dog can provide significant emotional support. Their companionship can help alleviate anxiety, reduce feelings of isolation and provide a sense of security that extends beyond physical safety. This emotional support can strengthen mental resilience, an often overlooked but essential aspect of personal security.

Moreover, protection dogs can be integrated seamlessly into family life, offering security while also being a beloved family member. Unlike weapons or security devices, which can instill a sense of constant threat, a protection dog's presence can be comforting, providing peace of mind without the constant reminder of potential danger.

There's also a broader societal benefit to consider. A well-trained protection dog is likely to be a well-behaved and



controlled animal in all situations, reducing the risk of incidents that can arise from poorly controlled pets. They can set a positive example for dog ownership, promoting responsible behavior and respect for the powerful animals that dogs can be.

However, owning a protection dog is a significant responsibility. It requires commitment to their training, care and socialization. Improperly trained or poorly treated, a protection dog can become a liability rather than an asset. Therefore,

it's crucial for potential owners to understand the responsibilities that come with owning a protection dog and to ensure they're prepared for the commitment.

When properly trained and cared for, a protection dog's loyalty, physical capabilities and keen instincts make them a powerful addition to any security regimen. They provide a unique blend of deterrent, detection and response capabilities that no other single security measure can offer. Their unwavering loyalty and dedication to their handler

ensure they will always be there when needed, providing reliable, effective protection that is not subject to bribery or manipulation.

In an increasingly uncertain world, the unique capabilities and steadfast loyalty of protection dogs make them an invaluable asset. With their ability to accompany their handlers in places where weapons are not permitted, they offer a level of continuous protection that few other security measures can match. Their presence can deter potential threats, their senses and training enable them to detect and respond to danger, and their unwavering loyalty ensures they will never fail to protect their handler.

In conclusion, while technology continues to evolve and offer new security solutions, the value of a well-trained protection dog should not be underestimated. Their physical abilities, combined with their loyalty and the psychological deterrent they offer, make them an exceptional addition to any comprehensive security regime. In the face of security challenges, the time-tested loyalty and capabilities of protection dogs remain as relevant and potent as ever.

For more information on training your dog for protection work, or to purchase a trained protection dog, contact The K9 Encounter and 904-689-2057 or CustomerSupport@TheK9Encounter.com.

Column provided by The K9 Encounter.

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Tips to keep pets safe and comfortable during the holidays

By Anthony Richards

This time of year is a joyous time for many, but it can also be an unfortunately dangerous one for pets if certain situations take place.

However, the American Veterinary Medical Association has several things to be aware of this holiday season in order to prevent that unexpected trip or call to the vet.

Delicious food is one of the staples of the holiday season, but although it may be tasty to humans, the AVMA warns that some foods passed along at the table may not be as compatible for animals.

Some foods, such as turkey and turkey skin has been known to cause cases on pancreatitis in animals and many desserts can cause an issue because the artificial sweetener xylitol, which is commonly used in gum and sugar-free baked goods can be deadly if swallowed by dogs or cats.

The yeast dough used in baking dishes can also cause painful gas and dangerous bloating if digested by a pet.

Animals are attracted to the smell of food, so disposing of food properly and not leaving it unattended on a table or even in a trash can that does not have a lid can lead to pets getting into the food that way.

Turkey bones are known to splinter easily and can get caught in a pet's throat and present a very harmful situation.

If it is believed that a pet has been poisoned or eaten something in question, the AVMA advises to call the family veterinarian or local veterinary emergency clinic as quick as possible.

Traveling is another common occurrence during the holiday season as families are coming together from



across the county at times, which means pets are accompanying them in their travel.

If traveling in a vehicle, the AVMA states that it is important to always secure a pet in a harness or carrier that is placed in a location clear of airbags.

Taking that measure will help protect the pet in the event of having to brake or swerve quickly or if an accident takes place.

It will also prevent a loose pet from creating a distraction

for drivers while on the roadways.

If air travel is the chosen way to go, according to the AVMA, it is important to remember that short-nosed dogs and cats can struggle more with air travel, and they recommend bringing those type of pets onto the plane with them as a carry-on.

Packing for one's pet as they would themselves is also a vital step, which includes bringing a pet's medication, food and medical records in case of an emergency.



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Banquet will raise funds for Kamp Kritter Rescue

Furever Vets Central will host its first ever Company Holiday Awards Banquet on Dec. 10. This event will be open to all of the staff members and their family members to thank them for all of the work they did this year.

During this banquet Furever Vets will give out awards to all of its locations and team members regarding the year. There will also be a special silent auction to help raise money for local nonprofit Kamp Kritter. To help make this silent auction possible Furever Vets is reaching out to local businesses to see if there are any donations they would like to contribute.

Kamp Kritter Rescue is a local non-

profit sanctuary that focuses on the most medically needy and unadoptable dogs from local shelters or other rescues, giving them specialized vet care and a warm safe place to recover and any socialization or training needed until they become adoptable or live out their remaining time with dignity in a loving environment.

Learn more here about Kamp Kritter at kampkritter.com.

If you are able to donate an item to the silent auction or have any questions regarding the proceeds with local rescue Kamp Kritter, contact Shelly Cornish at shelly.cornish@forevervets.com or marketing@forevervets.com, or by phone at 904-476-3265 before Dec. 6.

Dog adoption event is Dec. 16

SAFE Pet Rescue will have a dog adoption event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, at Pet Supermarket, 880 A1A North, Ponte Vedra Beach.

In addition to dog and puppy adoptions, there will be crafts and a bake sale hosted by the SAFE Pet Rescue Club of Ponte Vedra High School.

Donations of dog food, dog treats, towels, cleaning supplies, etc., will be

gratefully accepted.

Proceeds benefit SAFE, which stands for "Saving Animals From Euthanasia." It is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and no-kill shelter.

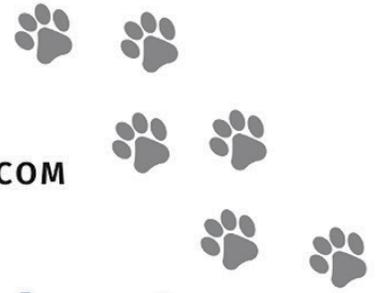
SAFE Pet Rescue actually has four shelters in the St. Augustine area. Since 2008, it has rescued and adopted out more than 28,000 dogs, cats, puppies and kittens.



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Throughout the months of November and December, we will be donating a portion of our heartworm and flea prevention proceeds to a local nonprofit, Kamp Kritter Rescue!



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Annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance and Luncheon

Honoring All World War II Veterans

December 10, 2023 - Sunday After Church

VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena* - 300 A. Philip Randolph Blvd., Jacksonville

Guests of honor include a World War II Army Air Corps Prisoner of War and a 100-year-old Navy Veteran. Benefit for Atlantic Coast Young Marines 2024 trip to Pearl Harbor to learn World War II History

WWII Relics • Displays • Silent Auction for Christmas Shopping • Benefit

11:15 a.m. - Noon: Meet and Greet, Visit Displays, Memorabilia and Silent Auctions

Noon-1pm: Luncheon followed by Presentation

RESERVATIONS: Click on Events at <https://WeCanBeHeroesFoundation.org>.

Active-Duty Military, Veterans and Gold Star Families - Buy one \$15 ticket and get one free. All others are \$15 each. Reserved tables: see below.

Hear unforgettable stories of "The Pearl Harbor Effect and America's Least Known Fighter Pilot of the War." This very special Heroes Tribute includes the Graduation Ceremony of an Atlantic Coast Young Marine Hero.

<p>KEYNOTE SPEAKER</p>  <p>Dr. Wesley Moody Military Historian</p>	<p>GUESTS OF HONOR - WORLD WAR II VETERANS</p>  <p>John Connelly, Prisoner of War Active VFW Member for 76 years</p>	 <p>Fred Pappas Centenarian Navy Veteran</p>
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***JACKETS AND WARM FOOTWEAR RECOMMENDED: The Arena is chilly during Icemen Hockey season**

Reserve dining tables for 8 in honor of WWII and other Veterans, First Responders, Loved Ones and Unsung Heroes you know or admire. Display memorabilia and photos of your hero in the center of your reserved table for guests to view. A table placard honoring your hero will highlight your reserved table. Tables can be reserved for your family, group or organization. Only \$130.

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K9s United holds canine crime fighter competition

K9s United, a Jacksonville-based nonprofit dedicated to advocating for and supporting K9 law enforcement officers, held its annual Law Enforcement K9 Competition on Saturday, Nov. 18, at the Bishop Kenny High School Athletic Complex in Jacksonville. In its second year, the competition showcased the remarkable skills of police dogs that protect and serve their communities and offered families a fun-filled day of activities.

Attendees had the opportunity to witness the fearless dogs in action as K9 law enforcement teams from across the state of Florida competed in a timed obstacle course to showcase their impressive speed, strength and skills through various exercises, including wall jumps, tunnel crawls, bailouts, apprehension and more. Awards were presented to the top three K9 competitors in each category – fastest, hardest hitting and obstacle course – and an overall Top Dog was crowned at the conclusion of the event.

The award for top dog went to Officer Scott Stevenson and K9 Tyr, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

Other top winners included:

- 1st place obstacle: Deputy Matt Wadlington and K9 Cairo, Columbia County Sheriff's Office
- 1st place fastest dog: Cpl. Casey Walsh and K9 Stern (AKA Taco), Gainesville Police Department
- 1st place hardest dog: Deputy Logan Schrock and K9 Junior, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office

Other Competing K9 teams included:

- Deputy Hill and K9 M'Baku from the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office
- Trooper Achors and K9 Ace from Florida Highway Patrol
- Officer Cullen and K9 Chaos from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
- Officer Boyster and K9 Kenzo from the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
- Deputy Green and K9 Cash from the Clay County Sheriff's Office
- Deputy Beausoleil and K9 Axle from the Flagler County Sheriff's Office
- Deputy Dawson and K9 Baro from the Flagler County Sheriff's Office
- Officer Krueger and K9 Mac from the Mount Dora Police Department
- Deputy Batts and K9 Jax from the Marion County Sheriff's Office

Attendees also enjoyed engaging activities, including a rock-climbing wall and inflatable games, along with food and beverages from popular food trucks and more.

All proceeds will benefit K9s United to help fulfill the nonprofit's mission to support working law enforcement K9s.

Many law enforcement agencies unfortunately do not have the funding needed to provide their K9 units with the vital resources they require. K9s United, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, helps to fill that void by supporting law enforcement K9s who detect, protect and serve local communities by giving them the best equipment, trainings and services. K9s United also actively advocates for legislation and has successfully championed two bills into Florida law to help protect these working dogs.



VOTING ENDS DEC. 4TH!

The Recorder presents the *first ever* **Best of the Beaches**, featuring your favorite businesses in Jacksonville Beach, Neptune Beach, Atlantic Beach and Ponte Vedra Beach! This includes businesses in zip codes 32250, 32266, 32233, and 32082.

Readers now have the chance to vote for their favorite businesses in various categories online, such as auto & transportation, home & finance, food & drink and more! Online voting ends December 4th.

Give your favorite business the recognition they deserve, and vote for them as the Best of the Best in their category!

VOTING ENDS: December 4th

**WINNERS ANNOUNCED/
WINNER'S CIRCE PUBLISHES:
December 28th**




pontevedrarecorder.com/bestofbeaches2023



Contributed photos



Neddo's time at the summit in Montana included his first time white-water rafting.



Neddo started with First Tee when he was in kindergarten.

Scholarship

Continued from 1

versity of Central Florida where he plans to major in lifestyle and community management with the goal of running a retirement home later in life.

“Throughout most of my life I always wanted to be an architect because I love building Legos and designing things, but three years ago I started working at Vicar’s Landing, the retirement home in Sawgrass, because both my brothers worked there and I kind of followed in their footsteps,” Neddo said. “I started working there as a server and now I’m in between a server and release supervisor, it really depends on the day. I love

being there and seeing all the elders because they have so much to share with you and a lot of times no one will listen. I realized it was my calling.”

According to Neddo, the news of the scholarship was told to him via a Zoom call and what made it even more special was that actor Micheal Pena, who is a big supporter of First Tee came on to inform them about it.

The scholarship announcement came after Neddo returned from a leadership summit at West Creek Ranch in Montana, where he was one of 40 First Tee members to take part during the two-week event, 20 per week.

“I was completely shocked, because there were about 40 people that could have been picked, so I must have made a good impres-

sion,” Neddo said.

His mom Bridget Neddo knew of the scholarship prior to him going on the Zoom call and she said it was so difficult to keep it a surprise.

“Family is the one word and the best way that I can describe my experience at West Creek Ranch, because I didn’t know anyone going into the week, but now we all have a group chat and still message daily,” Neddo said.

Neddo started at First Tee when he was in kindergarten but bounced back and forth between golf and soccer before committing fully to golf and the First Tee since his freshman year of high school.

There are many aspects of First Tee that have made him the person he is today.

“The curriculum they have is not just about golf but it’s also about learning core values and respecting yourself and the course,” Neddo said. “It’s all about building relationships with people because that’s the help that you’ll later in life.”

Once he graduates from high school, Neddo will become an alumnus of First Tee and he is already looking forward to continuing to help coach with the summer programs and to give back by supporting the next generation as alumni and older members were there for him over the years.

“That was me 12 years ago, and now look where I’m at today and how far I’ve come,” Neddo said. “Seeing the potential in each person can really spark something for them and it’s fun to watch that growth.”

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Gullah Geechee Heritage Festival is Saturday, Dec. 2

The St. Johns Cultural Council, the organization that promotes arts, culture and heritage in St. Augustine, has announced the 10th Annual S.E.A. Gullah Geechee Heritage Festival will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2, to celebrate more than 450 years of West African influence on the communities of Spuds, Elkton and Armstrong, located in southwestern St. Johns County.

Activities will include food, music, dance performances, craft demonstrations and presentations from a variety of cultural organizations.

“We are thrilled to collaborate with the S.E.A. community to host the event which commemorates the cultural heritage of some of our county’s earliest residents,” says Christina Parrish Stone, executive director of St. Johns Cultural Council. “The goal of the festival is to highlight St. Augustine’s Black history and the important contributions made by residents of West African descent.”

Musical performers will include the Geechee Gullah Ring Shouters, American jazz musician Doug Carn with vocalist Elaina Monique, and New Orleans-based Big Sams Funky Nation. Jump4Jax, a nonprofit organization promoting health and fitness, will hold double dutch demonstrations, and vendors will feature crafts such as quilting and sweetgrass



Contributed photo

basket making. Charleston-based Chef BJ Dennis will host a cooking demonstration paying homage to the Gullah Geechee culture. The National Park Service, St. Johns County Libraries, and the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor will be present to provide additional information and activities for all ages.

The event will be held from noon until

5 p.m. at Armstrong Park, 4950 Harvey Avenue, Elkton, and admission is free. Food and beverages will be available for purchase and will benefit the SEA Community Help Resource Center. The S.E.A. Resource Center provides food, clothing, books and more to residents in need to fight hunger and homelessness, and bring awareness to Gullah Geechee heritage in

the St. Johns River region.

The communities of Spuds, Elkton and Armstrong are rich in agricultural history and economic development.

Spuds, initially named Holy Branch, grew around the Florida East Coast Railway Line in the 1880s and later thrived on potato farming.

The community of Elkton was strategically positioned near a railroad depot, flourished in the turpentine industry and was later known as “the heart of the Irish potato district” when farmers began to harvest in the area.

Armstrong was established around a sawmill and stands at the southernmost end of the Gullah Geechee Heritage Corridor.

As part of the Gullah Geechee Heritage Corridor, St. Johns County preserves and interprets the history of the Gullah Geechee people at attractions including Fort Mose, the first legally sanctioned, free African settlement in what is now the United States; the Lincolnville neighborhood, a historic neighborhood established by freedmen after the Civil War and listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and the Lincolnville Museum and Cultural Center, a museum exhibiting the community’s rich Black history.

For more information, go to gullah-geecheefestival.com.

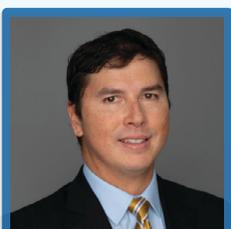


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Business Weekly

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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

St. Johns County Chamber honors business leaders at awards ceremony

Berta Odom named new chair

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce held its CELEBRATE Annual Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 15, where various business leaders who made their mark in the community this year were recognized.

The event, which more than 200 guests attended, was held at the Treasury on the Plaza in historic St. Augustine. Six business leaders were recognized for their dedication to St. Johns County and the



AWARDS continues on Page 24

Chamber President and CEO Isabelle Renault, left, stands next to the award winners.

Photo by Jackie Hird Photography



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Chamber President and CEO Isabelle Renault, left, presents one of two President's Awards to Erika Alba.



Beth Sweeny presents the Marty Lewis Ambassador of the Year Award to Sean Rotolo.



Chamber President and CEO Isabelle Renault, left, presents the Chamber Member of the Year Award to UF Health St. Johns CEO Carlton Devooght.



Photos by Jackie Hird Photography
Beth Sweeny, left, passes the gavel to Berta Odom.

Awards

Continued from 23

community in which they live.

“The award recipients have distinguished themselves through contributions advancing the Chamber, its members or our business community and local economy as a whole,” said Chamber President and CEO Isabelle Renault. “This year’s recipient list is impressive, and a testimonial of the favorable economic growth St. Johns County is experiencing. Congratulations to this year’s awardees!”

Sean Rotolo with Oxifresh Carpet Cleaning was presented the Marty Lewis Ambassador of the Year Award. The Chamber Ambassadors are volunteers

who assist with welcoming new members and visiting renewing members each year. The award is decided by the Ambassadors themselves, and among the finalists are Robin Burchfield of St. Augustine Youth Services and David Permenter of Generation Media.

This year, Renault gave out President’s Awards to two inspirational people who have assisted the Chamber in growing significantly.

The first President’s Award was given to Erika Alba, an attorney with Woolsey/Morcom, who has been instrumental in assisting the Chamber in the process of establishing the St. Johns County Chamber Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit. Alba donated a considerable amount of time and professional expertise in non-profit law over the past year to guide the

Chamber in making the beginnings of the foundation something that will help the community for years to come.

The second President’s Award was given to Stephen Hudson of the Digital Mark Company. Not only was Hudson instrumental in helping the Chamber start its North Business Council, he represented small business interests on the Board of Directors, served as treasurer on the executive committee, assisted with the changes that COVID-19 gave businesses and assisted the Chamber in restructuring its services by executing a membership survey and ensuring a record response rate. He is currently serving as the chair of the Autism Certification Grant Review Committee, reaching out to tourism and hospitality businesses to help them understand how the community could

benefit from being certified to market the destination as an autism-certified destination for visitors.

The Small Business of the Year award went to Trudy Toche. Trudy was recently named the number one salesperson in the

AWARDS continues on Page 25



Trudy Toche, center, received the Small Business of the Year award. At left is Beth Sweeny and at right is Isabelle Renault.

Holiday Entertainment Guide

Joy for All!



Holiday Pops
December 7/8/9/10
Part of the Paysafe Pops Series



First Coast Nutcracker
December 15/16/17
Presented by VyStar



Handel's Messiah
December 16/17



Youth Holiday Concert
December 11



Santa at the Symphony!
Snap your family's photo with Santa for free with your ticket to one of these Holiday Pops performances:
Dec 8 7:30 p.m. or Dec 9 3:00 p.m.
*Santa is available for photos 90 minutes prior to concert start with a paid ticket.



These Shows Will Sell Out! Tickets and Information: JaxSymphony.org 904.354.5547

Benchmarks of Success

A look at major career developments in the area



Eklund joins Baptist Health of Northeast Florida in key role

Andrea Eklund JD has joined Baptist Health of Northeast Florida as senior vice president, compliance and internal audit and chief compliance officer.

In this role, Eklund will oversee Baptist Health’s corporate compliance, internal audit, privacy and information technology regulatory efforts, working closely with the executive leadership team and board of directors. She will serve as a strategic adviser to leaders across the organization, collaborating to maintain industry-leading compliance practices.

Prior to joining Baptist Health, Eklund served as senior vice president and chief compliance officer at UnityPoint Health, where she managed the strategic direction and oversight of compliance, privacy, internal audit,

provider contracting and credentialing for the large health system with nearly 500 points of care across three states. Prior to this, she served as chief compliance and privacy officer at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare.

Eklund received Bachelor of Science in business management from Rockford College and her Juris Doctor from Northern Illinois University College of Law. She is a member of the Florida Bar Association, American Health Lawyers Association, Health Care Compliance Association, American Academy of Professional Coders and American College of Healthcare Executives.



Watson elected to Betty Griffin Center board

Julie Watson, a program director and associate professor in the College of Health and Natural Sciences at Bay Path University, has been elected to the board of directors at Betty Griffin Center.

Before joining Bay Path University in 2017, Watson served as a fellowship co-

ordinator at Brooks Rehabilitation from 2015 to 2017, where she continued on as a scholarly mentor until 2021. Prior to that, she was an assistant professor for occupational therapy at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences from 2009 to 2017.

In addition to receiving many awards and honors for her professional achievements, Watson has donated her time to serve on many other boards, including the St. Johns County Falls Coalition and Wildflower Healthcare, along with supporting special events for non-profit agencies including the Habitat for Humanity and the ‘Wear It More Than Once for Charity’ event, which she founded in 2016.

Watson received her Ph.D. in Public Health from the University of Florida in 2015.

Jessie Ball duPont Fund hires Laura Phillips Edgecombe

The Jessie Ball duPont Fund, a Jacksonville-based private foundation that seeks to create communities of belonging for the people, institutions and communities that Jessie Ball duPont knew and loved, has hired Laura Phillips Edgecombe as principal, down-

town public spaces. Edgecombe will be an executive on loan to the City of Jacksonville working with the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, with responsibility for facilitating the equitable activation of downtown public spaces for the benefit of all Jaxsons.

As executive on loan, Edgecombe will oversee the strategy and implementation of activation plans for the Downtown Riverfront and other Jacksonville parks and public spaces, including Riverfront Plaza and Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing Park. She will serve as a liaison between city agencies, nonprofit partners and community groups and will help ensure that public capital improvements, private development and activation initiatives are coordinated to maximize value for the community.

Edgecombe earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Florida.

— Compiled by Shaun Ryan



Laura Phillips Edgecombe

Awards

Continued from 24

country for Mary Kay. She has spent the last 19 years building her business and empowering others. Small businesses are the backbone of the Chamber and represent more than 80% of the membership.

The Fred Schroeder Economic Development Council award was presented to the PGA Tour Studios. This award is given to a business that made a signifi-

cant investment in St. Johns County with the expansion of its business and the addition of jobs. This state-of-the-art 165,000-square-foot facility will feature seven studios, eight control and voice-over rooms, four edit finishing rooms and audio post rooms. It is not an understatement that this facility will bring golf to the world. Accepting the award was Luis Goicouria, senior vice president of media for The PGA Tour.

The Chamber Member of the Year Award was presented to UF Health St.

Johns. The merger of Flagler Health+ and UF Health was a significant step in the enhancement of health care in St. Johns County. With anticipated investment in existing facilities as well as the launch of the Durbin Park Campus construction, UF Health St. Johns will be positioned to meet the growing needs of the community for decades to come. Accepting the award for UF Health St. Johns was Carlton Devooght, CEO.

The event concluded with the passing of the gavel ceremony from Immediate

Past Chair Beth Sweeny with Flagler College to the 2023-24 Chamber Chair Berta Odom with RE/MAX Realty 100. Odom has been serving on the Chamber board since 2019 and last year was the vice chair of the Chamber. She serves as the chairperson for the St. Johns County Realtor Political Action Committee, is a member of City of St. Augustine Beach Planning and Zoning and is a member of the St. Johns County Board of Realtors, Florida Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors.



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In the Arts

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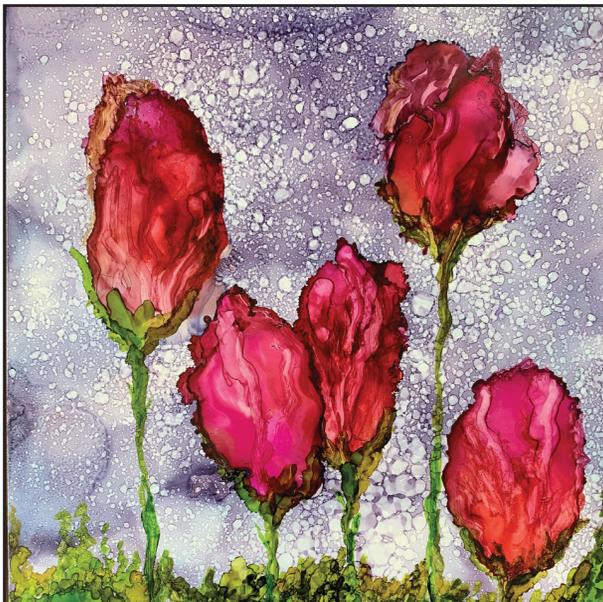
Valarie Pothier-Forrester is PASTA's featured artist

The Professional Artists of St. Augustine (PASTA) Fine Art Gallery, of 214 Charlotte St., St. Augustine, will feature member artist and PASTA president, Valarie Pothier-Forrester's work in two mediums during the month of December.

Her plein air oil paintings and alcohol ink paintings will be exhibited and for sale in the main gallery at PASTA. A reception for the artist will be held during the First Friday Artwalk from 5 to 9 p.m. Dec. 1. The public is welcome, and the event is free. Live music and light fare will be available.

"I consider myself to be a life-long learner," Pothier-Forrester said. "After so many years of teaching young people, and learning from them, I know that to not try something is to never know. So, I'm constantly trying new techniques, experimenting with new materials and striving for mastery. I may never reach that lofty goal, but the journey there is great ride!"

Pothier-Forrester has a long history of working in the arts. She received her Bachelor of Art Education, and her



Contributed photo

Master of Arts from the University of Florida. She worked as an artist/preparator for the Florida Museum of Natural History creating exhibits and designing graphics for various events. As part of her master's degree internship, she wrote curriculum for student visits to the Harn Museum of Art in Gainesville, Florida, as well as interpretive labels for specific exhibit artifacts.

She taught art in Alachua County for almost 30 years at the high school and middle school levels and was once honored to have been named teacher of the year.

She now lives in St. Augustine where she is active painter and creator. Her work has been shown at a number of galleries in North Florida, Georgia and Canada. She is a member of the First Coast Plein Air Painters and is a member of the St. Augustine Art Association.

Over the years, she has received numerous awards for both her alcohol ink paintings and her plein air art work.

See her work at pastagalleryart.com. Her website is vpforrester.com/dataviewer.asp.

Jacksonville Symphony planning festive holiday performances

The Jacksonville Symphony is gearing up to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year with another season of festive performances. Each December, the Symphony presents 17 concerts for an audience of 21,000 patrons.

Merriment soars to new heights as the Symphony presents Jacksonville's liveliest holiday tradition: the annual "Holiday Pops" concerts. Running from Dec. 7 to 10, these festive performances will be led by returning guest conductor Tim Hankewich and will feature Broadway

veteran and vocalist Ryan Silverman, the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus and dancers from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts.

Programming includes holiday classics that audiences know and love while Jacoby Symphony Hall is filled with an indoor snowfall. Additionally, the Symphony is offering a free photo opportunity with Santa 90 minutes before performances at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 8 and 3 p.m. Dec. 9.

On Dec. 11, Assistant Conductor and

Jacksonville Symphony Youth Orchestras (JSYO) Music Director Grant O'Brien will lead JSYO's young musicians in their "Holiday Concert." Featuring all six JSYO ensembles, this performance is a heartwarming testament of the talents and growth of JSYO's musicians, who have honed their skills throughout the year.

The Jacksonville Symphony's "First Coast Nutcracker," presented by VyStar, has been a holiday staple on the First Coast for more than 50 years. Running from Dec. 15 to 17, this popular ballet

composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky will be presented in six performances, including two special matinee performances for more than 4,000 students.

Lead by Associate Conductor Kevin Fitzgerald, the Jacksonville Symphony's production is the only "Nutcracker" in Northeast Florida to feature a full, live orchestra and the only major orchestra in the country to produce a fully staged professional production. From the "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" to the "Waltz of the Flowers," this annual ballet, complete with outstanding sets, costumes and a bit of magic, features the talents of hundreds of students and several professional ballet dancers.

As the "Nutcracker" weaves its magic in the Moran Theatre, another classic holiday performance comes to life in full splendor inside Jacoby Symphony Hall: "Handel's Messiah." On Dec. 16 and 17, Music Director Courtney Lewis will lead the Symphony through George Frideric Handel's masterpiece. As one of the best known and most frequently performed choral works in the world, "Messiah" always leaves audiences spellbound with the majesty of this incredible work.

In countless ways, the Jacksonville Symphony's holiday concerts unite the community in celebration and in the shared hope for a joyous future.

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For information and tickets, go to jax-symphony.org/symphony-holidays.

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Left: "Vitrine aux Umbelliferes," ca. 1900, Émile Gallé (French). Right: "Vitrine," ca. 1900, artist unknown. (Italian)



Bust of a Woman," ca. 1900. Duxer Porzellanmanufaktur. (Czech)



"Eighteen-Light Pond Lily Lamp," ca. 1900. Tiffany Glass and Decorating Company. (American)

Lightner

Continued from 1

collection, and a few others are on loan from the Richard H. Driehaus Collection in Chicago.

"I think it's great for our museum community, for the City of St. Augustine, for St. Johns County, for Northeast Florida to be able to bring these types of exhibitions that you normally see in bigger cities," said Lightner Museum Executive Director David Bagnall.

This is the museum's ninth and final exhibit marking its 75th anniversary,



Photos by Shaun Ryan
"Plate with waterlily design," ca. 1905. Maker unknown. (German)

with 2023 on track to see record attendance. The museum expects to welcome 100,000 visitors by year's end.

"The Triumph of Nature" occupies the entire Grand Ballroom Gallery on the third floor. When many of the pieces in the exhibit were being created, the building housing the Lightner Museum was still Henry Flagler's new Alcazar Hotel.

"Art Nouveau was this incredibly vibrant art movement that originated in Europe around 1890," said Bagnall. "It spread throughout Europe to the U.K., to America. And it kind of burned brightly until around 1914 with the outbreak of the First World War. It's exactly contemporary with the heyday of our historic building. So, [the exhibit] was a good fit for the Lightner Museum."

Art Nouveau was an attempt by artists and designers to reconnect with nature during the Industrial Revolution when the Western world had shifted from an agrarian society to a more mechanized one.

In their celebration of beauty and nature, artists, architects and designers abandoned the styles of the Victorian era and produced works rich in sinuous lines, stylized organic forms and bold asymmetric compositions.

The Lightner has been planning the exhibit for about three years, and the museum is the first venue on the tour,

which is ultimately expected to return to the Chrysler Museum. "The Triumph of Nature" is indicative of the Lightner's recent efforts to increase the number and quality of its exhibitions.

The Lightner Museum is located at 75 King St. in St. Augustine. For informa-

tion, call 904-824-2874, email info@lightnermuseum.org or go to lightnermuseum.org.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is an abridged version of the article. To read the full story, go to pontevedrarecorder.com.

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Sports

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Sharks fall to Eagles in season opener

*Ritchie, Cowan score
double-digits*

By Anthony Richards

The Ponte Veda High boys basketball team opened the season with a tough test at home against Paxon School for Advanced Studies, and lost 64-50 to drop to 0-1 on the season.

There are positive signs the Sharks can take from the loss and work on building upon moving forward, including the way they came out of the gate and started both halves.

The Sharks led 11-9 at the end of the first quarter and matched the Eagles (2-0), who won 20 games a year ago, intensity to begin the second half, only being outscored by one point, 17-16 in the third quarter.

However, it was all Eagles in the two remaining quarters, as they outscored the Sharks 22-11 in the second quarter to grab a commanding 31-22 halftime lead that set the tone for the contest and never looked back.

Seniors Sam Ritchie and Tyler Cowan led the way in scoring for the Sharks, with 13 and 12 points, respectively.

Ritchie made a pair of three-pointers as

well, but it proved to be the only production the Sharks had beyond the arc all night, as the Eagles drained seven more three-pointers, which proved to be a major difference in the outcome.

Junior point guard David Sanchez Barrera tallied eight points on the night, including making all four of his shots from the free-throw line.

Barrera and Ritchie also each had a team-high three assists, while Cowan had a full night with seven rebounds, three steals and a blocked shot to go with his 12 points.

The Sharks were hampered when they lost a good portion of their size around

the basket, when 6-foot-5-inch sophomore Maddox Palmer got into early foul trouble and his minutes were limited throughout the night as a result.

The talented sophomore has a lot of potential, but staying out of foul trouble will be key to his development and the team's growth moving forward.

Three of the Sharks' scorers in the game are sophomores, which demonstrates the talent, but also the youth that they have on the roster this season.

The Sharks early season gauntlet continues as they host the Raines Vikings out of Jacksonville on Nov. 30 with tip-off set for 7:30 p.m.



Mandi Stewart and son Trenton William Stewart.



Trenton William Stewart and his teammates run onto the field.

Contributed photos

Applications available for Trenton William Stewart Legacy Scholarships



Trenton William Stewart

Investing in Kids (INK!) was recently selected to help administer and award funds for the Trenton William Stewart Legacy Scholarship available to St. Johns County School District graduating seniors who will

play collegiate football.

The funds were established by Mandi Stewart, the mother of Trenton Stewart who tragically lost his life in Jacksonville as the victim in an automobile collision in May. According to Stewart, Trent was the

epitome of what it takes to be an athlete at the high school and college level. He graduated in 2022 from Creekside High School in St. Johns and was attending Stetson University in Deland.

"Our son and only child had an unwavering commitment to 'not quitting' and was fully dedicated to being the best version of himself, on and off the field," said Stewart. "Trent had determination, commitment, dedication and an absolute love for football. The recipient of the scholarship will embody the characteristics that made Trenton the young man he was."

Stewart selected INK! due to the non-profit's renowned work to help students and teachers with funding and resources

to support academic success in St. Johns County.

There will be five annual \$1,000 scholarships. To be eligible, the applicant must be a graduate within St. Johns County School District who will play collegiate football and must maintain an average cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Applicants are required to represent the following characteristics set forth by the scholarship: a passion for playing football in college, drive and perseverance, leadership within their high school and community, a strong work-ethic on and off the field, and a commitment to living a drug-free life while becoming the best version of themselves. Applications are due

on Jan. 31.

Applicants must submit the formal application with an essay explaining the applicant's goals, aspirations and embodiment of the important characteristics of being a successful collegiate athlete. Applicants must also provide one character recommendation from an academic teacher and one from a coach. Applicants must also include the college they will attend, graduating GPA, extracurricular activities, volunteer activities, leadership roles and high school honors received. Recipients will be announced in February.

To apply, go to thetrentonstewartfoundation.com. To donate to the scholarship fund, go to tinyurl.com/2kukymkm.



Group of local golfers finish runner-up at Furyk & Friends Pro-am

The team of Alexandria Drumm, who plays for the Ponte Vedra High School Girls Golf Championships; Jane Rollinson, local golfer and Jacksonville Women's Golf Association member; Harrison Frazer, PGA TOUR Champions member; Robin Albanese, former chair of Wolfson Children's women's board; and Margaret O'Meara, local golfer and JWGA member, finished in second place at the Furyk & Friends Pro-am tournament at Timuquana Country Club.

Contributed photo

St. Augustine Amateur returns to St. Johns Golf Club

The St. Augustine Amateur returns to the renovated St. Johns Golf Club on Dec. 1-3, bringing an elevated and stellar amateur field to southern St. Johns County.

The 18th St. Augustine Amateur, a 54-hole competition, has been on pause for the last two years while the course-work was undertaken using "traditional throwback" architectural features instituted by golf course architect Erik Larsen and Director of Golf/General Manager Wes Tucker to develop a unique par-71, 7,009-yard layout.

In a similar fashion to the course's successful reinvention, the World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) event has stepped up with a large group of elite amateurs. The date has also been moved from its previous October position to early December, getting away from fall college golf schedules and in between fall and spring slates to attract more college players.

Net proceeds, generated through sponsorships, will continue to directly benefit First Tee — North Florida, a local youth development organization. In collaboration with this year's dedicated sponsors Titleist, Imperial, Gatorade, Oakley, the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council, MasterCraft Builder Group, Herbie Wiles Insurance, Corner Lot Development Group, The Men's Club — St. Johns County and Brookes and Cathy Burkhardt, the 2023 St. Augustine Amateur will generate another \$25,000, increasing the total support to First Tee — North Florida to more than \$400,000 since 2004.

The 80-player field will include 43 current NCAA Division I college golfers, four from NCAA Division II schools and eight nationally ranked junior golfers who have committed to play for NCAA Division I programs next fall.

Additionally, six mid-amateurs and

four players from other categories, including international representation, round out the field. The age range of participants is from 13 to 44 and there are 41 different colleges represented by future, current or past golfers.

This year's field includes the reigning Florida State Golf Association junior player of the year (Darren Zhou, 13, from China and Bradenton), the Junior Players Championship runner-up (Phillip Dunham, 15, from Ponte Vedra Beach), the 2023 Division II national champion (Andrew Riley at Palm Beach Atlantic, now University of North Florida) and tournament/course-record holder Ty Gingerich from Cincinnati, who shot a first-round 62 in winning the 2019 St. Augustine Amateur.

See the final field here: 2023staugustineamateur.golfgenius.com/pages/9740800681119337514

There are 17 past champions since

the event started in 2004, led by future PGA Tour players Peter Uihlein (2006), Zach Sucher (2008) and Blayne Barber (2009); Korn Ferry Tour players A.J. Crouch (2011) and Jack Maguire (2012); and PGA Tour Americas player and St. Augustine Amateur defending champion (2020) Sam Anderson, who resides in Ponte Vedra Beach and will be assisting at the tournament prior to beginning his 2024 season.

Spectators are welcome to attend the 54-hole tournament Friday through Sunday. The winner will receive the Conquistador Helmet Trophy, symbolic of St. Augustine's long history. Morning tee times off both nines (approximately 8:30-10:30 a.m.) will be used during each competitive round, preceded by a Thursday practice round.

For live scoring, beginning on the first day of competition, go to staugustineamateur.com.

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- ACROSS**
- Old English letters
 - Sculpture
 - Showing up again
 - Tie the knot again
 - Washington city
 - Stiff structures in invertebrates
 - Mark over a vowel
 - Explosive
 - Popular race: ___ 500
 - Pile up
 - Mint
 - Commercial
 - A minute amount (Scottish)
 - Small Eurasian deer
 - Baseball stat
 - Numbers cruncher
 - Japanese masked drama
 - Gasteyer and de Armas are two
 - Blood group
 - Assist in wrongdoing
 - Language spoken in Cameroon and Chad
 - Grayish-white
 - A woolen cap of Scottish origin
 - Microorganism
 - Place under prohibition
 - Calm, dependable
 - Congressman
 - Force
 - As a result of this document
 - One of two main branches of Islam

- Body art
- Two-toed sloth
- Electronic counter-countermeasures
- Foolish person (Brit.)
- Of the wind
- Grand home
- Sound
- English river
- Symbol indicating ownership
- Exclamation of surprise
- Pouch
- Apart from
- Satisfaction
- The bill in a restaurant
- Sea bream
- Port in southern Japan

- Double-reed instruments
- Center
- South Dakota
- An orderly crowd
- Indicates position
- ___-pedi
- Nonsense (slang)
- Republic of Ireland
- Nocturnal flyers
- American state
- Clusters in fern fronds
- Patriotic women
- A person's brother or sister
- Breed of sheep
- Popular film "Despicable ___"

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

- DOWN**
- Make a mistake
 - Gordon and Snider are two
 - Geographical region of Finland
 - Ejected saliva
 - A way of performing
 - Scotland's longest river
 - One of the six noble gases (abbr.)

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!

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<p>2022 TOYOTA TACOMA 2WD</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$34,120 4,663 MILES STOCK# NM188577</p>	<p>2020 CADILLAC XT4</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$31,530 28,816 MILES STOCK# LF136369</p>	<p>2021 CADILLAC ESCALADE</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$76,110 44,980 MILES STOCK# MR399433</p>	<p>2021 CADILLAC ESCALADE</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$83,760 47,127 MILES STOCK# MR346289</p>	<p>2018 JEEP COMPASS</p>  <p>SALE PRICE \$14,860 91,124 MILES STOCK# JT235359</p>



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