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PONTE VEDRA



# Recorder

November 4, 2021

Volume 53, No. 1

75 cents

PonteVedraRecorder.com

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

## Senior night statement

Ponte Vedra senior Nolan Parlette takes a handoff from quarterback Nathan Bunkosky on senior night against Fletcher Oct. 29. The Sharks won 28-7 and will face Creekside on the road at 7 p.m. Nov. 5.



Photo by Anthony Richards

Wellness Center  
Nocatee Youth Center 858-2717

**Recorder entertainment EXTRA!**

Michael C. Hall returns in "Dexter: New Blood" returning Sunday 9/8c on Showtime

"Dexter" isn't done: Michael C. Hall returns with "New Blood"

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Nocatee Youth and Team Values at \$200  
Nocatee Youth and Team Values at \$200  
Nocatee Youth and Team Values at \$200

### INSIDE: CHECK IT OUT!

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



### Sports

Pages 28-29

### Business Weekly

Featuring Who's Who in Law and Faces of Finance

Pages 19-25



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## Send us your news

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



Visit our new website at [www.pontevedrarecorder.com](http://www.pontevedrarecorder.com)

Plus, find the Recorder on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder](http://www.facebook.com/ThePVRecorder)

## ADOPT A PET

### Hopper

Hi, I'm Hopper. I'm a 1½-year-old male terrier mix. I am up for adoption and am ready to start my new life with an awesome new "forever" family. I will need a family that is very patient and is willing to train me or send me to training as I am a very energetic boy. I will be best suited with a family that has no children. If you are interested in having a meet and greet with me, give The Pet Center a call.



### Mars

Hi, I'm Mars! I am an 8-month-old male domestic shorthair tabby with a sweet disposition. I am good with kids, cats and dogs, but I have been a little shy here at the Pet Center. Once I warm up to you, you will see that I am a real lover boy, and I love and snuggles and cuddles.

## St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions at the St. Johns County Pet Center are \$30 for males and \$40 for females. Dog adoptions are \$45 for males and \$60 for females. Adoption fees include microchipping, neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The Pet Center is located at 130 N. Stratton Road off U.S. 1 between County Road 210 and International Golf Parkway. Business hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. The center is closed to the public on Sunday. On Monday, the office is open by appointment only to claim a lost pet. For more information, call the **St. Johns County Pet Center at (904) 209-6190.**

## BRIEFS

### Mickler's Landing Beachfront Park restricted during dune project

Mickler's Landing Beachfront Park is currently restricted to beachgoers Monday through Friday to allow construction crews to work on the Federal Emergency Management Agency Dune Enhancement Project.

A portion of the parking lot and the beach walkway will remain open on the weekends from 6 a.m. Saturday to 8 p.m. Sunday.

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved the approximately \$34 million FEMA Dune Enhancement Project on June 15. The project will strengthen the coastline dunes in Ponte Vedra Beach, South Ponte Vedra Beach and the southern three-quarters of a mile in Crescent Beach. Crews are almost finished with the dune enhancements in Crescent Beach.

The emergency dune enhancements will provide extra protection to homes, businesses and infrastructure and will be an added defense for the coastline against future storm events.

For further information, email [coastalprojects@sjcf.us](mailto:coastalprojects@sjcf.us) or call 904-209-0260.

### Overdose Awareness Seminar is Saturday, Nov. 9

Crosswater Community Church will host an Overdose Awareness Seminar from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9. The purpose is to bring awareness to the opioid addiction crisis and help communities, families and youth impacted by it.

Panelists include Superintendent Tim Forson, Fire Rescue Medical Director Dr. Kerry Bachista, Sheriff Rob Hardwick, Medical Director Dr. Michael Sorna and Florida National Guard Capt. Michael Coy.

Pastor Jack Millwood will also speak. The event is free. The church is located at 211 Park Davis Road, Ponte Vedra.

### Book sale planned at Ponte Vedra Beach library

The Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch of the St. Johns County Library will conduct a book sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12, to Monday, Nov. 15.

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

B	O	R	A		S	I	S		R	P	M			
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7	6	1	9	8	5	4	3	2
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9	2	4	6	1	3	7	8	5
8	5	7	1	3	6	2	9	4
1	9	2	7	5	4	3	6	8
3	4	6	8	2	9	1	5	7



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# Briefs

Continued from 2

Bargain books and CDs will be \$1. Fill a bag for \$10. Better books will be individually priced. A \$3 coupon will be available at the check-in table from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Nov. 12.

Only cash and checks will be accepted for payment.

The book sale will be held in the community room of the library, 101 Library Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach.

## Blood drive set for Nov. 13 in Jacksonville Beach

Freedom Boat Club, in partnership with OneBlood, will host a community blood drive on Saturday, Nov. 13, in Jacksonville Beach. The bloodmobile will be set up at Beach Marine, 2315 Beach Blvd., from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Each donor will receive a \$10 eGift card and a OneBlood fleece blanket.

According to One Blood, every two seconds of every day, someone needs blood. Donated blood is likely transfused within two to three days, so the need is constant. Donating can not only save the lives of others in the community, but it also has health benefits for the donor. Donating regularly may help blood flow and result in fewer arterial blockages.

Every donor receives a free wellness checkup, which includes blood pressure,

pulse, temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening.

Go to [oneblood.org/donate-now/donation-centers-list-select-time.stml?driveID=1161867](https://oneblood.org/donate-now/donation-centers-list-select-time.stml?driveID=1161867) to schedule a time to donate or just stop by the big red bus at Freedom Boat Club's Jacksonville Beach location on Nov. 13.

## Fundraiser to help feed families in need

Proceeds from an upcoming Empty Bowls fundraiser will help Feeding Northeast Florida serve local families in need this holiday season.

The Nov. 13 event will be conducted from 5 to 8 p.m. in tandem with the Jacksonville University Object Design Exhibition. The art exhibition, which features faculty and select student works, is free and open to the public. Exhibited works will include ceramic, glass and woodworking.

Bowl tickets are \$25, and each ticket holder will receive a unique bowl made by a university student and a cup of gourmet chili. (Vegan organic and traditional recipe will be available.) Tickets can be reserved at [wordrevolt.com](https://wordrevolt.com) or by going to [checkout.square.site/buy/TRJMF6JW-PCHXCVAYQGTAT2XG](https://checkout.square.site/buy/TRJMF6JW-PCHXCVAYQGTAT2XG).

The event will be held at the Word Revolt Art Gallery, 1249 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach.

## Surgeon to speak on life in Southeast Asia, making patients beautiful

Dr. Reid Sheftall will continue his series of presentations this weekend at Ponte Vedra High School Auditorium.

On Saturday, Nov. 6, he will speak on his 21 years in Cambodia and Vietnam with Operation Kids, his charity, performing more than 1,500 operations free of charge without the help of donors.

On Sunday, Nov. 7, he will speak on "What is Beauty & Weight Loss – The



Contributed photo

**Dr. Reid Sheftall, left, is seen with one of his patients in Southeast Asia.**

Surgeon Dr. Reid Sheftall, who has a practice in aesthetic plastic surgery, will talk about how patients are made more beautiful and how the principles of art and mathematics are applied to refine one's aesthetic sense. This is the com-

**Surgeon** continues on **Page 4**

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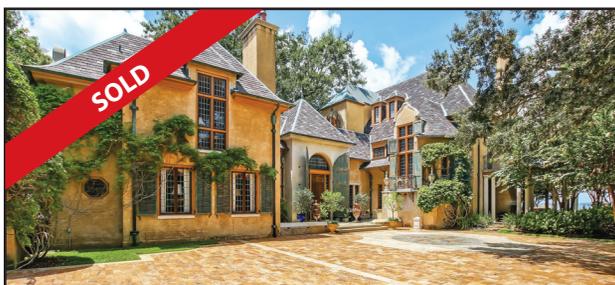
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### Oceanfront Estate in Ponte Vedra Beach

Enter this gated ocean front estate and be blown away. Everything a buyer could wish for is here in Ponte Vedra Beach. Lightly lived-in with the ocean views from every room on the 1st and 2nd floors. All furnishings are available for purchase separately. **6 Bedrooms, 6 Bathrooms, 1 Half Bathroom. \$9,750,000**



### Stunning Riverfront Estate

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### Luxury Marabella Condo

Don't miss the rare opportunity to live in the most exclusive luxury condominium in NE Florida. This 9th Floor oceanfront condo is unrivaled with its breathtaking water, sunrise, AND sunset views. \$1,460 sq. ft. of terraces on 3 sides, open floor plan, and too many upgrades to list. These don't come on the market very often and this one won't last long. **4 Bedrooms, 4 Full Baths, 1 Half Bath. \$3,300,000.**



### Ponte Vedra Boulevard

An idyllic home in Old Ponte Vedra just steps from the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club across from the ocean on the Boulevard. The 3,300 sq. ft. residence is one of the last originals and sits on .54 acres on hole #3 of The Ocean Course. Huge front and back yards, circular paved driveway, and a separate guest suite. The possibilities are endless! **Main House: 5 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, Guest Suite: 1 Bedroom, 2 Baths. \$4,500,000**



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# Surgeon

Continued from 3

panion presentation to the one scheduled for Saturday as Sheftall's cosmetic surgery practice funded Operation Kids. Attendees of the Sunday presentation will be asked for a donation of \$25 and will receive a rough draft of his book on weight loss.

All donations go to Operation Kids and support Sheftall's reconstructive surgery for children.

The presentations begin at 4 p.m. and a Q&A will be follow each. Seating is limited. Park in first parking entry coming from the east right in front of the auditorium; the entrance says: Bus Delivery and Receiving.

Sheftall, who grew up in Jacksonville and attended Lake Shore Junior High and The Episcopal School, graduated in 1978 from MIT with a degree in physics and in 1988 from the University of South Florida College of Medicine. He has become well-known internationally for his surgical results and for his videos explaining the medical science surrounding the COVID pandemic.

For the past two decades, Sheftall has lived in Phnom Penh and has won two professional golf tournaments on the Asian tours.

# The Ponte Vedra Recorder celebrates 52 years

The Ponte Vedra Recorder marks its 52nd anniversary on Sunday, Nov. 7, and we will be celebrating throughout the month of November by publishing interesting pieces from the past.

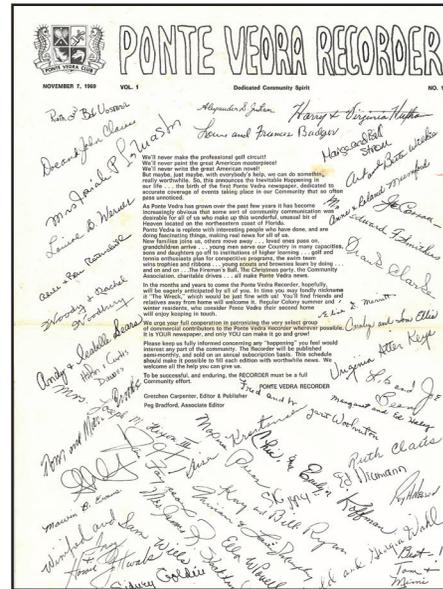
The first edition of the official newspaper of Ponte Vedra Beach, Palm Valley and the surrounding communities appeared in 1969. It was co-founded by Gretchen Carpenter as editor and publisher and Peg Bradford as associate editor.

That first issue featured the paper's motto, one that has been closely observed by The Recorder's staff for more than half a century: "Dedicated Community Spirit."

It has remained the newspaper's focus through several changes in ownership down to the present day.

The newspaper industry — and news media in general — has changed a lot since those closing days of the 1960s, but The Recorder has remained a trusted source of information throughout the decades. It has held that trust even as the community has seen unprecedented growth in recent years.

More and more people are discovering Ponte Vedra, often called the "best kept



The front page of the first issue of The Ponte Vedra Recorder, Nov. 7, 1969.

secret in Florida," and making their home here. As they arrive, they are also discovering the hometown paper that readers have turned to for local news.

As the founders wrote in that first issue of Nov. 7, 1969, "We'll never make the professional golf circuit! We'll never paint the great American masterpiece!



The front page of The Ponte Vedra Recorder, celebrating the paper's first half-century, on Nov. 7, 2019.

We'll never write the great American novel! But maybe, just maybe, with everybody's help, we can do something really worthwhile."

The readers responded. History was made. And The Ponte Vedra Recorder continues to be our community's news outlet.



## CARPET MAN FLOORING

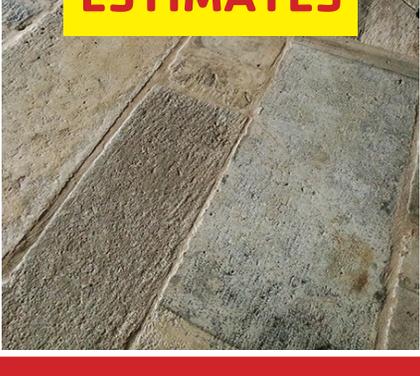
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All properties listed are in Ponte Vedra unless otherwise noted.

*Monica Ketterman has worked in the spa industry for many years. Now, the Nocatee resident has established a new outlet for her skills and knowledge. She recently opened Halo Spa in Nocatee Town Center.*

## Monica Ketterman

### As told to Shaun Ryan

#### Tell me about Halo Spa.

We are located in the heart of Nocatee behind Town Center. We are inside Lakeside Professional Offices. It's a new office plaza. We've been here two months.

#### How did you come up with the name?

The name "Halo Spa" came about when I was doing research for a salt room. Salt rooms have been around for a very long time. They're also called halotherapy or salt caves. So, I kept coming across "halo." I kept hearing it over and over again, and I just liked it. I thought people would get it [laughs], but nobody really does.

#### What is a salt room?

You go into the room. You relax. I have nice relaxing chairs — I chose to do recliners, like La-Z-Boy. So, I spent a little more money than the norm.

There's a salt generator. You put in pharmaceutical-grade salt, and it's ground up in the generator and dispenses in the air. You just sit back and you breathe.

Some of the benefits of salt therapy are: it helps with allergies and asthma, skin disorders, lung problems ... the negative ions release serotonin in the brain, so it helps with stress. Just a whole realm of things. ... And it's safe for children, pregnant women and daily use.

But it's something new to the area, and so I'm just really trying to educate people.

And we're adding a vitality booth. Inside the vitality booth, which I also did a lot of research on, you'll get salt, oxygen and red-light therapy, which helps improve your red blood cell count.

It has good, all-around health benefits, but especially if you're recovering from an injury or if you have arthritis.

#### Do you offer any other services?

We have facials. We have microdermabrasion — we have wet/dry microdermabrasion. We have all kinds of facial stem-cell hydration facials. We have a LumaFirm facial. We have massage. A body wrap. We do make-up applications, and we do waxing.

And we've already had two private parties booked. So, we are definitely ready to cater for private parties, any special occasions, birthday parties, employee appreciation, bachelorette parties, bridal and baby showers.

#### Tell me about your background and how you started this business.

I've been in the spa industry for over 25 years as a make-up artist and an aesthetician. And I just wanted to bring something unique and different to the area, to Ponte Vedra — especially because I live here — with the salt room and the vitality booth.

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

Helping people feel better. Making people smile, like when we can create a really nice facial. When they leave Halo Spa, they're more radiant, more youthful feeling and looking younger.

And then, of course, with the salt room, they just feel



better, whether it's their allergies, their asthma. I've had several clients that were like, "I can breathe!" I'm sure with the vitality booth we'll get the same results if not more, because we'll have the oxygen and the red-light therapy.

#### What do you like most about living in Nocatee?

I like the area. I like the people. I like how relaxed it is out here. That's why I thought bringing a spa to this

area would be such a plus, because we're all looking to just relax and feel good. There's so much going on in the world. We need some anti-stress. We need some down time.

#### How do you like to spend your free time?

I don't have any! [laughs]. We also have a photography company, so my free time is with my family, my kids.

## OBITUARIES

### Ruby M. Tresca



Ruby M. Tresca

Ruby M. Tresca, 95, passed away October 27, 2021. She was born near Panama City and moved to Jacksonville, FL as a young girl.

Ruby graduated from Andrew Jackson High School and attended Florida State University. She enjoyed a long and distinguished career with State Farm Insurance as a Senior Fire Claims Representative. She was involved in many remote storm duty assignments where she traveled the country following the aftermath of natural disasters.

She will be remembered as a sweet and gracious lady who taught her children to be kind and polite to others. Family was always her priority.

Ruby is survived by her daughters, Shirley Towkach and Sally DuBray (F. Joseph); son, Mark Hemphill; stepdaughters, Linda Hollis (Billy) and Nancy Gaulding (Rusty); nine grandchildren; fifteen great grandchildren and nieces, Mickey Martindale and Sharon O'Brien. Her husband of forty-five years, James T. Tresca, her parents Roy and Ruby, and her sister, Nell preceded her in death.

After their retirement in Jacksonville, Ruby and Jim moved to Blue Ridge, GA and became active members in St. Luke's Episcopal Church where they developed many long-lasting friendships.

A Memorial Service will be held at 1:00pm, Saturday, November 13, 2021 in St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Blue Ridge, GA, with the Reverend Victor H. Morgan, Rector as Celebrant.

A reception and interment will follow the service at St. Luke's.

Please visit her Tribute online at [www.quinn-shalz.com](http://www.quinn-shalz.com).

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

### Kathy's Gardening Guide

"Never underestimate the healing power of a quiet moment in the garden."

#### Climbing Flowers & Plants



Kathy Esfahani

As many people are staying home these days, gardening can be a relaxing home improvement to spend your time. Climbing plants can give your yard an organic and inviting feel and add beautiful ambience.

Here are some of the beautiful climbers we carry at the Nursery:

**Allamanda:** Fastest growing vine with bright yellow blooms. Great vine to have around a patio or pool. But be careful — their seeds are poisonous to humans and animals.

**Bougainvillea:** This vine is a tropical plant that loves Florida heat and requires full sun to create such vibrant blooms. They will bloom most of the year right up until winter in our zone and climb quickly.

**Bleeding heart:** Another tropical vine that thrives with full shade or morning sun. This vine has dark green leaves and clusters of red-and-white flowers that can be pruned into the shape of your choice.

**Carolina jasmine:** This vine has a fragrant,

yellow bloom and can grow to 25 feet. They bloom in late winter/early spring and thrive in this zone — as long as we don't have a harsh winter.

**Mandevilla:** Loves the Florida heat but needs some shade in the hottest part of the day. Also an easy grower, this vine comes in a variety of bright colors.

**Confederate jasmine:** Easy grower in partial-to-full sun. They grow to be at least 6 feet long and bloom a small white flower each May.

**Passion vine:** This vine creates a 3D flower in purple that butterflies love. They can grow in full sun or partial shade and up to 25 feet tall.

**Flower of the Week:**  
Bougainvillea

#### FLOWER OF THE WEEK

Bougainvillea

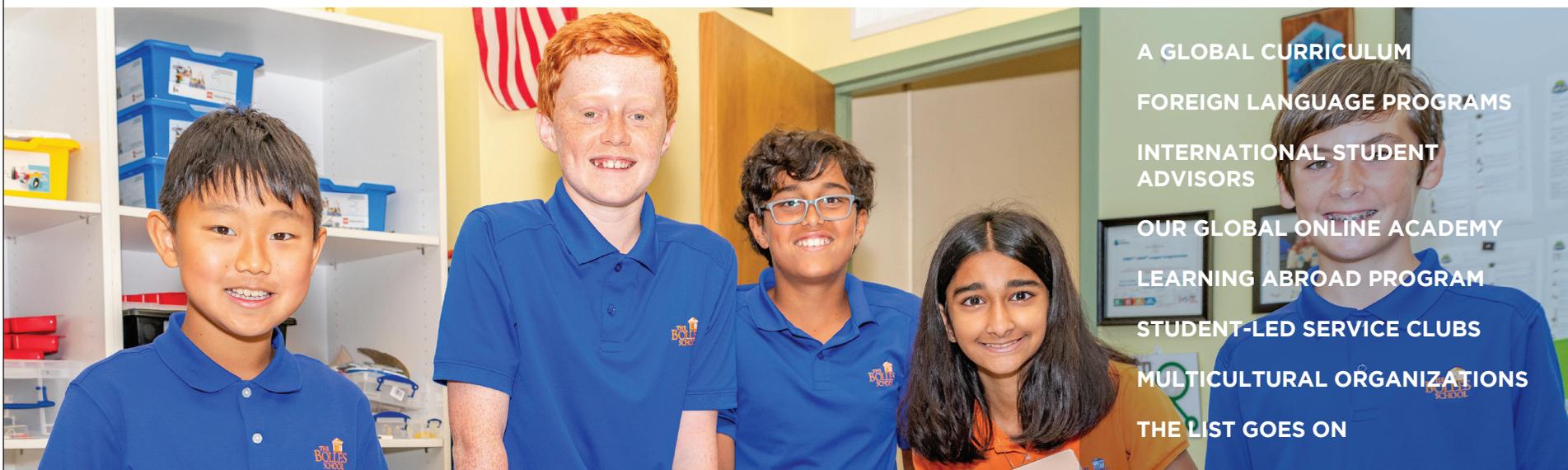


Photo provided by Kathy Esfahani  
**Bougainvillea will bloom most of the year.**

Email Kathy at [kcg.pvr@gmail.com](mailto:kcg.pvr@gmail.com) for any questions or gardening tips you would like to see in the future.

Kathy's Creative Gardens & Nursery is located at 196 N. Roscoe Blvd. The phone number is 904-655-7373.

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# Latest Commission property decision raises concerns about future

By Anthony Richards

Recent decisions approved by the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners have come into question by the Ponte Vedra Zoning and Adjustment Board, who had voted to recommend denial on both occasions.

“The PVZAB is making a recommendation to us, and this not a final decision,” Commission Chairman Jeremiah Ray Blocker said. “We have a board that makes recommendations, just like we make decisions and those can be overturned by a court of law.”

According to PVZAB board member Jane Rollinson, she was prompted to join the board after the approval of a future Gate gas station and car wash along A1A despite roughly eight variances being granted that did not meet the regulations in place.

However, it was the most recent approval of a proposed Sleiman Enterprises commercial project along A1A near the county line, known as The Approach at Ponte Vedra Beach, that has Rollinson and others in the community worried about the future direction of Ponte Vedra.

“The role of the PVZAB is to advise the BOCC on the rezoning of land to grant or deny zoning variances,” Rollinson said.

The Ponte Vedra zoning district regulations were first established in 1965 and

the overlay district was out in place in 1997 as a guideline for regulations along the town’s coastal corridor.

“I understand the economic requirements of running a big organization, but I don’t understand why we have to jeopardize the privacy and safety of our citizens and the vision of Ponte Vedra Beach as a coastal community by allowing these developments that are significantly in violation of our zoning regulations,” Rollinson said.

Part of what has created Rollinson’s viewpoint is not only the approval of the projects despite the zoning board’s recommendation, but the number of regulation violations that are waived as part of the approvals.

“They are pretty much ignoring our decisions,” Rollinson said. “These are not minor variances.”

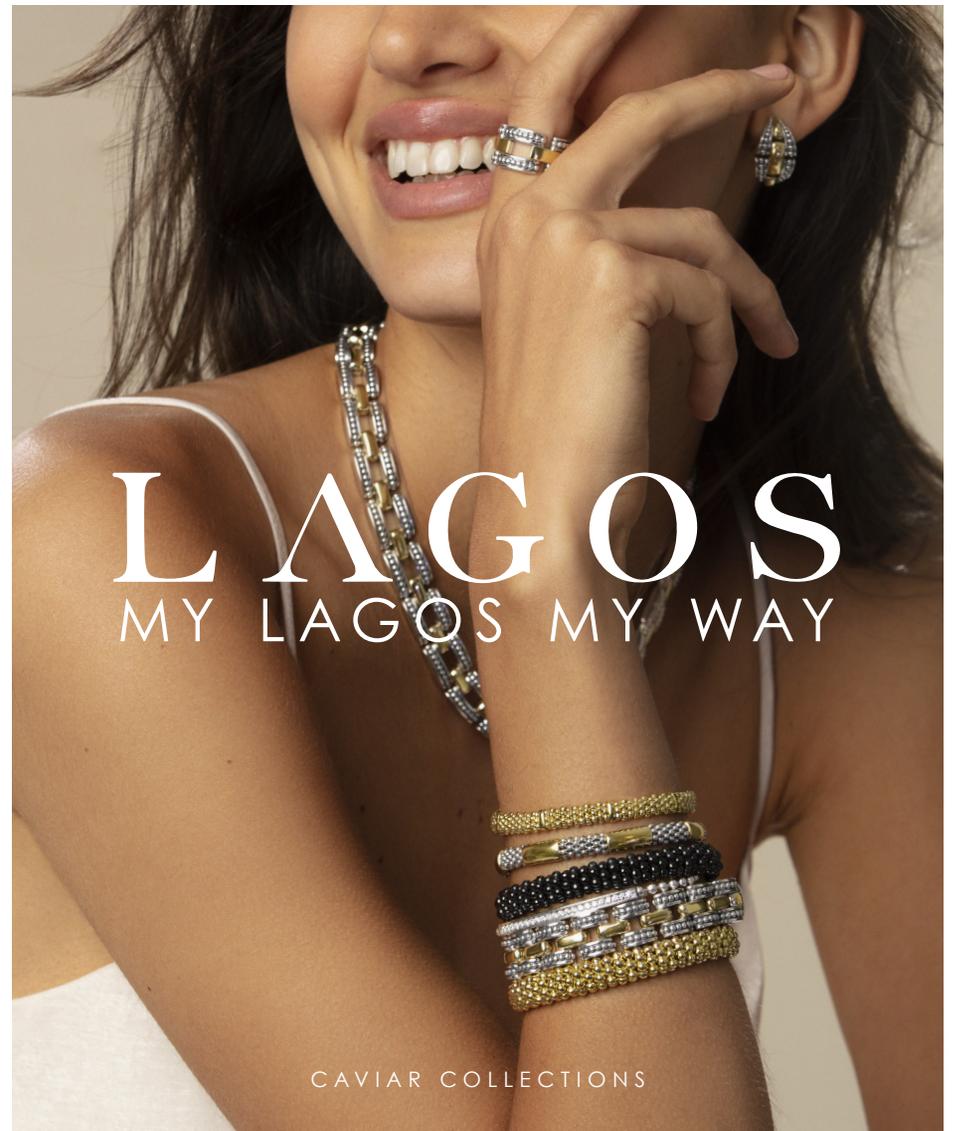
Some of the seven variances approved by the Commission include construction of a building three stories tall, where the regulation is a max of two stories; 76,000 feet of gross floor area, where the regulation is a max of 43,000 feet; the length of the building, which was allowed for 270 feet compared to the regulation of 120 feet; and the size of the signage allowed, which will be 80 square feet as opposed to the regulation of a 32-square-foot max.

Commission continues on Page 10



File photo

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners approved The Approach commercial development plan along A1A, and it raised questions from both Ponte Vedra Zoning and Adjustment Board members and the public.



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# Schmitz releases third novel, 'The Road Remembered'

*Moral struggles at heart of WWII drama*



Kaye D. Schmitz

St. Johns County author Kaye D. Schmitz released her third novel, "The Road Remembered," on Monday, Nov. 1. She's planning a book launch at 2 p.m. Nov. 13 at VFW Post 2391 on

U.S. 1 in St. Augustine.

Schmitz has written two award-winning novels, "The Consort Conspiracy" and "On Deadly Grounds."

She has won the Literary Titans award and Florida Authors and Publishers Award and is a member of the Florida Writers' Association, Sisters in Crime national, Northeast Florida Sisters in Crime, International Thriller Writers, Women's Fiction Writers' Association, and Historical Novel Society.

The bulk of the action in her latest novel takes place during World War II. In writing it, Schmitz interviewed eight WWII veterans and wove their stories into it to help make her fiction historically accurate.

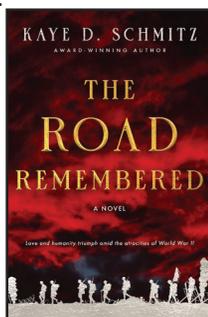
## The Plot

Here's a brief look at the plot of "The Road Remembered":

In the final months of World War II, Sam Ryan takes his place as a new soldier in the 89th Infantry Division on the front lines in Europe. He's trained to kill but struggles with the thought of taking the life of another person, a contradiction with the way he was raised.

On the other side of the war, Gerda Ziegler's heart aches over the monster her beloved Germany has become. She confronts the Nazi soldiers who guard the Jewish-only sector in Zwickau and is appalled to learn that a Jewish baby will be killed because of a large birthmark. Can she manage to whisk the child away right under the noses of the brutal Nazis?

Sam and Gerda face their enemies head-on, but they also battle internal elements on their own sides of the fighting that violate their shared values of humanity. They meet under the worst of circumstances but find a way to help each other through the trauma of war.



"The Road Remembered"

# Opening night for Deck The Chairs is Nov. 24

The 2021 Jacksonville Beach Deck The Chairs holiday celebration will kick off at 4:30 p.m. Nov. 24. This is a new date. The original kick-off date was four days earlier. The event runs through Jan. 1.

Event organizers are taking additional time to set up a new \$40,000 light show installation. Planners also expect a more manageable transition of the public park space following the conclusion of first-time event Super Girl Surf Pro.

"I presented the pavilion park scheduling and light show installation timeline to the DTC Board, and we all felt the best idea was to add time to the installation and sponsor chair-decorating schedules to ensure a safe and successful exhibit installation for opening night," said Kurtis Loftus, the annual event's founder.

The new interactive installation, "Sea-Songs Musical Light Show" presented by 95.1 WAPE, is a custom-fabricated display of 10 lifeguard chairs featuring large-scale musical instruments in the shape of whimsical sea creatures. The instruments are motion-activated, providing visitors a sound-and-light interaction experience.

The Deck The Chairs Tree will remain the display centerpiece, and Beaches Go Green will again install its Octopus Garden.

Forty-five chairs will be decorated throughout the park, and there will be



File photo

**The Deck The Chairs holiday celebration will kick off Nov. 24. The popular display features decorated lifeguard chairs.**

weekend stage programming and holiday concessions. In addition, there will be moonlight movies, a visit from Santa, A Christmas Eve service, weekly children's dance programming and a Gator Bowl Pep Rally, which is scheduled for Dec. 30.

Admission to Deck The Chairs is free. The display is handicap accessible and pet friendly. Lights will be on from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. nightly, and musical light shows will be held at 6, 7, 8 and 9 p.m. Concessions will be available on weekends and scheduled holiday nights.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. To learn more, go to [info@deckthechairs.org](mailto:info@deckthechairs.org).

Those wanting to volunteer may go to [deckthechairs.org](http://deckthechairs.org).

Deck The Chairs promotes the arts and art education through the nationally recognized holiday display featuring decorated lifeguard chairs. The event is held in Jacksonville Beach's Latham Plaza at the corner of First Avenue North and Second Street North and in the adjacent Seawalk Pavilion area.



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## Commission

Continued from 9

"This project is too large for the parcel," PVZAB member Megan McKinley said during the Oct. 19 Commission meeting. "That is demonstrated by the number of waivers that the developers have asked for."

Cornelius Carroll is a commercial property developer with Essex Property Management and was involved in the creation process of the Shoppes at Ponte Vedra.

According to Carroll, the most "egregious" of the waivers was for the allowance of signage size.

"A lot of thought went into the overlay district regulations, and they are there for a reason," Carroll said. "Those are the regulations, and everyone has to abide by them. You know that going in."

Another example of a commercial project the Commission voted in favor of despite the request for denial by PVZAB was the construction of a storage unit facility along A1A.

Carroll is wary of what Ponte Vedra will look like years from now if the Commission continues to ignore the regula-

tions in place.

"If they budge on the variances, A1A will look like Beach Boulevard," Carroll said. "They (developers) are going to use this as precedent moving forward."

Sleiman Enterprises initially asked for nine variances, which the Commission did not approve with a 2-2 vote and what would stand as a technical denial if no other vote was taken, according to county attorney Patrick McCormack.

In the initial vote, Blocker and Commissioner Christian Whitehurst voted against project while Henry Dean and Jeb Smith voted in favor of it.

However, Blocker said he was willing to revote if Sleiman Enterprises was willing to adjust some of the waiver requests.

"Something's going to go there and it's important for the residents to understand that," Blocker said. "It's not going to stay vacant, so regardless of what goes there, we're going to have traffic coming on the road and going back and forth."

Sleiman wound up cutting the waiver requests down from nine to seven, and the Commission voted once again and approved the project with all four commissioners in attendance voting in favor of it. Commissioner Paul Waldron was unable to attend the meeting.

# The message lives on

## Final Never Quit Run set for Nov. 6 at Jacksonville Beach

By Anthony Richards

The 13th annual and final Never Quit Run will take place Nov. 6 at Jacksonville Beach.

Race director Erik Petroni announced that it will be the last run of its kind, a decision that he admitted was not an easy one to make, but it was one that had to be made due to extenuating circumstances.

According to Petroni, those circumstances were many and included a lack of willing sponsorship to help fund the event and an increased difficulty of promotion with Facebook limiting the amount of exposure through posts the event could have, citing that it was “too nationalistic with too many American flags represented in the posts.”

The run started to help raise support for both veterans and awareness of heart disease, stroke and cancer by promoting a healthy lifestyle.

It was created when Petroni’s father Gerard Petroni, who served as a captain in the Navy, suffered a massive stroke and brain bleed on Thanksgiving 2006.

Gerard Petroni was in a hospital unable to move or speak for six months, until finally Erik put a piece of paper and a Sharpie in his hand.

“I said, ‘Dad if you could write just one thing on this paper, what would you write?’” Petroni said. “He struggled for about 20 minutes, but then scribbled the words ‘never quit.’”

That is why the event is called the Never Quit Run and it has been a way to preserve his father’s legacy and share his spirit with others who may be going through a tough time of their own in their lives.

His father was able to attend the first run but died in 2009.

“His never-ending love and encouragement for me is what led to all of this today,” Petroni said. “I hope I’ve made a difference.”

One of the things Petroni enjoys most about holding the runs all these years is

when people come up to him and thank him for putting on the event and sharing with him how it impacted their lives personally.

According to Petroni, the event has taken on a family-like atmosphere and presents people with an opportunity to receive some uplifting support.

“Everyone’s encouraging one another as they run down the course,” Petroni said. “It will be easy for me to cry on the stage this year, but I’m so grateful for this great showing of American spirit, so that should keep me cheerful throughout.”

Despite the event being the last on American soil, it will continue but do so on U.S. military bases across the world.

“It’s more of an American message than it is a run,” Petroni said. “We must never underestimate the influence we have on others.”

No registration fee will be required for military personnel to take part in the military base events.

“We are continuing to do it for the morale of the service members,” Petroni said.

One of the unique things Petroni has done over the years is stay true to the principles behind why he started the event in the first place.

That includes not serving alcohol or what is fried and unhealthy foods.

Part of the message Petroni promotes is that people consider a plant-based diet, which he encourages because it has been said to help prevent heart disease.

According to Petroni, his dad was in great shape, and it was a surprise to everyone who knew him when he first began having health problems.

“He was built like a tank, and it happened to him,” Petroni said.

Petroni said that at one point over the past decade the run was considered the largest beach run in history.

“It’s always been one of those events where many people who have never run before make it there first,” Petroni said.

This year’s run will begin with the National Anthem at 3 p.m. and the start of the race at 3:30 p.m. on the beach in front of the Four Points Sheraton Hotel and Seawalk Pavilion. Petroni encouraged people to arrive around 2:45 p.m.

He wants to continue to give back even

after the final Never Quit Run. He has looked into turning his attention to initiatives that help recused dogs.

“This segment of my life has been the most impactful, and now I want to turn my attention to those who don’t have a voice,” Petroni said.



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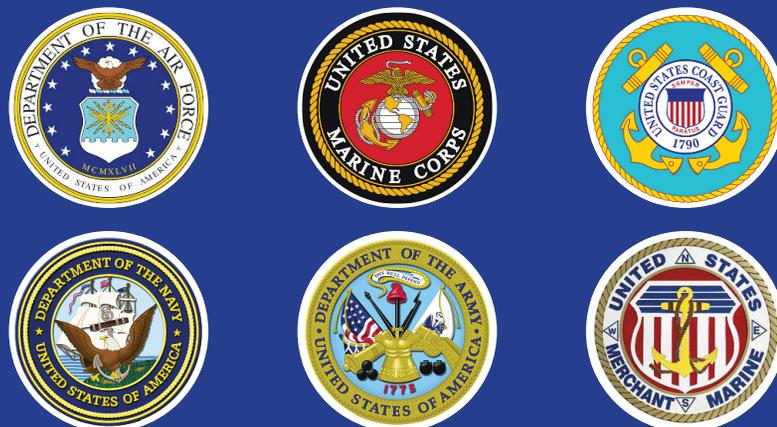
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Photo courtesy of Never Quit

Support for veterans and first responders is a big part of the event.



# Woody's Bar-B-Q raises \$8K for Tebow foundation's anti-human trafficking ministry



Co-founder Woody Mills spends time with guests at Woody's Tim Tebow Foundation Fundraiser.

For the second consecutive year, Woody's Bar-B-Q used its anniversary event to raise funds and awareness for Tim Tebow Foundation's anti-human trafficking ministry. Both times — within just a couple of hours — Woody's raised thousands of dollars while helping to bring the issue of human trafficking to the forefront for attendees.

At its 2020 event, to celebrate the chain's 40th anniversary, Woody's raised \$6,000. At this year's event — hosted at Woody's Bar-B-Q of Ponte Vedra Beach on Oct. 2 — it raised \$8,000.

Woody's Bar-B-Q hosted a silent auction and art show

featuring the works of St. Augustine artist Diana Patterson. All proceeds from the silent auction went directly to the Tim Tebow Foundation, while a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Patterson's art was added to the final tally.

The event also included entertainment from a magician and live keyboardist, as well as great food.

Additionally, a portion of the proceeds from food sales from four Woody's Bar-B-Q corporate locations further enhanced the donation. Those locations included Woody's Bar-B-Q of Ponte Vedra Beach, the original Woody's Bar-B-Q in Jacksonville, Woody's Bar-B-Q of Fernandina Beach and Woody's Bar-B-Q of Green Cove Springs.

"It was a wonderful event with a lot of positive energy," said Yolanda Mills-Mawman, president, COO and co-founder of the classic Southern barbecue chain. "The Tim Tebow Foundation has this incredible knack for making you feel like an integral part of their cause. They've certainly done that with me, my fellow co-founder Woody Mills and the entire Woody's Bar-B-Q team."

Those who could not attend may still make a donation directly to the cause at [timtebowfoundation.org](http://timtebowfoundation.org).

Impacting an estimated 40 million people in the world today who are being bought and sold as modern-day slaves, human trafficking generates \$150 billion worldwide, with the United States leading all other countries in consumption. Roughly 70% of victims are female, and 25% are children.

The foundation, inspired by Tebow's Christian faith, seeks to rescue victims and provide a way out of a life of violence and exploitation to a new life of freedom found in Christ.

Woody's Bar-B-Q plans to continue its support of the foundation during its 42nd anniversary celebration in October 2022.

"The Tim Tebow Foundation is blessed to have the support of Woody's Bar-B-Q, St. Augustine artist Diana Patterson, the volunteers, sponsors and the community members who came out to be a part of this event," said foundation president Steve Biondo. "Ending human trafficking will take each one of us becoming aware of the reality of this tragedy and stepping up to push back this darkness."

Photos provided by Woody's Bar-B-Q



Woodys co-founder Yolanda Mills-Mawman with Artist Diana Patterson at the Tim Tebow Foundation Fundraiser.




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# Costume parade at Christ Church



The children at Christ Episcopal Church Preschool participated in a pair of costume parades on Friday, Oct. 29, on the church campus at 400 San Juan Drive. Three-year-olds took part in the first parade, and 4-year-olds and kindergarten students participated in the second parade. Parents turned out to take photos and cheer on their children. The event is held annually.

Photos by Shaun Ryan.



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# 'Heroes and Pups' calendar features firefighters, puppies and kittens



**2022 HEROES AND PUPS**  
A CALENDAR DEDICATED TO OUR HOMETOWN HEROES

The Junior Service League of St. Augustine is selling its "Heroes and Pups 2022" calendar to benefit local nonprofits.

Each calendar page is sponsored by a local business, offsetting the cost of printing to ensure that all proceeds go back into the community.

Calendars can be ordered and picked up at South State Bank, 120 S.R. 312 West, St. Augustine. Calendars can also be shipped. For information, go to [jslofstaugustine.org/about/events/2022-pups-and-firefighters-calendar](http://jslofstaugustine.org/about/events/2022-pups-and-firefighters-calendar).

Calendars are priced at \$25 each or two for \$40. Online orders can be paid through Cash App or Venmo. Please include your name and shipping address in the notes section. Shipping is available for \$4.95 for one or two calendars, with shipping for three to five at \$7.95. For orders greater than five, contact [communications@jslofstaugustine.org](mailto:communications@jslofstaugustine.org) for a custom shipping quote.

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Learn more about JSL at [jslofstaugustine.org](http://jslofstaugustine.org).

After much success in 2021 with the "Essential Workers" calendar, The Junior Service League of St. Augustine has announced the second annual calendar, "Heroes and Pups 2022."

This new wall calendar features St. Johns County firefighters alongside puppies and kittens belonging to either League members or rescues from Ayla's Acres. All proceeds from the calendar will benefit local not-for-profits in St. Johns County.

"The Junior Service League is excited to continue with our second year of hero-themed calendars," said Gini Solano, the 2022 president-elect.

Real estate agent and photographer Suzanne Henry donated her time again this year to take the photos, and Dennis Lockwood donated his time to design the calendar and prepare it for print.



Photos provided by the Junior Service League of St. Augustine  
Puppies play on a fire engine during a photo session for the "Heroes and Pups 2022" calendar.

# GATE Foundation Charity Golf Tournament raises \$170K for Firefighters for Families

The GATE Foundation, the philanthropic affiliate of GATE Petroleum Co., recently presented a \$170,000 donation to Firefighters for Families. The funds were raised during the foundation's Annual Charity Golf Tournament, held at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club on Sept. 21.

Firefighters for Families supports families in need who reside in St. Johns County. Services promote school readiness and attendance.

This year marked the tournament's 25th anniversary.

"This was a marquee year for our golf tournament," said Kathy Brady, executive director of The GATE Foundation. "Celebrating 25 years with our largest-ever donation is thrilling. It's an honor to contribute to Firefighters for Families and the important work they do to support happy, healthy children and families in St. Johns County."

Some current initiatives of Firefighters for Families include providing educational supplies, fitness gear, clothing and food for children in need; providing educational toys, like books and puzzles, to promote learning; and providing first response for St. Johns County families who experience catastrophic loss due to



Contributed photo

Representatives of the GATE Foundation present a check for \$170,000 to Firefighters for Families. The money was raised during the foundation's 25th Annual Charity Golf Tournament.

fire or other emergency events.

"We are so grateful to The GATE Foundation for selecting Firefighters for Families as the beneficiary of its 25th Annual Charity Golf Tournament," said Jennifer Hampton, president of Firefighters for Families. "This donation will enable us to positively impact so many children in our community, equipping them with the tools, resources and support they need to succeed in school."

Firefighters for Families is supported by firefighters from St. Johns County Fire Rescue and the City of St. Augustine Fire Department.



Contributed photo

The 15th Annual Holiday Spectacular at St. Johns Town Center will be held Nov. 13.

# St. Johns Town Center announces Holiday Spectacular

The 15th Annual Holiday Spectacular at St. Johns Town Center will celebrate the joy and magic this holiday season featuring an action-packed day of holiday-themed activities, family-friendly fun and festive entertainment, culminating with the lighting of the 32-foot tree by Santa Claus and a fireworks display.

An iconic and time-honored holiday tradition sponsored by Toyota USA, One-Blood and PRI Productions, the activities will include a silent DJ experience, picturesque holiday photo booth, Letters to Santa creation station and ornament decorating, while costumed characters parade through the streets.

Throughout the day, dynamic holiday performances will take the stage, including local favorite The Chris Thomas Band.

Visitors will want to stop by St. Johns Town Center retailers for exclusive shopping opportunities, in-store promotions and specials throughout the weekend. Some great giveaways are also planned for the event.

The Holiday Spectacular will be held from 2 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13. Family activities, silent DJ and main stage performances will begin at 2 p.m. Musical performances followed by a countdown to the grand lighting of the tree and fireworks will begin at 7 p.m. Santa will arrive to light the tree at 8 p.m.

St. Johns Town Center is located at 4663 River City Drive, Jacksonville.

For the latest information, go to St. Johns Town Center's website or Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at @StJohnsTownCtr.

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# PulteGroup opening for sales soon at The Preserve at Bannan Lakes

PulteGroup welcomes prospective homebuyers to register for its VIP preview, Nov. 13-19, at The Preserve at Bannan Lakes.

The Preserve is a new-construction community offering single-family homes from the \$300,000s within the established Bannan Lakes master-plan community in

northern St. Johns County.

“Bannan Lakes is a wonderful community for families of all ages to live in with completed amenities and thoughtfully designed single-family homes on preserve and water-view homesites,” said Tony Nason, division president of PulteGroup’s Northeast Florida Division. “Our VIPs

who schedule their appointment now will be among the first to see our new model homes and select their homesite and floor plan.”

The Preserve will feature 40-foot, 50-foot and 60-foot homesites and 16 single-family floor plans ranging in size from 1,590 square feet to more than

4,500 square feet.

Bannan lakes is a natural gas community.

The Preserve at Bannan Lakes will have three decorated model homes and opens for sales on Nov. 20. Bannan Lakes is located at International Golf Parkway and Bannan Lakes Boulevard.

## Berkshire Hathaway donates \$14,015 to Dreams Come True

*Real estate company a sponsor for charity’s 5K*

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently stepped up as an event sponsor and to walk, run and roll in the Dreams Come True 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run, supporting the dreams of local children with life-threatening illnesses.

More than 40 of the company’s associates and their families came together at Metropolitan Park and virtually to celebrate the dreams of First Coast children, donating \$14,015 to the charity.

The Northeast Florida real estate firm is a community partner of Dreams Come True of Jacksonville and has donated more than \$331,475 to the charity over the past eight years by contributing a portion of proceeds from every completed home sale. The company and its associates support the nonprofit organization by volunteering, fundraising and participating in events.

“We are deeply committed to supporting the wonderful mission of Dreams Come True,” said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty CEO Kevin Waugaman. “Our company believes in creating a positive impact in others’ lives, and we appreciate the support of our passionate team to help make dreams come true for many deserving local children.”

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



**Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty’s team, Florida Network Dreamers, came together at Metropolitan Park for the Dreams Come True 5K.**

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# A1A Car Cruise scheduled for Nov. 13

By Anthony Richards

A new twist at this year's Ponte Vedra Auto Show will include the inaugural A1A Car Cruise presented by Vystar Credit Union at 6 p.m. Nov. 13.

An open cruise will take place the night before the 2021 Ponte Vedra Auto Show and will be held between Nocatee and Neptune Beach on State Road A1A.

The night will include a drive-in dinner experience from 6 to 9 p.m. with 14 food vendors specializing in an array of various cuisines from Mexican to Italian, and many more.

Also, during that three-hour window will be a poker run for those involved in cruise.

It will include making stops along the way at five participating Vystar Credit Union locations along the designated route.

The person with the high hand receives a trophy and other prizes will also be awarded the next day during the Ponte Vedra Auto Show.

Although the poker run and the drive-in dinner experience is scheduled from 6 to 9 p.m., there is no set ending for the open cruise, which exemplifies the laid-back nature that the open cruise is intended to be.

Those driving in the open cruise but not participating in the poker run can still stop at the Vystar locations along the route to gather and relax with others doing the same.

All types of vehicles are welcome to join the cruise with both old and new expected to be present.

The participating Vystar Credit Unions are located at 245 Nocatee Center Way; 100 Village Lake Drive; 212 Ponte Vedra Drive; 100 Third Street North, Jacksonville Beach; and 1307 Atlantic Boulevard, Neptune Beach.

The cruise is free to take part in, and the exact car count is unpredictable according to event director Justin Felker with Art 'n Motion in St. Augustine, but he hopes that the community embraces it and shares in his passion for cars.

This year's Auto Show is scheduled to be 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Nov. 14 at Nocatee Station Field. The show will feature up to 200 classic and collector cars.

An open car cruise will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. Nov. 13 between Nocatee and Neptune Beach on State Road A1A.

**A1A Cruise Night**  
 PRESENTED BY  
**VyStar**  
 Credit Union  
**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 13 6:00PM**



Photos provided by the Riverwood Women's Club

## Riverwood Women's Club raises funds for Alpha-Omega Miracle Home

The Riverwood Women's Club of Del Webb Ponte Vedra in Nocatee held its sixth "Pick-a-Prize" raffle on Sept. 14, in support of Alpha-Omega Miracle Home in St Augustine. This year's theme was "Gift Cards and Lottery Tickets Extravaganza!" Raffle baskets were donated by Del Webb Ponte Vedra neighborhoods. A total of \$10,800 was donated to Alpha-Omega Miracle Home, which provides supportive programs and housing to single mothers, their children and senior women in St. Johns County.



**TOP: Representatives from Riverwood Women's Club present a check for \$10,800 to Alpha-Omega Miracle Home in St Augustine. Pictured from left are Kathy Dittrich, Women's Club treasurer; June Herron, secretary; Hope Terrell, president; Audra Young, Alpha-Omega Miracle Home event specialist; and Linda Fralick, co-chairs, Riverwood Women's Club outreach committee.**

**LEFT: The Riverwood Women's Club of Del Webb Ponte Vedra in Nocatee held its sixth "Pick-a-Prize" raffle in support of Alpha-Omega Miracle Home.**

## ElderSource experts available to help Medicare beneficiaries

Medicare open enrollment and the opportunity for seniors to reevaluate their coverage is approaching. ElderSource offers free help for those trying to navigate the complex process and significant number of changes for 2022.

Open enrollment – Medicare's annual election period – runs Oct. 15 through Dec 7. Medicare enrollees, who should have received their annual notice of change from their Medicare plans, face a broad array of choices that make research and preparation the key to making sound choices.

ElderSource's SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Need of Elders) program offers free, independent and unbiased counseling with the goal of helping people find the best information possible to make important health care decisions.

SHINE counselors are now scheduling in-person consults at these locations:

- St. Johns County Council on Aging, 180 Marine St., St. Augustine, from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 10 and 17.
- St. Johns County Library (Main Branch), 1960 Ponce de Leon Blvd., St. Augustine, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 5

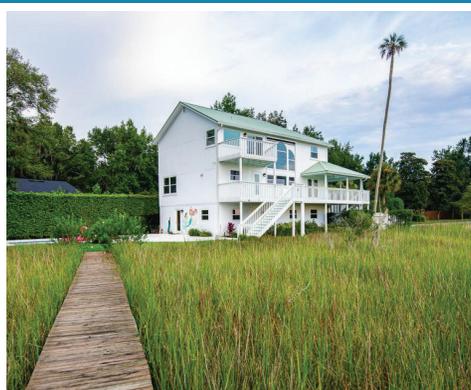
and 19, and Dec. 3.

SHINE volunteers are not insurance brokers but specifically trained guides to help enrollees understand the possible changes they can make to their Medicare plans. This year, older adults may need additional guidance on coverage options because of the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

Counseling sessions are being offered in-person and over the phone. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call 1-888-242-4464.

ElderSource is a local nonprofit organization designated by the state as the Area Agency on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Center for Northeast Florida. The agency provides information and referral resources for caregivers and seniors in Northeast Florida, reaching more than 12,000 people in its seven-county service area --- Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, St. Johns and Volusia. Programs and services are funded by federal, state and local grants as well as private donations and endowments.

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# Flagler Health+, St. Augustine celebrate launch of e-bike program

The City of St. Augustine and Flagler Health+ teamed up with Bolt Mobility and launched the city's first e-bikeshare program in August 2021.

Now, they plan to celebrate the launch of the e-bike program with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on at 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 8, in the Promenade, located at the St. Augustine and St. Johns County Visitor Information Center, at 10 W. Castillo Drive.

Parking for those who wish to attend the ceremony in person will be available free of charge between 12:30 and 2 p.m. at the Historic Downtown Parking Facility, located at 1 Cordova St., adjacent to the Visitor Information Center. When entering the parking garage, notify the gate attendant that you are attending the e-bike ribbon cutting ceremony.

Representatives of Flagler Health+, Bolt and the City of St. Augustine will speak briefly and then Bolt will give away bicycle helmets and gift cards for the Gotcha Powered by Bolt mobile app, while supplies last.

Users of the mobile app can load the gift cards into their account and use the bicycles for free using the credit.

The e-bike program is made possible with support from Flagler Health+, without any cost to the city. In addition, the Bolt Forward program offers reduced rates to veterans, qualified individuals on government assistance and Flagler Health+ staff.

"We are extremely pleased to partner with the City of St. Augustine and Bolt to bring this health and mobility solution to the area," said Jason Barrett, president and CEO of Flagler Health+. "This program supports our vision to advance the physical, social and economic health of the communities we serve, by promoting active living while also positively impacting mobility for local residents."

There are 110 all-electric-assist e-bikes available to residents and visitors throughout the city's downtown and nearby neighborhood locations. The e-bike program offers an alternative solution and

increases access to transportation across the city.

"Our commitment to improving mobility options has led us to this exciting launch," said Reuben Franklin, City of St. Augustine public works director. "We look forward to residents and visitors using this affordable, safe and fun transportation option to commute, run errands and explore our beautiful city."

The e-bikes are available to those age 18 and older and are similar to standard bicycles but with an electric motor that provides a subtle boost. These bikes include a spacious basket for errands, a cable lock and security features, such as pedal-assisted acceleration rather than a throttle and a no-ride or park zone in Plaza de la Constitución and on St. George Street.

In the interest of public health and safety, the bikes will come equipped with a small bottle of hand sanitizer and also will be sanitized daily by Bolt personnel.

Riders can access and return the e-bikes at 13 conveniently located transportation hubs, which are designed to prevent the e-bikes from cluttering streets. Hub locations can be found across the city, including downtown, West King Street, San Marco Avenue, Lincolnville and Davis Shores.

"While St. Augustine is the Nation's Oldest City, they are very forward-looking," said Bolt CEO Ignacio Tzoumas. "As a Florida company, it's thrilling to see St. Augustine leverage our vehicles and technology to help reduce pollution and congestion, as well as expand access to this beautiful area."

Helmets, while not required, are strongly encouraged. Bolt will have helmets available, free of charge, upon request for e-bike users via the app.

Riders will be required to download the new "Gotcha Powered by Bolt" app, available on the Apple App Store and Google Play store. A full map of all docking stations, pricing and other information is available on the app, as well as [ridegotcha.com/locations/staugustine](http://ridegotcha.com/locations/staugustine).

# Summit proves championship is more than just golf

By Anthony Richards

When the idea for the Inaugural PXG Women's Match Play Championship was initially created roughly two years ago, the goal was much more than golf.

That goal was accomplished Oct. 29 when tournament partner and Jacksonville-based Generation W hosted its Links to Leadership Summit presented by Circle K at the World Golf Village Renaissance Resort Hotel.

"This is an exciting time, and as a former professional athlete I can tell you that the time to support women's sports has never been better or more important," Generation W founder Donna Orender said. "This is what we live and breathe for here at Generation W. To support women in their desire and passion to pursue their best."

The summit program consisted of several speakers from executives to athletes, all of whom were female.

"As part of the overall women's development mission of the tournament, Generation W Links to Leadership is designed to offer enrichment programming beyond the competition," Orender said. "This event goes beyond the golf course. It is designed to create the opportunity for the players (64 of the top up-and-coming women's golfers are in the championship) and guests to learn from each other, develop personal leadership skills and provide opportunities to connect with each other."

The panel of speakers included Sharon Rowlands, CEO of global tech company Newfold Digital; former LPGA golfer Anya Alvarez; University of North Florida Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion Whitney Meyer; Rear Admiral Marty Evans, retired from the Navy; and Latria Graham Leak, president and founder of GLB, a brand strategy company.

"We are shining a light on women's initiatives not just on the golf course, but in the workplace and in the community," said Mark Berman, who's company, MediaShare Consulting Group is producing the championship.

President and Executive Creative Director of PXG Apparel Renee Parsons also spoke to the crowd in attendance during the summit.

"How do we create pathways for them outside playing (golf) professionally, in the business community and in the golf industry, so they can be successful given their propensity for hard work and winning attitudes?" Berman said. "They are who we all want to hire."



Photo courtesy of Mark Berman  
**The Generation W's Links to Leadership Summit presented by Circle K was held at the World Golf Village Renaissance Resort Hotel Oct. 29.**

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# Halloween fun for all

The following photos are from Nocatee's Family Halloween Party Oct. 29 and 30. The two-day event was held at Nocatee Station Field and offered Nocatee residents and their families an opportunity to enjoy some festive fun and games.

Photos courtesy of the Nocatee Community Facebook page



Children visit goats as part of the event's petting zoo.



Batman and his family attended the event.



Disney characters were popular costume choices.



Halloween decorations were everywhere.



Children play in foam.

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*Faces of Finance*  
— PAGES 24-25 —  
[www.PonteVedraRecorder.com](http://www.PonteVedraRecorder.com)

## Chamber commemorates Leadership St. Johns grads *Nominations open for 2022 class*

The members of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Leadership St. Johns classes of 2021 and 2020 held a combined graduation dinner and celebration Oct. 20 at Aunt Kate's on the River in Vilano Beach.

St. Johns County Sheriff Rob Hardwick was keynote speaker. His topic was servant leadership.

Chamber Chair Jim Bush from FPL and Chamber President and CEO Isabelle Renault distributed certificates to the graduates who joined the ranks of more than 400 alumni in Northeast Florida's strongest Leadership alumni network.

Applications for the Chamber of Commerce's Leadership St. Johns Class of 2022 will be accepted beginning Monday, Nov. 15. The class will begin in January 2022 with an opening retreat.

The program members are professionals from all sectors of industry, commerce and public service in St. Johns County.

The leadership development program was started in 2001 and has more than 400 alumni, including the former St. Johns County School District Superintendent of Schools and former Flagler College President Dr. Joseph G. Joyner, St. Johns County School District Superintendent of Schools Tim Forson, Flagler Health+ President and CEO Jason Barrett, St. Augustine Distillery co-founder and CEO and entrepreneur Phillip McDaniel, City of St. Augustine City Manager John Regan and Hardwick.

The Leadership St. Johns program was established to educate, connect and encourage elite and emerging professionals as they strive to make a positive impact on the local economy and community.

"The classes recently recognized were challenged by the COVID-19 epidemic and learned to rapidly pivot and contribute to our community despite the challenges," program director Bob Porter said.

The 2022 program will run from January through September. Class members agree to meet during each scheduled program day with in-depth overviews of the challenges and opportunities in St. Johns

County's many industries, government agencies and nonprofits.

Many Leadership St. Johns graduates have been accepted into the statewide Leadership Florida program. For additional information and to register when nominations are open for the 2022 program, go to [sjcchamber.com/leadership-st.-johns](http://sjcchamber.com/leadership-st.-johns).

The graduates of the Leadership St. Johns Class of 2021 are Trish Becker, Anastasia Mosquito Control Board; Randy Bradley, Northrop/Grumman; Jason Caban, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office; Jennifer Michaux, St. Augustine Police Department; Diane Denholm, Supporting Strategies, Northeast Florida; Melissa Derrick, St. Augustine Youth Services; Tres Edenfield III, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office; Melissa Cecil, Flagler Health+; Whitney Kersey Graves, St. Johns County Tax Collector; Bonnie Hayflick, Bonnie Hayflick PR; Meghan Holder, independent agent, Primerica; Dawn Infanti, United Way; Lauren Howington, Herbie Wiles Insurance; Heidi Jameson, JAXUSA Partnership; Gurpreet Misra, self-employed entrepreneur; Vicky Ann Oliveri, St. Johns Title; Dianne Pittman, Watson Realty; Jennifer Ravan, St. Johns County Tax Collector; Christina Parrish Stone, St. Johns County Cultural Council; Josh Underwood, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office; Greg Wells, K9s for Warriors; Meredith Breidenstein, City of St. Augustine; and Casey Woolsey, Woolsey/Morcom PLLC.

Renault is a graduate of Leadership St. Johns and Leadership Florida and added that involvement in the program can promote participation in nonprofit and volunteer government advisory boards and potential involvement in elected office.

"We encourage class members to use skills learned through the LSJ experience to engage actively in the governing of St. Johns County," said Renault.

For information about the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, go to [sjcchamber.com](http://sjcchamber.com).



Photo provided by the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce  
**Graduation night for the 2020 and 2021 Leadership St. Johns classes was highlighted by an address on servant leadership by St. Johns County Sheriff Rob Hardwick.**

## Leen named Baptist Physician Partners' vice president of clinical operations

Mary Leen has been promoted to vice president of clinical operations for Baptist Physician Partners, a clinically integrated network comprised of Baptist Health and physicians who work toward common goals.

Since 2014, Leen served as the director and then executive director of care coordination for the network. She has been responsible for strategies to ensure high-risk and rising-risk patients receive the best quality of care and patient experience

Leen continues on Page 20



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## Leen

Continued from 19

across the care continuum while reducing the total cost of care.

Leen has evolved Baptist Physician Partners' care coordination strategies in response to its value-based contracts, reduced hospital readmissions, decreased utilization of skilled nursing facilities and created an enhanced home support model for patients with chronic conditions.

In her new role, Leen will lead teams to work closely with physicians and other care providers to achieve the network's objectives of improving quality, safety, efficiency and outcomes for patients.

"Dr. Leen is a highly effective and well-respected leader," said Scott Wooten, executive vice president and chief financial officer at Baptist Health. "With her patient-first mindset and collaborative style, she has a way of getting to the heart of the matter and working with others to accomplish transformational results."

Leen began her career at Baptist Health as a critical care staff nurse more than 40 years ago and has served in numerous leadership positions within the organization, including advanced practice partner for Baptist Health and director of ambulatory care coordination for Baptist Physician Partners.

Leen received her bachelor of science degree in nursing from Florida State University, master of science degree in nursing from the University of Florida and her doctorate of nursing practice from Jacksonville University.

"It is an honor to be able to serve our patients, as well as the broader community," said Leen. "Baptist Health continues to be a leader in Northeast Florida as we strive for the highest quality care and equitable access to care in our region."

## Junior Achievement of North Florida adds six to its board

Junior Achievement of North Florida has named six new members to its board of directors. Dr. Dana Kriznar, Dr. Lakshmi Goel, Dr. John Wall, Jason Spencer, Sheryl Tschimpke and Wendy Alexaitis have joined the board.

"We welcome everyone to the board and look forward to working together to achieve our mission of inspiring and preparing youth to succeed in a global economy," said Shannon Italia, president of JA of North Florida. "Each person brings experience and skill to their new role that will help guide our organization and drive results that increase our impact on students in Northeast Florida."

Three of the new members have a background in education.

Dr. Dana Kriznar is deputy superintendent with Duval County Public Schools and said she believes it is important to expose students to the personal stories of professionals within the community in a variety of industries.

Dr. Lakshmi Goel is a professor and associate dean at the University of North Florida and has a passion for education and instigating curiosity in learning.

Dr. John Wall is provost and vice president



Dr. Dana Kriznar



Dr. Lakshmi Goel



Dr. John Wall



Jason Spencer



Sheryl Tschimpke



Wendy Alexaitis

of academic affairs at Florida State College at Jacksonville.

Jason Spencer and Sheryl Tschimpke come from the financial industry. Spencer works with Wells Fargo as the vice president and relationship manager in the North Florida Regional Commercial Banking Office, and Tschimpke is an assurance partner with Pivot CPAs.

Spencer said he wanted to be part of JA after he learned of its mission through his community involvement. He said JA's focus aligns with his personal philanthropic mission for bettering the community.

Tschimpke is a JA alumna and said JA made a difference in her life and showed her she could be anything she wanted.

Wendy Alexaitis is a marketing director for bestbet and said an organization like JA provides invaluable opportunities for

young people to realize and believe in their potential. She said she is honored to be an advocate for JA's mission to provide the tools and resources to help adolescents become empowered and successful in life.

"We are excited to have these new members on board who understand what JA can do for the community and our children," said Mary Ann Callahan, JA of North Florida board chair. "We continue to look to expand our board with people who can bring fresh ideas and guidance as we continue to work for the betterment of our children and teens. The young people we are educating now could be our future community leaders."

The six members are now part of a board made up of 32 community leaders who volunteer their time to help promote and enhance the mission of JA of North Florida.

## Moonlight Market to feature art, food, music and more on Nov. 13

A pair of small businesses in St. Augustine, Jenna Alexander Studio and Sunday Gathering Table, will kick off a new bi-annual event on Nov. 13. Moonlight Market will be held from 5 to 9 p.m.

The curated event will include dozens of local artisans, food and drink, and DJ: Zach Engh spinning vinyl records, all underneath a twinkle-lit, outdoor space.

"Sunday Gathering Table and Jenna Alexander Studio have always had the vision to bring people together," said Misty Lake, owner of Sunday Gathering Table. "We love to collaborate on events and shoot ideas off of each other, which is how we came up with the idea for this market series."

"These markets are a fantastic way to come together and meet the people that help bring our town to life," said Jenna Alexander of Jenna Alexander Studio. "We plan on hosting



Photo by Ansley Pacetti  
Jenna Alexander Studio is teaming up with Sunday Gathering Table to provide a unique event in November, Moonlight Market.

bi-annual events with a Moonlight Market taking place before the holidays and a Secret Garden Market in the spring."

The Moonlight Market will offer specialty-crafted goods from more than two dozen local vendors, including Bee Hill Farm, Hyppo Gourmet Ice Pops, Lauren Ytterbom Ceramics, Costa Handmade, MC Pressure, Pinfeather Designs and Glory Days Vintage.

In addition, Sunday's homemade sourdough loaves, preserves and pickles will be available for sale while Alexander's limited

edition, hand-painted Salt Run Ornaments will make their debut along with a selection of original cloudscape oil paintings.

Alexander is a fine artist and photographer known for her popular series, including Salt Run, Stripes and Buns, Flower Map and Nap-time Botanicals. Her studio is located at 73 San Marco Ave. in St. Augustine. Learn more at [jenna-alexander.com](http://jenna-alexander.com) and follow along on social media @jennaalexanderstudio.

Sunday Gathering Table offers classic café fare with a twist, serving everything from artisan sourdough toast to sandwiches, salads and entrees. Located at 73 San Marco Ave. in St. Augustine, the café is open from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. It is closed on Mondays. Learn more at [sundaygathering-table.com](http://sundaygathering-table.com) or call 904-907-2176. Follow along on Instagram @sunday\_\_\_everyday and Facebook @heyheyheysunday.

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## SAND LIFE LAW

# Judge John: Observations on laws that affect living at the Beaches

Like surfing, skateboarding is definitely a part of the Beaches culture and has touched us all. Skateboarding is a sport like no other. Skateboard culture has influenced fashion, music and even the way we talk.

Jacksonville will be hosting the Super Crown Street League Skateboarding World Championships the weekend of Nov. 13 in Riverfront Plaza. The sponsors acknowledge one of the reasons for holding the championship here is the existence of the world's oldest skating facility, Kona Skatepark.

There is a lot of confusion in Florida regarding the laws related to skateboarding. You will find multiple indications online that to skateboard in Florida requires a license. This is not true. However, those under the age of 16 are required by Florida law to wear a helmet, and skateboarding is restricted in many places.

Florida Statute 316.0085 provides a liability shield for governmental entities and private property owners for the risks associated with skateboarding.

This has made it possible for there to be skateboard parks created in public spaces so that all can enjoy riding their boards. Judge John regularly observes this community and finds that the older skaters are very welcoming to the grommets.

In Jacksonville, while skating on public streets is not illegal (if skaters follow the traffic laws), street skating is not exactly encouraged, either. Conservatively, there are at least a hundred "No Skateboarding" signs scattered throughout the urban core. Ordinance 616.118 permits both the government and private owners to post a No Skateboarding sign, which can be enforced by the sheriff and holds parents responsible for the acts of their minors. If caught, you will receive a fine.

Jacksonville Beach Section 16-9 is actually a more robust ordinance with specific definitions. Some of the restrictions include skateboarding on any part of Beach Boulevard, Third Street or A1A, Penman Road and J. Turner Butler Boulevard, except while crossing a marked crosswalk; using any type of listen-

ing device, such as radios, headsets or headphones; obeying all applicable traffic regulations governing bicycles; and skating at night without using a reflective device. You get a warning the first time, and a fine thereafter.

Neptune Beach is currently considering a skateboard law, along with E-bikes. That law is 2021-06.

Judge John has taken the opportunity to have "off the record" conversations with Beaches law enforcement officials. Officers understand skateboards are part of Beaches Culture. They try and handle infractions on a case-by-case basis and initially attempt to talk about issues with an offender. Their preference is for everyone to get along, but as one officer added, "Don't set up a ramp in the middle of the street." It will be interesting to determine the impact of enforcement due to the advent of electric skateboards and similar recreational vehicles.

It is no wonder one still sees "skateboarding is not a crime" stickers. But it is only not a crime when practiced by knowledgeable and law-abiding riders. Hopefully, this article will help with



Judge John Miller

some education. Skateboarding is a healthy activity and promotes community. Judge John urges all night riders to trick their boards out with lights and reflectors so that you or your child is not injured by a driver who cannot see you. Ride radical but ride safely and in compliance with the law!

Do you have any questions of law or custom that are of particular interest to those living the Sand Life on our beautiful island? Please submit them to Judge John for consideration for a future article. [john@rocksolidlaw.com](mailto:john@rocksolidlaw.com)

**John Miller is the special magistrate for the City of Neptune Beach. His law firm, Rock Solid Law & Title, provides expert guidance in all areas of estate planning, trust and wills, real estate, closings, title and escrow, and small business representation. 904-241-1113.**

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## Why you need a lawyer in your corner

One need not spend ample time to find depictions of lawyers on television and in films. Though such depictions are not always so rosy, most lawyers are reputable individuals who help people navigate the complicated matters of the law.

There are many instances when it is in a person's best interest to hire an attorney. The law is more nuanced than people outside the legal profession may realize, and having a person in one's corner who understands the ins and outs of the law is a wise move. The following are a handful of reasons why it pays to have a lawyer in your corner.

- Lawyers understand legal documents. Attorneys know that procedure is a major part of the law and the judiciary system. A lawyer will help to file the correct paperwork, fill out legal documents, contact courts, and engage in legal procedures in the correct fashion.

- Lawyers have access to experts. Attorneys have strong networks and can connect their clients with experts that support their efforts. For example, parents who are using a special education attorney to navigate 504/IEP plans can ask their lawyer to connect them with an education advocate, expert or tutor who can serve as a witness or reference.

- Lawyers ensure guidelines are fol-

lowed. A lawyer can be an asset when drafting a will or engaging in elder care arrangements. With legal, binding documentation, contestation of wishes is much more difficult and ensures that a financial legacy is put to use as intended.

- Lawyers know how to negotiate and settle. Heading to court isn't always the best outcome. Experienced attorneys likely have seen similar cases and scenarios and can make informed guesses about how your own situation may play out if it goes to trial. He or she may suggest a settlement or know a tactic that can work in your favor, particularly if it results in reduced legal fees.

- Lawyers can effectively lock horns with other lawyers. Individuals who choose to represent themselves are at a disadvantage when the other side has hired an attorney. To avoid this inequity of knowledge and experience, it's best to seek legal representation.

- Lawyers provide unbiased insight. When dealing with complicated family issues, such as estate planning, divorce or custody, it pays to have a third party who is emotionally detached from the situation to help guide decision-making.

Attorneys can guide people through all types of complicated legal matters and provide sound, unbiased advice.



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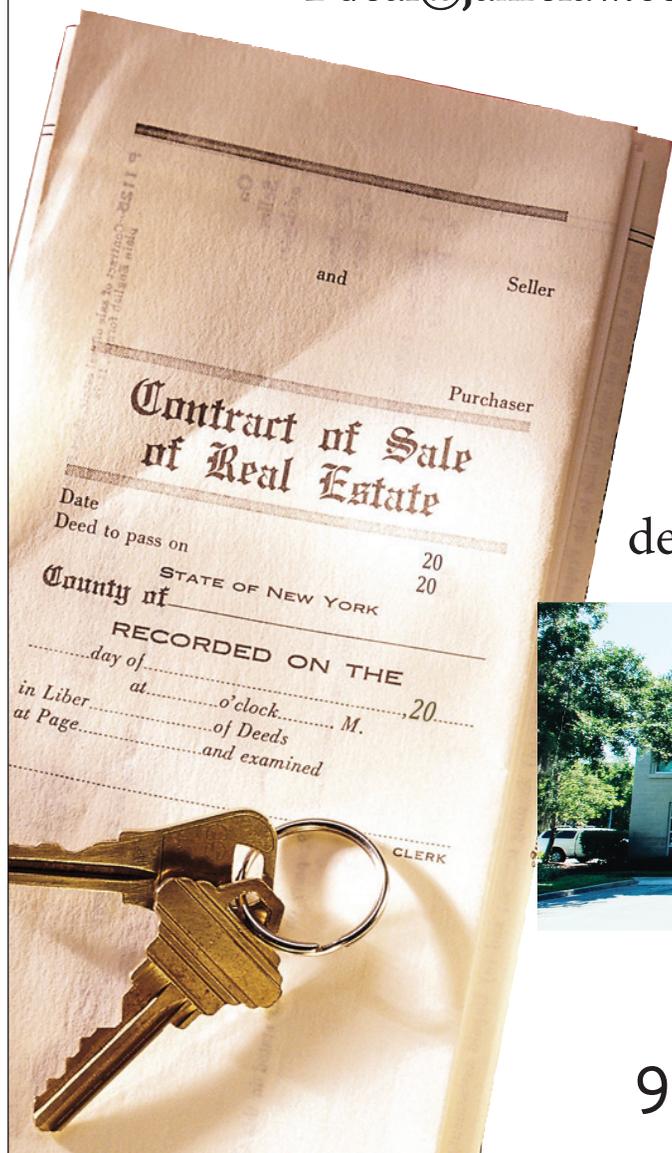
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# Grand Oaks Funding expands to Florida with ribbon cutting



Carolina Garcia De Mattera shares a laugh alongside Grand Oaks President Chris Caggiano while speaking during the grand opening event.

**By Anthony Richards**

Grand Oaks Funding held a ribbon cutting at its Ponte Vedra location and became a member of the St. Johns County Chamber Oct. 21.

The company is new to Ponte Vedra and Florida and recently opened its location at 360 Town Plaza Ave., Unit 315-D.

“It’s important to be part of the Chamber because we want to get out in the community,” branch manager Carolina Garcia De Mattera said.

Grand Oaks specializes in residential and commercial mortgages, but Garcia De Mattera shared the company’s mission to earn trust and loyalty from its clients.

“We want to provide education and

guidance to all,” Garcia De Mattera said.

The company’s main office is in Staten Island, New York, and they recently made the move to Ponte Vedra as they look to expand and provide licensed mortgage services in Florida as well as New York and New Jersey.

Garcia De Mattera oversees helping with the transition into the new market, and she has already learned so much about the area and what people are looking for since she moved down.

“It’s very exciting because we’re gaining new clients, which means it is also new people that we can help share our knowledge with,” Garcia De Mattera said.



Grand Oaks branch manager Carolina Garcia De Mattera cuts the ribbon during a grand opening ceremony at its Ponte Vedra location Oct. 21.



Several people attended the Grand Oaks St. Johns Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting.

Photos by Susan Griffin

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# Pivot CPAs among “Best Accounting Firms for Women”

Pivot CPAs, a local, independent CPA firm, was recently named one of the 2021 “Best Accounting Firms for Women” by Accounting Today.

“Here at Pivot, we place a high priority on our vision of creating an inclusive workplace that seeks to enrich all of our team members both personally and professionally,” said Peter Reynolds, CPA, managing partner of Pivot CPAs. “Since

the majority of our staff members are women, we can only achieve this vision by providing the tools necessary to allow women to achieve success in the workplace. We are constantly looking for new ways to pursue fairness, partnership and balance within the firm.”

Each year, Accounting Today selects 10 firms from its “100 Best Firms to Work For in the U.S.” list to highlight for being

the most female-friendly workplaces. The firms are chosen based on survey responses of their female staff.

For more information, including this year’s list of “Best Accounting Firms for Women,” go to [accountingtoday.com](http://accountingtoday.com).

Based in Ponte Vedra Beach, Pivot CPAs serves Northeast Florida and Gainesville. The firm offers tax, accounting, assurance and consulting and advi-

sory services to clients in a wide range of industries.

Pivot CPAs is proud of its diverse and collaborative environment and high professional standards. The firm is an independent member of the BDO Alliance USA.

For further information, call 904-280-2053 or go to [pivotcpas.com](http://pivotcpas.com).

# Grant gives presentation on investing

Scott A. Grant of Standfast Asset Management delivered a presentation titled “How to Invest Like a Millionaire” on Oct. 27. It was organized as a “pop-up”-style event at Fresh Market in Ponte Vedra.

Grant is a local fiduciary asset manager who started out on Wall Street, with decades of experience. He said he is committed to helping others understand what they own.

“The first step is to invest,” said Grant. “Know the difference between investing and speculation.”

The presentation was a candid look inside the mind of a professional investor. It was well received.

The event was catered by Rosanna Gioia of Savour Sensation, which delivered an elegant touch of food and wine.

Among the attendees were Laughlin Tucker and her

guest Kyle Brunner.

“I thought Scott’s event was great,” Tucker said. “The food was fantastic, and the knowledge he spoke regarding stocks and how to invest was explained perfectly. I didn’t know much about investing going into the event, but left knowing more than I did before. I would recommend Scott’s next event, in fact I hope to see more people there next time.”

Standfast will sponsor similar educational socials on a monthly basis. Call 904-285-2130 to reserve a seat for the Nov. 18 presentation.

Contributed photo

**Scott A. Grant of Standfast Asset Management delivered a presentation titled “How to Invest Like a Millionaire” on Oct. 27. Grant, center, is pictured with two attendees, Laughlin Tucker, left, and Kyle Brunner.**



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# In the Arts



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www.PonteVedraRecorder.com

## Art, poetry, music come together at special showcase

By Shaun Ryan

Throughout the month of November, a unique presentation of poetry, art and music will be on display at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch of the St. Johns County Library System.

Visitors will encounter paintings and other works along the walls and behind the glass of display cases. Each piece is unique and demonstrates the skill of its creator.

But to call this an art exhibit is to do it a disservice. It is much more.

Showcased alongside the artwork are framed poems. And accompanying plaques bear QR codes that, when scanned by a visitor's smart phone, reveal videos not only of the art and poetry, but also of associated music.

Each work of art, each poem and nearly every piece of music was created by a local resident collaborating with partners across genres, each element complement-

ing the others.

This is PAM Jam, the PAM portion standing for poets, artists, musicians. The idea grew out of an Art in Public Places exhibit in 2019, which paired art and poetry. It really came together in January 2020 with the addition of music.

Poet Chris Bodor gave the group its name. Cindy Wilson created its logo. And Loretta Leto took the reins, making PAM Jam the platform it is today.

Despite challenges posed by the pandemic, about 60 people participated in the group's first event, at Butterfield Garage Art Gallery in St. Augustine. That show featured the writings of the Ancient City Poets.

This year saw a blossoming of the idea.

Throughout the month of October, PAM Jam featured poets from the North Florida Poetry Hub, sponsored by non-profit Hope, who at Hand teamed up with artists from The Art Center Cooperative for a showcase in San Marco.

That showcase also established PAM Jam's charitable aspect. The event raised \$2,642 to buy art supplies for Title I schools in Duval County. In addition, 60 handbags were collected for Hopeful-

Handbags.org, which presents the bags, filled with personal care items, to women who are overcoming domestic abuse.

Handbags are also being collected at PAM Jam Ponte Vedra Beach, which features poets from A Gathering of Poets and artists from the First Coast Cultural Center.

On Saturday, Nov. 6, PAM Jam will conduct a reception from noon to 4 p.m. at the library. Tea and coffee will be served, and visitors will have an opportunity to watch videos featuring local poets, artists and musicians. In addition, musical performers will entertain visitors at various times during the afternoon.

Admission to the event is free, though donations will be accepted. The sale of poetry books will benefit the Friends of the Library, Ponte Vedra Beach.

The event will also give art enthusiasts an opportunity to view works that will be auctioned off at the First Coast Cultural Center's Jazz Jam, scheduled for Dec. 5.

**NOTE: This is an abridged version. To read the complete article, including the program schedule for Saturday's event, go to [pontevedrarecorder.com](http://pontevedrarecorder.com).**



Photos by Shaun Ryan

TOP: Deborah Lightfield, left, created her painting based on a poem by Shutta Crum, right. The artwork and poem are part of a PAM Jam showcase on display at the Ponte Vedra Library.

LEFT: Loretta Leto, left, stands next to works of art by Judith Fox-Goldstein, right. The art is part of a PAM Jam showcase on display at the Ponte Vedra Library.

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# Don McLean 'American Pie' performance set for Feb. 12



Contributed photo

**Don McLean will present his "50th Anniversary of American Pie" tour on Feb. 12 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.**

Don McLean will present his "50th Anniversary of American Pie" tour on Feb. 12 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. He will revisit one of his most iconic albums live.

In 1969, McLean recorded his first album, "Tapestry," in Berkeley, California. The student riots were going on outside the studio door as he was singing "And I Love You So" inside. The album was first released by Mediarts and attracted good reviews and achieved some commercial success.

The transition to international stardom began in 1971 with the release of "American Pie." It was recorded on May 26, 1971, and a month later received its first radio airplay on New York's WNEW-FM and WPLJ-FM to mark the closing of

The Fillmore East, the famous New York concert Hall.

Thirty years later, "American Pie" was voted No. 5 in a poll of the 365 "Songs of the Century" compiled by the Recording Industry Association of America and the National Endowment for the Arts.

McLean continues to receive honors for his musical discography. In October 2019, he was bestowed with plaques certified by the Recording Industry Association of America for gold, platinum and multi-platinum sales in the United States, with additional presentations from Australia, Austria, Belgium, France, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The performance will begin at 8 p.m., and tickets are \$25.71 to \$131.

Tickets are available for purchase at The St. Augustine Amphitheatre box office. Box office hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, and 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays. The box office accepts credit and debit card payments only.

Tickets may also be purchased through Ticketmaster.com, though attendees can avoid ticket fees by purchasing tickets in person.

The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall box office remains closed at this time.

## First Coast Cultural Center plans Holiday Shoppes

First Coast Cultural Center is planning its 31st annual Holiday Shoppes at Marsh Landing Country Club, located at 25655 Marsh Landing Parkway, Ponte Vedra Beach.

The Holiday Shoppes will feature many one-of-a-kind vendors, including Belicatessen, Blue Sky Creative, Callie's Collection, Charleston Shoe Company, FCCC Christmas Shop, Jackie's Jewels, Kathy's Accessories, Love Too Par, Marti Rosenburgh Designs, Milly Kate Designs, Mona H. Paintings, Ocraments, Pixieglass/Art You Wear, Peruvian Accent, Short Dog Jewelry, Teen Challenge/Inspired by Light, Universal Flavors by Milena and

Voyage Boutique.

This event will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 12 and 13, with a VIP preview and cocktail reception on Nov. 11.

The 31st annual Holiday Shoppes is sponsored by Empowered Within, Language Exploration Enrichment and Women for Glory.

For more information about the 31st annual Holiday Shoppes, and to purchase tickets, contact FCCC Community Connections Manager Callie Johnson at 904-280-0614 ext. 1202 or [cjohnson@firstcoastculturalcenter.org](mailto:cjohnson@firstcoastculturalcenter.org).

## Artists to paint iconic St. Augustine scenes during event

Oil Painters of America (OPA) associate members Martha Ferguson and Gail Beveridge will host the OPA St. Augustine Paint Out on Nov. 12-13 in St. Augustine. OPA is a national organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of representational art.

Each day, the artists will be seen painting from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at The Collector Luxury Inn and Gardens, the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum and the Castillo de San Marco National Monument. From 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12, artists will be painting nocturnes at the Bayfront Marin House. Visitors are encouraged to watch and interact with the artists as they paint iconic scenes of the Nation's Oldest City.

St. Augustine has a storied history as an

artist enclave, starting when Henry Flagler built his opulent Ponce de Leon Hotel in the 1880s. He included artists' studios and brought many renowned artists to the area, including Martin Johnson Heade. Many American impressionists of that era painted in and around St. Augustine, including Winslow Homer, Herman Herzog, George Inness and Louis Comfort Tiffany.

The St. Augustine Art Association was founded by a group of plein air artists. Today, plein air artists remain attracted to the city with its unique architecture, cobblestone streets, lush gardens and ubiquitous historical sites.

The two-day event is free and open to the public. For information, go to [oilpaintersofamerica.com](http://oilpaintersofamerica.com).

# Sports



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## Nease boys, Ponte Vedra girls secure district swim titles

By Anthony Richards

No matter what sport it is, competing on your home field, or in this case your home pool makes a difference.

Both Nease and Ponte Vedra hosted their respective district meets at Planet Swim in Ponte Vedra, and they both looked comfortable en route to some strong performances.

The Panthers won the boys District 1-4A title Oct. 29 and did so by a 74-point margin over second place Bartram Trail. Creekside finished third with 267 points.

Junior Rich Nguyen led the way for the Panthers with victories in the 200-yard individual medley and the 100 breaststroke, while also being a member of the winning 200 medley and 200 free relays.

Senior Patrick Adams showcased his skills on the diving board, by winning the one-meter competition, while junior Matthew Koziol won the 100 free.

Senior Zak Thomas was accompanied by juniors Joseph Wyatt and Jackson Wilcox and freshman Walker Lanoue to win the 400 free relay.

For Ponte Vedra, it was the girls that did the most

damage by winning the District 3-3A title Oct. 27 as the Sharks swept the top three places in four different events.

Junior Brooke Batelli made her mark winning the 200 individual medley and the 100 breaststroke while Ann Wohlgenuth took home the top spot in the 100 backstroke.

Holly Cox made the most of her final district appearance with a victory in the 500 free.

On the other end of the spectrum, freshmen Mary Agnes Smith and Penelope Zarczynski each picked up a win in the 200 free and 100 butterfly, respectively.

The Ponte Vedra girls also finished first in the 200 medley, 200 free and 400 free relays.

Fletcher wound up in second place with 524 points and Fleming Island was third with 321.

The Nease girls team finished district runner-up and the Ponte Vedra boys came home in third place behind Orange Park and Fletcher, who won the meet.

Nease freshman Olivia Moore demonstrated her potential by winning the 200 free and 500 free competitions and junior Natalie Padgett won the 100 butterfly.



Photo courtesy of Nease Athletics

**The Nease boys swim team won the District 1-4A title while the girls finished runner-up Oct. 29.**

The highest finisher for the Ponte Vedra boys team was Fabrizio Lijeron's second-place finish in the 100 butterfly.

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Info at [www.CityStAug.com/LightUpNight](http://www.CityStAug.com/LightUpNight)

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, but the success of the Nights of Lights would not be possible without the wide participation of the St. Augustine Community.

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## Week 11

FOOTBALL PREVIEW

### Regular season comes to an end, Nease hosts senior night

By Anthony Richards

After Ponte Vedra picked up a huge senior night win last week, now it is Nease's turn to put on a show for the fans in their final regular season home game against Westside at 7 p.m. Nov. 5.

The Panthers (6-3) flexed their muscle during a 35-14 victory on the road against Fleming Island last week and in many ways looked like the Nease team that started the season 5-1.

If the Panthers can keep it up, they are a dangerous team heading into the playoffs that present a potent offense and defense that opponents must prepare for.

One of their offensive weapons throughout the season has been senior wide receiver Dom Henry, who eclipsed 1,000 receiving yards against Fleming Island and is looking for even more.

He has 1,009 yards and nine touch-

downs on 57 catches and is a favorite target of quarterback Marcus Stokes.

Together the two have created a dynamic tandem that helps fuel the offensive attack.

The Panthers are hard to run the ball against, giving up just 96 yards per game on the ground.

The Wolverines have struggled to move the ball this year and it has led to being shut out twice en route to a 2-7 record.

They have used multiple running backs during the season with sophomore Deshard Wescott leading the way with 256 rushing yards while senior Kaloun Walker has 250 yards and one touchdown.

It looks like it may be a long night for the Westside backfield against Zach Harmon and Ben Bogle, who each have more than 100 tackles.



Photos by Anthony Richards

**The Ponte Vedra High halftime performance included an artistic routine as well as musical accompaniment.**

The Sharks (4-5) look to continue the momentum from last week's emotional win on senior night as they travel in-county to face rival Creekside, who righted their ship last week with 37-32 victory against Oakleaf to snap a two-game slide and improve to 7-2.

The main question on the defense side

Preview continues on Page 29

# 2022 First Coast Amateur registration open

By Anthony Richards

Registration has begun for the Jacksonville Area Golf Association's First Coast Amateur Championship.

The event will be held at The Conservatory course at Hammock Beach Golf Resort and Spa in Palm Coast and is scheduled for Jan. 15-17, 2022.

Golfers interested in signing up or in search of more information surrounding the event can visit [jax.bluegolf.com](http://jax.bluegolf.com) and click on the tournaments tab.

The First Coast Amateur was first played in 2017, but in just a short amount of time it has gained prestige.

That prestige is backed up by the fact that the top finishers will be awarded points toward the world amateur golf ranking.

As a result, last year's championship featured players from 22 states and five countries. Twenty-nine colleges/universities were also represented.

Registration began Nov. 1 and last year's field of 96 players filled up in the first month and the alternate list wound



JAGA sponsors and conducts the First Coast Amateur each year. Since 1954, the nonprofit organization has made it a goal to promote Jacksonville's top amateur competitions, as well as the game of golf and those who play it.

up at 55, even with the pandemic still looming large on everyone's mind.

Registration is open to male golfers with a verified USGA handicap of 3 or better. All eligible golfers must have been 16 years old by January 16, 2021 to compete unless approved by the tournament committee. The entry fee is \$335.

The championship returns to The Conservatory after playing there the past two years. The course is a Tom Watson signature design and the par-72 layout played about 7,046 yards last year.

JAGA sponsors and conducts the event each year. Since 1954, the nonprofit organization has made it a goal to promote Jacksonville's top amateur competitions, as well as the game of golf and those who play it.

## Preview

Continued from 28

of the ball is do the Sharks have an answer for Knights' workhorse ball carrier Preston Strobe who has run for 1,200 yards and accounted for 20 touchdowns.

The matchup to watch will be the collisions that take place when Strobe and Sharks' hard-hitting linebacker Trooper Price meet at the line of scrimmage.

It will be interesting to see if the Sharks' offense can duplicate the balanced and productive attack it showcased last Friday night.

Photos by Anthony Richards



Nease senior Zach Harmon has more than 100 tackles this season. The Panthers host Westside for senior night Nov. 5.



The Ponte Vedra Splash Dance Team performs at halftime.

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ACROSS

- Repeating word on South Pacific map
- Bro's sibling
- Dashboard abbr.
- Fusses
- \*Basketball slam
- Go "Boo!"
- Boisterous play
- Upper hand
- Part of mortise joint
- \*Unopposed attempt to score (2 words)
- "The Famous Five" children's writer Blyton
- \*Basketball player Bojan Bogdanovic or Drazen Petrovic
- "Mares eat \_\_\_\_" or "does eat \_\_\_\_" sing.
- One who covers in silver, e.g.
- Figure
- Be ill
- Part of "panther"
- Capital of Latvia
- Like helium
- Quilting party
- Analyze
- Dehydrated
- Litter of piglets
- Down Under bird
- a.k.a. aardvark
- Provincial governor in ancient Persia
- Argo propeller
- Subway in Paris
- Conclusion starter
- \*Made basket (2 words)
- Not a soul
- Like animal near extinction
- Greek sandwich
- Bandages
- Arabian bigwig
- Answer to "Shall we?"
- Bar offering
- \*It sends a basketball game to overtime

- Highland tongue

DOWN

- Vomit
- Sensory input
- It wasn't built in a day
- Characteristic to consider
- Traditional scarf/headaddress
- Brick of precious metal
- Place at an angle
- Indian princess
- Circus trainer's poker
- '80s band "\_\_\_\_ At Work"
- Remove antlers
- Titanic propeller
- \*Shaquille O'Neal and Wilt Chamberlain, e.g.
- Halloween option
- Not their
- 1/100th of a rupee
- Wrinkle-prone natural fabric
- Warning
- \_\_\_\_-do-well
- Part of a stair
- Old World lizard
- \*Fast-break \_\_\_\_
- Skier's aid
- Part of H.M.S.
- \*Reward after missed shot
- \*Larry O'Brien NBA Championship Trophy, e.g.
- Away's partner
- Stable worker
- Relieves
- On/off type of switch
- \*\_\_\_\_ Hurricanes
- Creepy
- Work very hard
- Use a whetstone
- Worry without necessity
- Deed hearing
- A in A&E Network
- \*The Phoenix Suns did it in the 2021 NBA Finals
- \*Professional basketball league

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